

HINDI LANGUAGE

Paper 8687/02
Reading and Writing

Key messages

- When answering comprehension questions, candidates should use their own words with little or no lifting from the reading texts.
- Candidates should endeavour to use correct sentence structure, vocabulary, idioms and phrases in order to raise their level of attainment.

General comments

A wide range of performance was seen.

Overall there were fewer blank responses to questions compared to previous years. This is good practice and should be encouraged in future.

Question 5(a) tests candidates' ability to respond to a specific focus by summarising the points made in the inserts succinctly. Candidates are advised to adhere to the prescribed word limit.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1

Question 1: finding words in the first text with a similar meaning to the given word

Questions 1(a), 1(b), 1(c) and 1(d) were answered correctly by many candidates.

In **Question 1(e)**, a few candidates gave the correct answer for 'होड़', but weaker candidates found this more challenging.

Question 2: composition of sentences with given words/phrases/idioms

Questions 2(a) and 2(e) were mostly answered well. Some candidates confused 'व्यथित' with 'व्यस्त'/'व्यतीत' and the phrase 'कर गुज़रना' was often misunderstood. To do well in this section, candidates should develop their knowledge of commonly used idioms/ phrases.

Questions 2(b), 2(c) and 2(d) were managed very well by the majority of candidates.

Question 3: reading comprehension

This question was generally answered well. A few candidates gave the answer to **3(b)** as the answer to **3(c)** and consequently gave only a partial answer for **3(b)**. Candidates needed to read the questions and text carefully, for example **Question 3(c)**, about 'अपने फेर में'.

Section 2

Question 4: reading comprehension

Questions 4(a), 4(b), 4(c) and 4(e) were mostly answered well. Question 4(d) was not always well answered due to a lack of understanding of the question 'सकारात्मक', 'नकारात्मक' and difficulty in interpreting the juxtaposition in the text: 'जहाँ एक ओर' वहाँ दूसरी ओर'. Words like 'जुझारू', 'उत्तेजनाशील' were not understood by many candidates.

Question 5(a): summary writing with a specific focus

Most candidates answered well and remained focussed on the 'reasons for loneliness'. They were able to engage well with the topic. Some weaker candidates wrote about the effects of loneliness and based their answer on general knowledge rather than making reference to the reading texts. Some responses were too long. The objective of this question is to assess summary writing skills and so it is important to adhere to the prescribed word limit. Some candidates wrote well beyond the word limit and consequently were not awarded marks for the part of the answer which exceeded the word limit.

Question 5(b): personal response

Candidates had some good ideas to support their opinions.

Language Marks:

For Questions 3, 4 and 5, an additional 5 marks are allocated for each question for the use of language. This year, the quality of language seen was better than in previous years. Most candidates were able to answer the questions in their own words, with little or no lifting from the reading passages.

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Paper 8687/03
Essay

Key messages

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

- make a range of relevant points and develop them into an argument
- expand on points to an appropriate extent without deviation from the topic
- check written work thoroughly to avoid errors of spelling and grammar.

General comments

Generally, candidates seemed well prepared for the examination. In the strongest responses, candidates showed a good understanding of the question, an ability to develop a relevant argument and ability to draw conclusions in reasonably correct language with some attempt to use varied vocabulary and idioms. Some essays did not adhere closely to the question and seemed to be pre-prepared essays vaguely related to the topic. Some essays lacked a sense of focus or direction and this lack of structure weakened the argument overall.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Candidates were asked to write about the negative effects of eating junk food. This was the most popular question, attempted by a large number of candidates. Many candidates managed to include the negative impact of junk food, and in the strongest responses, points were substantiated with good examples.

Question 2

“It is imperative to give equal opportunity to all so that individual growth and social equilibrium can be maintained. Give your opinions.” Not many candidates attempted this question. However, those that did discussed the question of equal opportunities for men and women. They highlighted situations where women are not treated as equals. Good answers gave some excellent examples from the social milieu.

Question 3

This question was on the topic of sports. The focus of the question was that not only is sport beneficial for your body, it is advantageous for your mind too. Most candidates were able to give very strong reasons in favour of sports. Some candidates developed their answers by highlighting the positive effects of sports in developing individual social skills and discipline, which helps them to face different challenges in the professional world.

Question 4

“For the equal progress of any country’s citizens, both economic development and social development is necessary.” This question was the least popular choice, but the responses to the question were of a good standard.

Question 5

This question focused on the topic of the environment and asked about the moral obligation of the human race to protect the environment. This question was very popular. However, not every candidate's answer was focused on the question. Some candidates veered away from the question, writing about types of pollution and how it should be controlled. The strongest responses focused on how citizens can make honest contributions to control these different forms of pollution to save the environment.

Quality of Language

Candidates gave some good examples and embellished their arguments using effective expressions. The writing flow was maintained by using cohesive paragraphing. Thus, most candidates scored good marks in their answers.

In weaker responses there were problems with the accuracy of spelling and grammar.

Candidates are advised to make sure that they know how to change Hindi nouns from singular to plural in a sentence. For example, nouns were often mentioned in plural form when this was not required: घर was written as घरों and विचार was written as विचारों. Gender related mistakes were very common too.

Spelling errors were reasonably frequent. For example, 'सहारा' was written as 'साहारा'. Also, the letter 'Ra' was written incorrectly as a conjunct. In some weaker responses, the number of errors affected the reader's ability to understand the essay.

Candidates should take care now to think in English while writing in Hindi. Weaker responses contained sentence constructions which were exact translations of English phrases, for example, sentences like 'you get it' should be in Hindi. For example, the sentence उनको बिमारियाँ मिल सकते हैं। is just a translation of the English sentence 'They can get illnesses'. While the same expression in Hindi is expressed in a different way.