TAMIL

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Paper 3206/01

Composition

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Key messages

In order to do well in this paper, candidates should:

- ensure that they answer **one** question from *Section A* and **one** question from *Section B*
- adhere to the word limits specified
- ensure that their work is legible, accurate and logically presented
- ensure that they present their response in the form stipulated in the question (e.g. letter, dialogue etc)
- plan their use of time for each question and allow time for thorough checking of their work.

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 **(c)** was the one most often selected.

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 – கீழ்ழ

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 or Speech, Dialogue**

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 1(a)** ("Imagine you are a teacher. Write a letter to a parent about a pupil's ongoing misbehaviour at school."). Candidates often responded well to this question and there were some creative answers. Responses appeared to be more fluent than those given to the other questions in *Section A*.

A range of performance was also seen on **Question 1(b)** ("Write a speech thanking a local company for a donation to your school."). This was the least popular question in *Section A*. Weaker candidates struggled to produce accurate syntax and spelling; stronger candidates demonstrated fluency in these areas.

Answers to **Question 1(c)** ("Write a dialogue describing an argument between a shopkeeper and a customer over the quality of an item purchased.") were generally satisfactory or good.

Section B – **Essay**

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 2(a)** ("Describe the consequences of a local strike by bus drivers in your area."). A limited response was seen from weaker candidates, both in terms of content and in linguistic accuracy. Responses from stronger candidates were characterised by good syntax and spelling. Common errors included spelling mistakes, low word count and repetition.

Question 2(b), ("Write an essay on the advantages and disadvantages of children using calculators during Mathematics class at school."), 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.

A range of performance was seen on **Question 2(c)**, ("Write an essay about how you celebrate the festival of Pongal with your family."). Stronger candidates drew on their own experiences to produce lively and vivid essays, which were often fluent and contained well-presented arguments. Weaker responses were characterised by limited and a lack of accuracy and fluency.

Question 2(d) ("The government should provide free medical care for all. What are your views?") produced mixed results. The strongest candidates constructed fluent and well-presented essays; weaker responses contained limited ideas and demonstrated poor linguistic accuracy and a lack of understanding of the question.

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Paper 3206/02

Translation and Reading Comprehension

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Key messages

In order to do well in this paper, candidates should:

- ensure that they plan their time for each question and allow time for thorough checking of their work
- ensure that their work is legible and logically presented
- read the translation passages carefully before beginning to translate.

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 into 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:

- "pretty" was often translated as "அலகான" or "அளகான" rather than "அழகான"

- "tired" was frequently translated as "கலைத்து" rather than "களைத்து"

The way in which candidates presented their translation was not always the most appropriate. For example, "அவர்கள் மூன்று வருடங்களாக வாடகை வீட்டில் வசித்தார்கள்" was sometimes rendered as "அவர்கள் வசித்தார்கள் மூன்று வருடங்களாக வாடகை வீட்டில்".

Section B – Reading Comprehension

Most candidates demonstrated a reasonable understanding of the passage.

Some weaker candidates gave the same response for **Questions 4**, **6** and **7**.

The majority of candidates gave correct answers to **Questions 3**, **5**, **7**, **11** and **12**.

Many candidates provided only partial response to **Questions 3**, **4** and **5**.

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.