

HINDI AND HINDI LITERATURE

Paper 8675/04

Texts

General comments

This year again, the candidates' overall performance was good. A large number of candidates demonstrated their acquaintance with and understanding of the literary texts, poetry, short stories and novels. A small number of candidates did not address the questions directly and simply regurgitated material memorised from class notes or digests.

Comments on specific questions

Part 1

Question 1

- (a) Most candidates did quite well, although some only answered the question partially. Quite a few of them either explained the context and meaning of the extract but failed to discuss Tulsī's devotional feelings toward Lord Rama or made their discussion of Tulsī's devotion very long and detailed and ignored the discussion of the text and its context.
- (b) Quite popular with candidates. Some very good answers with examples. Many candidates, however, did not discuss the description of Lord Krishna as a child as given by the blind poet Surdas. They simply reproduced memorised material on Surdas' devotion to Lord Krishna, which they did not make relevant to the question.

Question 2

- (a) In general candidates found it difficult to grasp the question as well as the text. Not many candidates attempted this question.
- (b) Generally well answered. Good understanding was shown of the two poems of Nirala, including examples as required.

Question 3

- (a) (i) The context and meaning was generally discussed quite competently.
- (ii) As in previous years, most candidates failed to comment on the language of the text comprehensively and appropriately.
- (b) Most of the candidates who attempted this question demonstrated their understanding of the two poems and compared the ideas in them without many problems.

Part 2

Question 4

- (a) Not as popular as (ii). Some good answers reflected clear understanding of the statement about Dan Nath.
- (b) A very popular question. Candidates seem to share Premchand's feelings about women in society at the time. They wrote with passion.

Question 5

- (a) Most candidates found this question straightforward. The performance was mixed: some some average.
- (b) Not as popular as (a).

Question 6

- (a) Most candidates produced average answers. They failed to comment on the significance of the title of the story.
- (b) Only a few candidates tackled this question.

General comments

We appreciate the efforts put in by the Hindi teachers. Their commitment and dedication to preparing their candidates are clear. The following advice might however be useful:

- It would help if copies of past questions were distributed among the candidates for discussion in the lessons. These could lead to useful sessions on how to analyse questions and plan answers. More emphasis in the course on 'language and style' of poets and storywriters would be beneficial – such questions are often ignored by candidates.
- Whilst it is appreciated that Mauritian Hindi may be developing its own local character, it cannot move drastically away from standard Hindi norms. Although language is not credited or penalised in this component, good language helps with communication of the candidate's ideas. Teachers should ensure that candidates do not lose sight of this as the standard of spelling and grammar seems to be deteriorating.