

TAMIL

Paper 8689/21
Reading and Writing

Key messages

To do well in this paper, candidates need to:

- ensure that they answer **all** questions from **Section 1** and **Section 2**
- adhere to the word limits specified for **Question 5** in **Section 2**
- ensure that the work is legible, accurate and logically presented
- show an awareness of the conventions of paragraphing and sentence structure
- demonstrate adequate control of vocabulary, syntax and grammar, punctuation and spelling
- understand and be able to employ a range of apt vocabulary
- be able to order and present facts, ideas and options
- ensure the same word is not repeated many times
- ensure that the candidate present the response in the form stipulated in **Question 5(b)**
- 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. It was encouraging to note that the stronger candidates made significantly fewer spelling errors. Weaker candidates generally struggled to construct sentences accurately and made frequent spelling mistakes. Also, one should note that the answer for **Question 5 (a)** should be a summary of **Part – 1** and **Part – 2** of the Text in their own words.

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 (பணி - பனி)
2. ல - ள - ழ (அழித்தல் - அளித்தல்)
3. ர - ற (கூருவது - கூறுவது)
4. ப - பா (பார்க்க - பர்க்க, பூக்கும் - புக்கும்) போன்ற குறில் - நெடில் எழுத்துக்கள்
5. ல - ல் (கல்வி - கலவி, ஆனால் - ஆன்னால்) போன்ற மெய் - உயிர்மெய் எழுத்துக்கள்
6. மெய் மிகும் இடங்கள் மெய் மிகா இடங்கள் - (அழித்தல் - அழிதல், மதிப்பெண்கள் - மதிபெண்கள், நடனம் - நடன்னம், படிப்படியாக - படிபடியாக)

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

There is an increase in numbers of candidates who copy the text from the exam paper to answer the questions. There will be strict marking guidelines for the Examiners from next year, which will affect the candidates who copy the text word by word to answer the questions.

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4. ப - பா (பார்க்க - பர்க்க, பூக்கும் - புக்கும்) போன்ற குறில் - நெடில் எழுத்துக்கள்
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TAMIL LANGUAGE

Paper 8689/31
Essay

Key messages

- 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.

General comments

The overall performance on this paper was good and there were no infringements of the rubric. Weaker responses were characterised by a combination of misunderstandings of the question, leading to loss of marks for content and some 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. ந – ன – ண
3. ர – ற
4. த் – ட்

Candidates would benefit from more practice in using these letters.

- Another common mistake is the 'குறில்' and 'நெடில்' letters. It refers to the short vowel and long vowel sounds.

Example: திமைகள் (incorrect) – தீமைகள் (correct)

- Candidates should also be reminded that the letter ஏ conjugates with other consonants.

Example: க + ஏ = கே/ல + ஏ = லே

- Next, candidates use the normal language which is used in daily conversation. Some words which are in daily conversation are not suitable to write in formal circumstances.

Example: இப்போ பாதுகித்திங்கனா should be written as 'தற்பொழுது'

- Candidate should write the accurate version of idioms, proverbs and 'Thirukural' – Mistakes made by candidates by not writing the full version of 'Thirukural' and the explanation did not reflect the proverb/idioms.

Example: One candidate wrote – 'கற்க கசடறக் கற்பவை கற்றபின்...' (hanging ^)

Correct: கற்க கசடறக் கற்பவை கற்றபின் நிற்க அதற்குத் தக (full form)

- There are some candidates that have written proverbs as well. A few proverbs for this series follow:
- அளவுக்கு மீறினால் அமிர்தமும் நஞ்சு.

- நோயற்ற வாழ்வே குறைவற்ற செல்வம்.
- சுவர் இருந்தால்தான் சித்திரம் வரைய முடியும்.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Very few candidates attempted this question but did well. For this question, candidates can agree or disagree that daily life is becoming easier for women. Candidates were able to write both sides of the answer.

Question 2

This is one of the most popular questions in this series. The question is 'eating at home is better than eating at a restaurant.' Candidates can agree and/or disagree with this. Candidates elaborated some benefits of eating at home and the disadvantages of eating out.

Candidates wrote answers such as eating at home will make sure a person has a healthy body by consuming nutritious food, know which ingredients are used for cooking, avoid falling sick, strengthen family relationships when cooking together, etc.

Points of disagreement such as, no time to cook at home because of being busy with working life and travelling for work makes a person eat out. Choosing the food we eat out makes eating at a restaurant better than eating at home.

Question 3

Some candidates attempted this question and performed fairly well. The question is about whether you agree that finding a job that suits you is difficult. Candidates can agree or disagree with this topic. Candidates have very good points such as that candidates should choose and study a subject which has demand in the future; not to wait until you get a job which suits you and just start working to get experience; and explore more fields of work.

Question 4

Only one candidate chose this title. The question is about 'all candidates should be taught about community and economic development while in school'. The candidates gave very good points and elaborated very well. The candidates gave answers such as moral values (being kind, helping others, having responsibility) can be developed among youngsters; youngsters will know how to manage their money and wealth in the future, etc.

Question 5

This is one of the most popular questions among the candidates. Candidates are supposed to write about whether or not, to protect the environment, we must stop selling products in plastic bags. Most candidates had less content, and they did not elaborate their answer properly.

Candidates can agree or disagree with the statement. A few candidates wrote about pollution in general and they forgot to stress 'plastic bags'. The question specifically asked candidates to focus on plastic bags.

A few candidates wrote very good points such as, that plastic bags are very harmful to the environment because most plastics are non-biodegradable. Candidates also elaborated on the types of pollution created by plastic bags. Then, candidates wrote that shopping centres and supermarkets should not sell goods in plastic bags and suggested a few ways to resolve this. Such as, customers bringing their own paper or cloth bags, government implement schemes like giving a discount for those who bring their own bags – encouraging more people to do this, etc.

TAMIL LANGUAGE

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