

Examiners' Report Summer 2009

GCE

GCE Tamil (7644/01)

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Considering the examination as a whole, although the performance of some of the candidates was comforting, the attention paid to orthography and to the construction of sentences was rather disappointing. The candidates who have obtained lower scores are those who were unable to write clearly either in Tamil or in English. Those who have scored less than 25 marks appear to have not made a genuine attempt to engage with the language.

Question 1

The candidates were called upon to translate a Tamil passage into English. Though some good responses were received for this question, the lexical skill, both in Tamil and in English of a good number of candidates was lacking. Many of them were unable to grasp the meanings of the Tamil words denoting 'drinking', 'essential' and 'implementing'.

Question 2

The candidates were required to translate an English passage into Tamil and the difficulty many candidates faced in delivering it into Tamil accounted for the lower scores. Quite a good number of them were unable to write correctly the Tamil equivalents for the words 'communication', 'diversity', 'plurality', 'scholar' and 'mass media' which are frequently used these days. However, it was observed that most candidates had difficulty with a few sentences and words, and that was taken into consideration while marking the answers.

Question 3

This question involving the translation of complex sentences from English into Tamil, proved to be the most challenging for the candidates. Even though many of them apparently had no difficulty in understanding the meaning of the sentences, they were unable to translate them satisfactorily into idiomatic Tamil. Many of them did not know the Tamil equivalents for the words 'exaggerating', 'extent', 'reputation', 'discipline', and 'unfaithful'.

Question 4

For the essay, most of the candidates, 21 out of 37, selected topic(b), 'True friendship'. The next favourites were topic(a), 'My favourite story book' and topic(d) 'a letter to a foreign pen-friend about your religion'. Most of the candidates who chose topic(a) did not know the difference between a story and a story book. Many who picked topic(d) did not know the form in which a letter should be written. Though many candidates had fascinating experiences and opinions to tell, inadequate linguistic skills and lexical competence have led to lower scores.

Statistics

Grade	A	B	C	D	E
Lowest Mark for award of grade	65	52	40	35	26

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