

TAMIL

Paper 9689/22
Reading and Writing 22

Key messages

To achieve success in this paper, candidates are advised to:

- Ensure they respond to all questions in both **Section 1** and **Section 2**.
- Adhere to the specified word limits for **Question 5** in **Section 2**.
- Present work that is legible, accurate, and logically organized.
- Show an understanding of proper paragraphing and sentence structure.
- Demonstrate adequate control over vocabulary, syntax, grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
- Utilize a variety of appropriate vocabulary.
- Effectively order and present facts, ideas, and opinions.
- Avoid the repetition of the same word multiple times.
- Present responses in the format stipulated in **Question 5(b)**.
- Plan their time allocation for each question and allow sufficient time for a thorough review of their work.

General comments

Spelling Competence:

- Stronger candidates exhibited fewer spelling errors, emphasising the importance of improving spelling accuracy for all candidates.
- Common spelling errors often stemmed from the incorrect formation of certain letters. Candidates should review the alphabet and practice writing various words to minimise these mistakes.

Specific Questions:

- For **Questions 1** and **2**, simple yet accurate sentences are sufficient for full marks; however, the ability to construct complex sentences can be advantageous.
- For **Question 5(a)**, the summary should be concise and cover significant points from both the passages in **Part 1** and **Part 2**. An insightful summary should:
 - Be articulated in the candidates' own words.
 - Include ten relevant points extracted from both passages combined.
 - Ensure that the points directly address the question posed.

Common Spelling Issues:

While a specific list of spelling difficulties is not provided, candidates may commonly struggle with:

- Homophones and confusion between similarly sounding words.
- Words differentiated by a single letter change, such as 'குடி' versus 'கூடி' and 'பாதி' versus 'பதி'.

Examiner Report Summary

- Areas for Improvement: There is a notable need for heightened focus on spelling and accurate sentence construction throughout the candidate submissions.
- Sentence Complexity: While candidates can achieve full marks with simple sentences for certain questions, the use of complex sentences is essential for articulating more nuanced and detailed responses.

- Effective Summarisation for **Question 5**: It is imperative that summaries demonstrate a clear understanding of the material while being concise. Candidates should aim to cover key points in their own words, showcasing comprehension and originality.
- Spelling Practice: A concerted effort should be made to review and practice commonly misspelled words. Candidates are encouraged to reduce spelling errors by developing a deeper understanding of word formation and context.
- Common Spelling Errors: The most frequent spelling mistakes observed were related to the incorrect formation of specific letters, which often led to misrepresentation of words. It is recommended that candidates focus on these letters to improve their overall spelling accuracy.

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
2. ல – ள – ழ
3. ர – ற (கற்க – கர்க)
4. ட – ற (கொண்டு – கொண்டு)
5. நெடில் எழுத்து – குறில் எழுத்து (கீழே – கீழை, வேலையிலிருந்து – வேலையிலிருந்து)

Candidates are encouraged to pay attention to these areas to enhance their overall performance in the paper.

TAMIL

Paper 9689/32
Essay 32

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 'நுநடில்' letters. It refers to the short vowel and long vowel sounds.

Example: துமைகள் (incorrect) – துமைகள் (correct).

- Candidates should also be reminded that the letter ஏ conjugates with other consonants. Example: க + ஏ = கக/ல + ஏ = லல.
- Next, candidates used the normal language which is used in daily conversation. Some words which are in daily conversation are not suitable to write in formal contexts.
- Candidates should write the accurate version of idioms, proverb and 'Thirukural' – Mistakes made by candidates by not writing the full version of 'Thirukural' and the explanation did not reflect the proverb/idioms.

Example: candidate wrote – 'கற்க கசடறக் கற்பமை கற்றபின்...' (hanging ^) Correct: கற்க கசடறக் கற்பமை கற்றபின் நிற்க அதற்குத் தக (full form).

- There were a few candidates who had written proverbs '*Pazhamozhi*' and *Thirukural* as well. This showed a good knowledge of using Tamil proverbs and *Thirukural* according to the correct situation.

Overall

Candidates did well. To gain more marks, candidates should try to insert idioms and link to real world examples. Support your answer by giving supporting evidence. Candidates also should be able to write more than 250 words.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Some candidates attempted this question, but only a few performed well. Candidates were expected to explain why children should be raised in a city, focusing solely on this topic. Examples should be based on city life and not include comparisons with village life, as many candidates mistakenly did. The better answers included points such as the higher level of education, better healthcare facilities, modern lifestyle, efficient transportation, and access to internet services in cities.

Question 2

This question was attempted by several candidates, and the essays were at a satisfactory level overall. Candidates were expected to explain to what extent children learn eating habits from their parents. Good responses highlighted the role of parents in shaping eating habits, alongside other factors such as school environment, influence of social media, peer pressure, and cultural practices.

Question 3

A few candidates attempted this question, and their performance was satisfactory. The question required candidates to explain why the involvement of youngsters in sports is either declining or increasing. To support the decline, candidates could discuss reasons such as increased screen time, academic pressure, lack of access to sports programs, fear of injuries, and risk aversion. For the increase, candidates could highlight points such as growing health and fitness awareness, parental encouragement, social benefits of sports, increased media coverage, and the rising popularity of non-traditional sports.

Question 4

A few candidates attempted this question. Candidates were not always able to argue why 'improving the quality of life of the people is better than preserving the culture and heritage of a country'.

Question 5

This question was not very popular in this series. Candidates should be able to explain why 'the world would be a much more peaceful place if the world was led by a woman'.

TAMIL

Paper 9689/42
Texts

Key messages

This is a literature paper in which candidates are required to write the response in an essay form which covers three essays from a choice of six different forms of work, such as poetry – Sangam, Thirukural etc., dramas, short stories, a novel, etc.

The essay is marked out of 75 in total and 25 for each response checking on the content, word count and 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 not directly answering to 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:

- ல – ழ – ள
- ந – ன – ண
- ர – ற
- த் – ட்

Students would benefit from more practice in using these letters.

- Another major mistake is the 'குறில்' and 'நெடில்' letters. It refers to short vowel and long vowel sound. Example: பர்வை (incorrect) – பார்வை (correct).
- The use of the colloquial language or the spoken language which is used in normal conversation is not appropriate in an exam situation. Some words which are in daily conversation are not suitable in formal writing.
- Example: கட்பு should be written as கற்பு, பேந்து will be பிறகு, ஆக்கள் should be ஆட்கள் and other similar examples.
- Candidates should not reproduce the Thirukkural in their responses. They are only expected to explain and write the answer accordingly.
- In case of answering **Question 4** from section 2, many candidates only wrote about the biography of the author or the poet rather answering the question for the poetry or story, which is irrelevant.

TAMIL

Paper 9689/52
Prose 52

Key messages

In order to do well in this paper candidates should:

- Increase their vocabulary to be able to translate texts on a wide range of topics.
- Avoid missing blocks of passages along with the key words.
- Refer to each and every sentence and follow the same order of the sentences in the given passage.
- Consider how it is marked. The passage is scored for 40 marks; each sentence is likely to be split into multiple marks with a very fixed scoring system.
- Maintain correct grammar and spelling throughout the translation.

General comments

Performance on this paper was generally good and there were no infringements of the rubric.

More successful responses were characterised by answers which broke up longer sentences into two separate sentences. They produced largely correct and meaningful translations.

A few sentences were very complex and long. In a few cases at least seven or eight blocks were related to one paragraph. Candidates are allowed to break up longer sentences into shorter ones as long as they convey the same meaning.

Answers from weaker candidates were often characterised by serious spelling errors, errors in sentence construction and incorrect translations of key vocabulary items.

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 short vowel and long vowel sound.

Candidates should prepare for the exam by translating topics from newspapers or online sources into Tamil regularly. This will help them to learn an extensive vocabulary and the techniques needed when they do not know the exact words in the translation and how they should deal with this in an exam situation.

Marks will be awarded to candidates who convey the meaning even if they do not use the exact same words from the original translation.

Candidates should also avoid transliterating English words into Tamil, but instead think of another word or expression that conveys the same meaning.