

# TAMIL AND TAMIL LANGUAGE

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**Paper 9689/02**  
**Reading and Writing**

## **General comments**

Overall the performance of the candidates was good however there were numerous spelling mistakes in most of the answer papers.

Very few candidates had sufficient vocabulary to write responses to the questions in their own word. Most responses contained much material that was copied straight from the text.

## **Comments on individual questions**

**Question 4.3** In this question candidates were asked to write about the preparations needed for a trip. Very few candidates answered this part well with most repeating what was given in the text.

**Question 5.1** In this question candidates were asked to write the similarities and differences between the educational tour and pleasure trips. Most candidates simply copied their answers directly from the question paper.

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Paper 9689/03

Essay

## General Comments

The overall performance of candidates was good, with only a small number of entrants at both extremes of the mark range. There were no widespread issues around the use of time or misinterpretation of the rubric by candidates. Weaker candidates' responses were characterised by a combination of misunderstanding of the question, especially on **Questions 2, 3 and 4**, leading to loss of marks for content and poorer language skills i.e. spelling mistakes and poor construction of sentences.

## Comments on specific questions

### Question 1

Six candidates attempted this question, achieving marks across the middle range, 11 to 20.

### Question 2

This was the most popular question with fifty four candidates trying it. The question produced the widest range of marks from 5 to 40. Poor spelling and lack of focused content was seen in the weaker candidates' responses. Strong candidates' responses were characterised by well-structured, complex sentences with few spelling mistakes and grammatical errors.

### Question 3

Five candidates attempted this question with marks ranging from 8 to 33.

### Question 4

Twenty candidates attempted this question which showed a range of marks from 10 to 38. The weaker candidates produced work with many spelling errors, a poor focus on content and a considerable amount of repetition. Strong candidates' responses were characterised by well structured, complex sentences and few spelling and grammatical errors.

### Question 5

This question was attempted by one candidate achieving 31 marks.

**Paper 9689/05**

**Essay**

- 1 The translation appeared to be harder than previous years. Specific sentences within the translation caused problems for some candidates.  
  
For example ' the middle aged car driver who was on his way to visit a friend, had seen the solitary walker'. 'In spite of the slow progress' 'and pulled over' And 'The young man looked confused' .
- 2 The overall performance was generally good. The marks ranged between 6 and 36. The majority of the candidates gained more than half the marks available while the weaker candidates lost marks through spelling errors and incorrect sentence construction.
- 3 Whilst weaker candidates did make more errors than stronger candidates on the translation, even the stronger candidates found elements of this translation challenging. For example, on the fifth sentence, stronger candidates were able to break this up into two separate sentences and produce a largely correct translation, but unable to do this within one sentence. Weaker candidates, though failed to produce a correct translation here. Overall therefore, there were no glaring failures of differentiation, and problems with use of time and interpretation of the rubric were not apparent.

# TAMIL

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**Paper 9689/04**

**Texts**

## **General comments**

This year the candidates answered different questions unlike last year.  
This showed they read all the books recommended in the syllabus.  
The performance of Mauritius candidates was better than last year.

Candidates did not give satisfactory answer to **Question 1-2**

More candidates scored good marks this year.

A few suggestions for the teachers:

1. Candidates must be taught to write without spelling mistakes.
2. Sentence construction is incomplete. They must be taught to use the verb at the end of the sentence. Tamil is an SOV language
3. Candidates must be taught to write in their own language by choosing alternative words instead of copying from the Q paper.
4. This year candidates have touched all sections without avoiding any particular text.

They have to keep it up.

Some candidates have done extremely well. They were from London and Mauritius.

# TAMIL

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**Paper 9689/05**

**Prose**

## **General comments**

The overall performance of candidates was generally good. The marks ranged between 6 and 36. The majority of candidates gained more than half the marks available while the weaker candidates lost marks through spelling errors and incorrect sentence construction.

There were several sentences within the translation that caused problems for some candidates, for example 'The middle aged car driver who was on his way to visit a friend, had seen the solitary walker', 'In spite of the slow progress', 'and pulled over' and 'The young man looked confused'. Even the stronger candidates found the relatively long fifth sentence challenging which they managed by breaking it up into two separate sentences to produce a largely correct translation. Weaker candidates failed to produce a correct translation here.

Overall there were no problems with the use of time and interpretation of the rubric.