

TAMIL

<p>Paper 8689/21 Reading and Writing</p>

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

Hand writing was neater and there were fewer spelling mistakes than the previous year. 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.

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

(a) and (b) were answered well.

(c) Out of the four points at least one was missed out.

(d) Candidates regularly missed at least one point.

The candidates found (e) and (g) difficult to answer correctly.

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

Question 4

(a) This was difficult for many candidates. Only a few candidates got four out of four.

(b), (c), (d), and (e) were answered well. Some candidates missed one point in questions like these without realising a three mark question will have at least three things to write. Candidates should consider this in the future.

Question 5

(a) This was answered well.

(b) In **5(b)**, generally a question is asked to narrate the candidate's personal experience or views on a topic, very briefly. There are a maximum of five sentences for five marks.

Some candidates wrote the answer without mentioning **5(b)**. A few candidates even missed it out altogether. Some candidates repeated the material from the text. They must be trained to write in their own words.

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

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General comments

Hand writing was neater and there were fewer spelling mistakes than the previous year. 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.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Some candidates found it difficult to identify the words with the equivalent meaning (synonyms) in the given text.

Question 2

Almost all the candidates found this question accessible.

Question 3

(a) and (b) were answered correctly.

(c), (d) and (e) some of the candidates did not give a complete answer. If they understand that a two mark question will have at least two points and a three mark question will have at least three points, they may fare better.

Question 4

(a) Candidates struggled to give a full answer. They wrote which toy was given to a girl or a boy, but could not say the impact of it.

(c), (d) and (e) Very few candidates were able to obtain full marks in this section.

Question 5

- (a) Almost all the candidates found this question accessible.
- (b) In **5(b)**, generally a question is asked to narrate the candidate's personal experience or views on a topic, very briefly. There are a maximum of five sentences for five marks.

Some candidates wrote the answer without mentioning **5(b)**. A few candidates even missed it out altogether. Some candidates repeated the material from the text. They must be trained to write in their own words.

TAMIL

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 misunderstanding 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 1. ந - ன - ண 3 ர - ற 4 த் - ட்

Candidates would benefit from more practice in using these letters. Candidates should also be reminded that the letter ஏ when conjugated with consonants will become கே சே தே பே மே etc.

Some candidates wrote அங்கை இங்கை எங்கை rather than அங்கே இங்கே எங்கே.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

The candidates that attempted this question did fairly well.

Question 2

This was the most popular question. Strong candidates' responses were characterised by well structured complex sentences and few errors in spelling and grammar. Poor spelling and lack of focused content was seen in weaker candidates' responses.

Question 3

Too few candidates attempted this question to make a general remark.

Question 4

Some candidates attempted this question and did fairly well.

Question 5

Too few candidates attempted this question to make a general remark.

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Paper 8689/32
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 misunderstanding 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 1. ந - ன - ண 3 ர - ற 4 த் - ட்

Candidates would benefit from more practice in using these letters. Candidates should also be reminded that the letter ஏ when conjugated with consonants will become கே சே தே பே மே etc.

Some candidates wrote அங்கை இங்கை எங்கை rather than அங்கே இங்கே எங்கே.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

This was the most popular question. Strong candidates' responses were characterised by well structured complex sentences and few spelling and grammatical errors. Poor spelling and lack of focused content was seen in weaker candidates.

Question 2

This was the second most popular question. Strong candidates responses were characterised by well structured complex sentences and few spelling and grammatical errors. Poor spelling and lack of focused content was seen in weaker candidates' responses.

Question 3

Too few candidates attempted this question to make a general remark.

Question 4

Too few candidates attempted this question to make a general remark.

Question 5

Too few candidates attempted this question to make a general remark.