

Examiners' Report Summer 2007

GCE O Level

GCE O Level Tamil (7644)

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There were many pleasing performances this year. However, attention paid to orthography and to the construction of sentences is still inadequate. Out of the four questions, three were translations. The first Tamil to English and the second two English to Tamil. The majority of candidates have difficulty with English, but it is also their inability to write correctly in Tamil that has led to low scores for some candidates. Candidates must try to write clearly so the examiner can easily read their work. Candidates who obtained below 40 marks lacked the ability to understand and express themselves clearly in both Tamil and English.

Question 1

The candidates were required to translate a passage from Tamil into English about pollution and ways to prevent it. The responses for this question were weaker than expected. Many of the candidates had difficulty in translating a few words and phrases. This was kept in mind while marking the scripts.

Question 2

The candidates were asked to translate a tale from English into Tamil and it was clear that they did not have much difficulty in understanding the English passage. However some candidates did find this question difficult. A few candidates were unable to translate into Tamil words and phrases such as "weaver", "sighed", "flattered", "generous" and "to the bone"

Question 3

The candidates were asked to translate five sentences from English into Tamil. The answers were quite satisfactory. Nevertheless, some had difficulty in translating the sentences accurately into idiomatic Tamil.

Question 4

For the Essay 22 out of the 49 candidates selected topic A , "My country- the country that you live or lived". The other three topics were chosen by nine candidates. A pleasing number of candidates had interesting ideas, facts and experiences to express but their organization and delivering were not always satisfying. Here again, inadequate linguistic skills and lexical proficiency were responsible for lower scores

Statistics

Tamil 7644

Grade	A	B	C	D	E
Boundary mark	65	52	40	35	26

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