

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 and faulty sentence formation were features of many answers.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1

Question 1

Several candidates struggled to answer **Question 1**. Candidates would benefit from further practice in this area. Some candidates were confused here and used the words in sentences instead of identifying matching words. Candidates need to ensure that they read the rubric carefully before beginning to write.

Question 2

Most candidates succeeded in using the words or phrases in their own sentences. Many students made spelling mistakes and formed sentences without due regard for the basic rules of Tamil grammar. Candidates need further practice in this area.

Question 3

Candidates generally performed quite well here.

Section 2

Question 4

On the whole, candidates performed quite well here.

Question 5

A few candidates omitted to answer either **Question 5(a)** or **5(b)**. Candidates should be advised to plan their time carefully in order to leave time to address each 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. ஸ – ழ – ள 2. ய – ன – னா 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

There were too few responses to this question for any meaningful conclusions to be drawn.

Question 2

This was the most popular question. Strong candidates' 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 candidates' responses.

Question 3

There were a number of strong responses to this question and these were characterised by well-structured complex sentences and few spelling and grammatical errors.

Question 4

A small number of candidates attempted this question. There was a range of performance here.

Question 5

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