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FOREWORD

This booklet contains reports written by Examiners on the work of candidates in certain papers. **Its contents are primarily for the information of the subject teachers concerned.**

TAMIL

GCE Ordinary Level

Paper 3206/01
Composition

General comments

The overall performance of candidates was good. There were some candidates who displayed a good range of vocabulary but were relatively weak in their spelling, which reduced their overall marks. A small number of candidates were weak across a broad range of skills.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

The majority of candidates attempted **Question 1 (a)** – the letter; the remaining candidates chose **Question 1 (b)** – the dialogue. Both of these were generally attempted well.

- (a) Good answers were characterised by a varied use of vocabulary and sentence structure. All candidates used an appropriate format and style for the letter, with appropriate letter headings and sign off. Spelling was a significant weakness in most responses; even stronger candidates sometimes made errors when spelling relatively simple words, for example:

using மணி instead of the correct மணி; using மனல் instead of the correct மணல்; using அங்குல்ல instead of the correct அங்குள்ள; using உனவு instead of the correct உணவு; using வலர்கிறது instead of the correct வளர்கிறது; using கொலுப்பு instead of the correct கொழுப்பு.

The main confusions occurred with the use of the following letters in the incorrect form:

1. ண – ண – ந 2. ல – ள – ழ 3. ர – ற.

- (b) Candidates who answered the dialogue question wrote well using an appropriate structure and style in their responses. There were generally fewer spelling errors in these responses.
- (c) Very few candidates chose to answer this question.

Question 2

A wide range of marks was achieved on most questions answered. Candidates appeared to have managed their time well and understood the rubrics correctly.

- (a) Strong candidates wrote fluently, giving interesting and precise descriptions of the film's storyline using a wide range of vocabulary and types of sentences. Weaker candidates tended to make omissions in their descriptions, for example one candidate did not give any indication of the film's main plot in his writing. All candidates made errors in spelling, to greater and lesser extents.
- (b) Candidates answering this question displayed a wide range of abilities, from the very weak candidates who had significant problems structuring sentences, to strong candidates who were able to give clear and coherent accounts of their favourite sports and why they appealed.
- (c) Very few candidates chose to answer this question.
- (d) The few candidates who answered this question focused predominantly on personal accounts of the effects of war on their lives, with less emphasis on the wider effects. These accounts were generally clear and interesting, with good use made of a variety of vocabulary and a mix of simple and compound sentences. Spelling errors brought down the overall level of marks.

Paper 3206/02

Language Usage and Reading Comprehension

General comments

The overall performance was very good, with candidates picking up more of the available marks for the translation than the comprehension.

Most candidates demonstrated a reasonable understanding of the meaning of the passage in their responses. **Questions 11** and **12** proved the most difficult for candidates, many of whom did not understand some of the vocabulary used in the passage. Spelling was less of an issue in the comprehension section as candidates were able to use the words from the passage.

Candidates appeared to have used their time appropriately and understood the rubrics.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

This question was generally well answered with appropriate use of sentence structure and vocabulary in English.

Question 2

This question was generally well answered. Grammar and vocabulary were of a high standard, with meaning conveyed accurately in most cases. Spelling was the main weakness in this question with stronger candidates also making errors in their writing.

Section B

Questions 2, 3, 4, 8 and **10** were answered correctly by most candidates. Candidates tended to gain partial marks for **Questions 11, 13** and **14**.

The commonest errors made on the questions were as follows:

Question 11

Many candidates were unable to grasp the notion of internal windows overlooking a central courtyard.

Question 13

Stronger candidates were generally able to pick up both marks here. Weaker candidates made the point that the architect had gone on to design the parliament buildings, but did not pick up on the fact that the hotel had provided a model for his work.

Question 14

Only the strongest candidates were able to give three reasons why the architect's buildings may not have been useful to commoners. Most other candidates gained 1 or 2 marks here.

Question 12

This question was poorly answered in general.

Summary

Candidates would benefit from improving their spelling. Here are some of the commonest errors made:

Incorrect spelling	Correct spelling
தோல்கலில்	தோள்களில்
கலற்றுதல்	கழற்றுதல்
நோயாலி	நோயாளி
பொருமை	பொறுமை
கவளை	கவலை
கண்ணத்தில;	கன்னத்தில்
உல்ல	உள்ள
வெல்லத்தால்	வெள்ளத்தால்
தொரியாதவர்கள்	தெரியாதவர்கள்
சொல்கிரேன்	சொல்கிறேன்
ஒவர்நாமும்	ஒவ்வொரு நாளும்
உட்சாகமும் களந்து	உற்சாகமும் கலந்து