

TAMIL AND TAMIL LANGUAGE

Paper 8689/02
Reading and Writing

Overall performance

Overall the performance of the candidates was good, however there were numerous spelling mistakes with poor grammar and weak sentence structure to be seen in most of the answer papers.

Very few candidates had sufficient vocabulary to write responses to the questions in their own words. Most responses contained much material that was copied straight from the text.

Comments on specific questions

Questions 1 and 2 are designed to test the candidates' understanding of the two passages. Those who found the passage difficult to read and understand were unable to answer the questions well and tended to copy out large chunks of the passages, not all of which was relevant. Very few candidates answered this part well with most repeating what was given in the text.

In the same way, **Questions 5a and 5b** test the candidates' ability to present appropriate detailed points from the two passages. Few candidates' could offer a relevant opinion which is asked for and for which marks are available. Again many candidates simply copied their answers directly from the question paper.

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Essay

The overall performance of candidates was good, with only a small number of entrants at both extremes of the mark range. Weaker candidates' responses were characterised by a combination of misunderstanding of the question, especially **Questions 1, 2 and 3**, leading to a loss of marks for content, and poorer language skills such as spelling mistakes and poor construction of sentences. There were no particular issues around the use of time or misinterpretation of the rubric by candidates.

Question 1

In general this question was fairly popular and candidates achieved reasonable marks. There were a few excellent essays.

Question 2

A very wide range of marks was attained by candidates who chose this question, from very weak to excellent. The performance of the weaker candidates was characterized by poor spelling and lack of focussed content. Strong candidates' responses' were characterised by well structured, complex sentences and few spelling and grammatical errors.

Question 3

This was the most popular question and produced the widest range of marks. Spelling errors and poor focus of content as well as repetition were seen in weaker responses. Again strong candidates' responses were characterised by well structured, complex sentences and few spelling and grammatical errors.

Question 4

Only a few candidates chose this question and the responses were varied.

Question 5

The candidates who answered this question achieved a good range of marks. Strong candidates' responses were characterised by well structured, complex sentences and few spelling and grammatical errors. Spelling errors and poor focus on content as well as repetition were seen in the weaker responses.