

TAMIL LANGUAGE

Paper 8689/02
Reading and Writing

Key messages

In order to do well in this paper, candidates should take care to understand the full demands of the question before attempting to answer.

In **Question 5**, candidates should avoid repetition of ideas.

General comments

In general, candidates performed quite well on this paper. Poor spelling was a feature of many answers.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1

Question 1

In general, this question was answered poorly.

Question 2

Responses to this question were generally quite poor. Most candidates attempted this question but were unable to use the given words appropriately in the sentences.

Question 3 and Question 4

The majority of candidates found the right answers but did not write in their own words. Candidates should be encouraged to write in their own words, using concise and clear sentences.

Question 5

Question 5(a) was generally answered badly. Some candidates seemed to have rushed through this part of the paper: they need to remember to plan their time so that they can make a good attempt at all parts of the paper.

In **Question 5(b)**, candidates are expected to offer a personal response. The majority of candidates gave a good response to this question.

TAMIL LANGUAGE

Paper 8689/03

Essay

Key messages

In order to do well in this paper, candidates need to ensure that they answer the specific question asked and that they understand the focus of the question before beginning to write their answers.

Candidates need to ensure that they expand their answers.

General comments

This is an Essay paper in which candidates are required to compose one essay from a choice of five topics. The essay is marked out of 40 with 16 marks available for Content and 24 marks available for Quality of Language.

Overall, performance on this paper was good and there were no infringements of the rubric.

Weaker responses were characterised by a combination of misunderstanding of the question (leading to loss of marks for Content) and poor language skills.

The most common spelling errors occurred in the use of the following letters, which were often written in an incorrect form: 1. ல – ழ – ள 2. ந – ன – ண 3. ர – ற

Candidates would benefit from more practice in using these letters. Candidates should also be reminded that the letter ஏ, when conjugated with consonants, will become கே, சே, தே etc.

Some candidates wrote அங்கை, இங்கை, எங்கை rather than அங்கே, இங்கே, எங்கே.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

This was the most popular question. Good responses were characterised by well-structured, complex sentences and few spelling and grammatical errors. Poor spelling and lack of focused content was seen in weaker responses.

Question 2

Most responses to this question were very good.

Question 3

There were several strong responses to this question.

Question 4

The best answers contained well-structured, complex sentences and few spelling and grammatical errors.

Question 5

There was a range of performance on this question.