

SANSKRIT

Paper 0499/01
Language

Key messages

This paper requires knowledge of the vocabulary in the syllabus, knowledge of verb and noun endings, an understanding of the rules of sandhi and an ability to translate simple English sentences into Sanskrit

General comments

Good answers to all questions in this paper showed a thorough knowledge of the Sanskrit – English vocabulary as well as the rules of grammar.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

The answers to this comprehension question were of a high standard, with the best scores going to candidates who answered the questions fully and who had good knowledge of sandhi rules.

Question 2

Candidates with a thorough knowledge of vocabulary and who were familiar with noun and verb endings and the rules of sandhi performed well in this question, making good use of the glossed vocabulary.

Question 3

To perform well in this question, candidates need to know their English – Sanskrit vocabulary and to use the correct endings as needed, for example, they need to be able to distinguish between past, present, future tenses of verbs, singular, dual and plural noun endings and to know how to translate direct speech into Sanskrit, using 'iti'.

Question 4

This comprehension question was tackled well. The candidates who scored highest were able to translate fully and accurately 4(c).

SANSKRIT

Paper 0499/02
Literature and Epic Civilisation

Key messages

There are two key areas relating to examination technique to highlight. In the first place, candidates must know the detail of the text, and be able to identify key words, and know their meaning. This will assist with the second issue in this regard, which is referring accurately in answer to either the words or lines mentioned in the questions.

General comments

Excellent answers were seen in all areas of the paper. Candidates' responses were broadly similar in length and nature to those seen in previous years.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Candidates' performance tended to be stronger on Question 2 than Question 1.

Question 2

In Question 2, candidates must be careful that they translate the text accurately, and do not interpret the text rather than give a translation.

Where candidates are asked to express an opinion about an issue as in (c), they should remember to state clearly what the issue is, then given an opinion and back that up with evidence from the text or ideas being discussed

Question 3

The short answer, civilisation questions were well answered, but candidates should be reminded of the importance of reading the Sanskrit words accurately so that they are not muddling different terms.

In (f), the longer response question, the weaker responses did not give an opinion, which meant that there was very little possibility of demonstrating a thorough understanding.

Question 4

The final set text questions were well handled, but candidates should again be aware of examination technique – where a piece of text is referred to in the question, it is best to translate this (or paraphrase) as accurately as possible, and to pay attention to the number of marks given, as this is an excellent indicator of how many pieces of information are required.