

# TAMIL LANGUAGE

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Paper 8689/21  
Reading and Writing

## Key messages

- In order to do well in this paper, candidates should demonstrate an understanding of the passage given and answer the questions using their own vocabulary as far as possible.
- In **Questions 3** and **4**, candidates should be aware of the direct relationship between the number of points they need to make and the number of marks available e.g. 4 points for a 4 mark question, 3 points for a 3 mark question, etc.

## General comments

In the comprehension questions, candidates should make sure they understand the full demands of the question before attempting to answer. Some candidates copied out long portions of the text, which was not always selective enough to demonstrate adequate comprehension. However, there were many who did their best to use their own language and were rewarded for successfully doing so. Some of the candidates used additional sheets and most of those sheets were left blank.

## Comments on specific questions

### **Question 1**

Most of the candidates answered this question well.

### **Question 2**

Almost all the candidates found this question accessible.

### **Question 3**

Candidates often found **(e)** and **(g)** were the more difficult questions.

Candidates must know that there are at least 3 points for a three mark question and four points for a four mark question. Some candidates wrote just one sentence/answer for a three mark question.

### **Question 4**

**(c)** Instead of writing the answer in three stages/3 points, some candidates finished it in one sentence and needed to answer it in full to achieve all the available marks.

**(e)** This question was difficult for many candidates.

Candidates should be trained to write in bullet points 1, 2, 3...etc.

### **Question 5**

**(a)** This question was answered well.

**(b)** Some candidates wrote the answer without mentioning **5(b)** and a few candidates even missed it out completely.

If they write (copy) the question first and then answer, they should have a better understanding of what is being asked.

Another suggestion is to write **5(b)** in a separate place. It will avoid the mixing up of answers or entirely missing the answer for **5(b)**.

If candidates are asked to practise with model question papers, it will help them. **5(b)** is about a personal experience or an opinion.

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## Comments on specific questions

### **Question 1**

The candidates found it very difficult to identify the words with equivalent meaning (synonyms) in the given text. Candidates may benefit from specific training on how to find synonyms in a passage.

### **Question 2**

Candidates answered this question well, in general.

Candidates should be trained to complete their sentences with the appropriate verb and tense.

### **Question 3**

- (a) Instead of mentioning three different sounds, most of the candidates gave only two or fewer.
- (b) Most of the candidates did not get full marks. It is a five mark question, so they must understand that there are five points or five sentences to be given to achieve full marks.
- (c) Same as **3(b)**. Most of the candidates did not get all the four points and thus did not achieve full marks.

### **Question 4**

- (a) Candidates generally did not give all the five points in the answer.
- (c) Candidates generally did not give all the points in the answer, as **4(a)**.

The other questions were answered well.

**Question 5**

- (a) This was answered well by the candidates.
- (b) Some candidates wrote the answer without mentioning **5(b)** and a few candidates even missed it out completely.

If they write (copy) the question first and then answer, they should have a better understanding of what is being asked.

Another suggestion is to write **5(b)** in a separate place. It will avoid the mixing up of answers or entirely missing the answer for **5(b)**.

If candidates are asked to practise with model question papers, it will help them. **5(b)** is about a personal experience or an opinion.

# TAMIL

**Paper 8689/31**  
**Essay**

## Key messages

In order to perform well on this paper, candidates should:

- select a title which they understand and focus on the terms in the question
- write a clear, concise and logical argument with appropriate exemplification
- use accurate and idiomatic Tamil with a range of grammatical structures and appropriate vocabulary
- plan their essay and ensure that the opening paragraph sets out the terms of argument
- write a conclusion based on the prior arguments

## General comments

This is an Essay paper in which candidates are required to compose one essay from a choice of five topics. The essay is marked out of 40, with 16 marks available for Content and 24 marks available for Quality of Language.

Overall, performances on this paper were good and there were no infringements of the rubric.

Weaker responses were characterised by a combination of misunderstanding of the question (leading to loss of marks for Content) and poor language skills.

The most common spelling errors occurred in the use of the following letters, which were written in an incorrect form.

1. ல - ழ - ள 2. ன - ன - ண 3. ர - ற 4. த - ட

Candidates would benefit from more practice in using these letters. Candidates should also be reminded that the letter ற when conjugated with consonants will become கெ செ தே பெ மெ etc.

Some candidates wrote அங்கை இங்கை எங்கை rather than அங்கே இங்கேஎங்கே

## Comments on specific questions

### Question 1

This question was answered by the greatest number of candidates. The best answers contained well-structured complex sentences with few or no errors in spelling and grammar. Weaker responses contained numerous grammatical and spelling errors which lowered their marks.

### Question 2

Too few candidates opted for this question to make comment possible.

### Question 3

A good proportion of candidates chose this question. The best answers were characterised by well structured complex sentences and few spelling and grammatical errors. Poor spelling and a lack of focused content was seen in weaker answers.

**Question 4**

Too few candidates opted for this question to make comment possible.

**Question 5**

This was the third most popular question. The best answers contained well-structured, complex sentences and very few spelling and grammatical errors.

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### Question 3

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### Question 4

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### Question 5

A good proportion of candidates chose this question. The best answers were characterised by well-structured complex sentences and few spelling and grammatical errors. Poor spelling and a lack of focused content was seen in weaker answers.