

TAMIL

Paper 3206/01
Composition

Key messages

To do well on this paper, candidates need to:

- order and present facts, ideas and opinions
- communicate effectively and appropriately
- show an awareness of the conventions of paragraphing and sentence structure
- express thoughts, feelings and opinions in order to interest, inform or convince
- demonstrate adequate control of vocabulary, syntax and grammar, punctuation and spelling
- understand and employ a range of apt vocabulary.

General comments

In general, candidates performed quite well on this paper, with a wide range of marks awarded.

In **Section A**, topic **(a)** was the most popular and in **Section B**, topic **(b)** was the one most often selected. Topic **(d)** also proved popular.

It was encouraging to note that the stronger candidates made significantly fewer spelling errors than last year. Weaker candidates generally struggled to construct sentences accurately and made frequent spelling mistakes. The most common spelling errors occurred in the use of the following letters, which were often written in an incorrect form:

1. ன – ண – ந 2. ல – ள – ழ 3. ர – ற 4. கீழே – கீழை

Candidates seemed to have organised their time in the examination well and there were no rubric infringements.

Comments on specific questions

Section A – Letter, Report, Dialogue or Speech

Question 1

Candidates were asked to write a response of approximately 120 words in Tamil to one of three given topics.

A range of performance was seen on **Question (a)** (“Write a letter to a friend describing a visit by a foreign president to your city.”). Answers to this question appeared to be more fluent than those given to the other questions in **Section A**.

A range of performance was also seen on **Question (b)** (“Write a dialogue in which you discuss a school project with your friend.”). Weaker candidates struggled to produce accurate syntax and spelling; stronger candidates demonstrated fluency in these areas.

Answers to **Question (c)** (“Write a report on a dance production that has been performed at your local theatre.”) were generally satisfactory.

Section B – Essay

Question 2

Candidates were asked to write one essay of approximately 200 words in Tamil from a choice of four topics.

A range of performance was seen on **Question (a)** (“Imagine you are on a desert island. Describe what you can see and how you feel.”). A limited response was seen from weaker candidates, both in terms of content and in linguistic accuracy. Stronger responses were characterised by good syntax and spelling. Common errors included spelling mistakes, low word count and repetition.

Question (b), (“Compose an essay entitled ‘The worst day of my life.’”), was generally answered well. The majority of candidates had written about their own experiences. The strongest responses were characterised by fluency and well-presented points.

Overall, answers to **Question (c)**, (“‘I can’t imagine my life without television.’ Discuss.”), were poor, although there were some satisfactory responses which were characterised by good syntax and spelling. Weaker responses were often repetitive.

Question (d) (“Write an essay on the importance of regular exercise.”) produced mixed results. The strongest candidates constructed fluent and well-presented essays; weaker responses contained limited ideas and demonstrated poor linguistic accuracy.

TAMIL

Paper 3206/02
Translation and
Reading Comprehension

Key messages

In order to do well in this paper, candidates need to make sure that they express themselves in clear, correct and concise language.

In addition, candidates need to:

- show that they can understand and adequately convey information
- understand, order and present facts, ideas and opinions
- evaluate information, select what is relevant to specific purposes and express it in their own words
- show a sense of audience and an awareness of register
- exercise control of appropriate structures
- understand and employ a range of apt vocabulary
- recognise implicit meaning and attitude
- demonstrate an awareness of the conventions of paragraphing and sentence structure
- demonstrate adequate control of vocabulary, syntax and grammar, punctuation and spelling
- ensure that their handwriting is legible.

General comments

Overall, a range of performance was seen on this paper. Candidates seemed to have organised their time in the examination well and there were no rubric infringements.

Comments on specific questions

Section A – Translation

Question 1: Translation into English

Candidates were required to translate a passage from Tamil into English. The majority of candidates coped very well with this exercise.

Question 2: Translation in Tamil

Candidates were required to translate a passage from English into Tamil, and a range of performance was seen here. Some common errors were as follows:

- “broken” was often translated as “உடய்ந்து” rather than “உடைந்து”
- “வயத்து” was frequently offered as a translation for “வைத்து”

The way in which candidates presented their translation was not always the most appropriate. For example, “ஒரு மணித்தியாலம் வெளிக்கிட இருக்கு என்று தெரிந்தும் அவன் வேளைக்கு எழுந்தான்” was often rendered as “வேளைக்கு எழுந்தான் ஒரு மணித்தியாலம் வெளிக்கிட இருக்கு என்று தெரிந்தும்”.

Section B – Reading Comprehension

Most candidates demonstrated a reasonable understanding of the passage.

Some weaker candidates gave the same response for **Questions 7, 8, 9** and **12**. Many candidates did not provide a full answer to **Question 12**.

The majority of candidates gave correct answers to **Questions 3, 4, 5, 10** and **11**; many provided only a partial response to **Questions 6, 7, 8**. If two marks are available for a question, then candidates will need to provide two points in their answer in order to have access to full marks for that question. Likewise if three marks are available for a question, then candidates will need to provide three points, and so on.