

# SANSKRIT

Paper 0499/11  
Language

## Key messages

Candidates should be reminded of the importance of precision in the following key areas of Sanskrit language:

- Singulars and plurals (noun endings in particular)
- Spelling (being able to hear the word accurately in one's mind is helpful here).
- Word order when translating into Sanskrit and the agreement of verb and subject where appropriate.

## General comments

Overall there was a sound level of Sanskrit on display in this year's scripts.

The strongest candidates demonstrated accurate knowledge of vocabulary, word endings, and Sandhi and the ability to interpret these in translation from Sanskrit and employ them in translation into Sanskrit.

## Comments on specific questions

The paper was well answered by many candidates. The following specific points were noted by Examiners:

### **Question 1**

- (b) The word for 'soon' caused confusion.
- (c)(d)(e) It is important to look at the number of marks available and be sure to translate every word.
- (g) The word for 'stop' was less well known by candidates.
- (h) Some candidates found the sandhi challenging. In particular, consonant sandhi caused numerous issues.

### **Question 2**

- (a) This section was mostly well answered. Where there was an issue it was mostly just not knowing the vocabulary. Also, care is needed in assigning translated words to the correct subsection of the question.
- (b) – (c) These sentences were generally well answered. The strongest candidates were precise in their approach and ensured they had translated each word accurately. Missing out words should be avoided – checking the completed answers is key. Strong candidates also observed the sentence structure of the original Sanskrit rather than muddling words.

### Question 3

The same issues arose in all three parts of the question.

- (i) Word order – the verb should be at the end of each phrase or sentence.
- (ii) Agreement of subject and verb and of adjective with its noun.
- (iii) Accurate tenses. Both choosing the correct tense for the verb and knowing any special forms for basic vocabulary such as the future tense of gam.
- (iv) Be careful not to forget halanta signs where appropriate.
- (v) Accurate knowledge of basic vocabulary is essential for this question.

### Question 4

This question was generally well answered. Of particular note:

- (a) The best answers were a literal translation rather a paraphrase.
- (b) It is important to look at the number of marks available and be sure to translate every word.
- (g) The word for 'messenger' was less well known.

# SANSKRIT

Paper 0499/12  
Language

## Key messages

## Key messages

Candidates should be reminded of the importance of precision in the following key areas of Sanskrit language:

- Singulars and plurals (noun endings in particular)
- Spelling (being able to hear the word accurately in one's mind is helpful here).
- Word order when translating into Sanskrit and the agreement of verb and subject where appropriate.

## General comments

Overall there was a sound level of Sanskrit on display in this year's scripts, the standard of which was broadly in line with those seen in previous years.

Candidates would do well to revise the rules of Sandhi and particularly the rules of disjunction thoroughly – some otherwise accomplished candidates found this area difficult.

The strongest candidates demonstrated accurate knowledge of vocabulary, word endings, and Sandhi and the ability to interpret these in translation from Sanskrit and employ them in translation into Sanskrit.

## Comments on specific questions

The paper was well answered by many candidates. The following specific points were noted by Examiners:

### **Question 1**

- (b) Vocabulary for the cardinal numbers and for 'enemy' was a difficulty here.
- (c) Abhita (around) was often confused with Abhaya (fearless)
- (e)–(f) Vocabulary for the ordinal numbers and for 'enemy' was a difficulty here. Also, there was some confusion about who was being defeated.
- (h) Some candidates found the Sandhi challenging. Vowel Sandhi, consonant Sandhi and visarga Sandhi all caused issues. Candidates need to observe the rules of disjunction.

### **Question 2**

- (a) This section was mostly well answered. Where there was an issue it was mostly just not knowing the vocabulary, particularly the words for 'well' and 'kill'.
- (b) – (c) These sentences were generally well answered. The best candidates were precise in their approach and ensured they had translated each word accurately. Missing out words should be avoided – checking the completed answers is key. The strongest candidates also observed the sentence structure of the original Sanskrit rather than muddling words. The phrase 'distressed by hunger' in (b)(ii) was not always recognised. And there was some confusion about who was doing the bringing in (c)(ii).

### Question 3

The same issues arose in all three parts of the question.

- (i) Word order- the verb should be at the end of each phrase or sentence.
- (ii) Agreement of subject and verb and of adjective with its noun.
- (iii) Accurate tenses. Both choosing the correct tense for the verb and knowing any special forms for basic vocabulary such as the future tense of gam.
- (iv) Be careful not to forget halanta signs where appropriate.
- (v) Accurate knowledge of basic vocabulary is essential for this question.

### Question 4

This question was generally well answered. Of particular note:

- (c) It is important to look at the number of marks available and be sure to translate every word. Some problems with construal - treating the word husband (first case) as an adjective to bird (third case) was common. Attention needs to be paid to agreement of endings to construe correctly.
- (e) 'Without delay' was often translated as 'with a delay'.

# SANSKRIT

Paper 0499/21  
Literature and Epic Civilisation

## Key messages

Candidates should focus on the following areas to improve their ability to do well in the examination:

- Candidates should revise the set text stories, focusing on the vocabulary.
- Candidates should look at the marks available for the Epic Civilisation questions to guide the number of points given.
- Candidates should provide clear opinions backed by the texts to answer the essay and opinion questions.

## General comments

Overall, candidates showed good knowledge of the set texts and the Epic civilisation, recalling the relevant vocabulary, grammar, and information in answering the questions effectively. A few candidates struggled with translating the seen set texts which affected the accuracy of their responses.

## Comments on specific questions

### Question 1

- (a) Include 'Once/One day'.
- (f) Include 'best in the world' – The question requires two pieces of information.

### Question 2

- (a) Some candidates forgot to include 'situated in yoga'.
- (b) Many candidates could not provide 'passion' as one of the three things.
- (d) Candidates need to provide 'my nature' as opposed to the transliterated answer 'prakrti'.

### Question 3

- (a) Candidates need to provide two points for each term. Some candidates used terms outside of the Epic Civilisation terms and depending on the answer these were accepted. Candidates should learn the terms as given to ensure they achieve full marks.
- (f) (i) Candidates should detail the different types of yajna, ritual sacrifices as listed in Epic Civilisation e.g., devayajna – sacrifice to the gods.

### Question 4

- (c) Candidates should translate upagamyā as 'having approached' Many candidates struggled with translate it correctly.
- (d) The word used here is bhaksita which translates as 'eaten' as opposed to killed.
- (g) (ii) Many did not understand the compound as a Bahuvrihi but as a Tatpuruṣa.
- (h) (i) The question is asking for candidates to provide a summary detailing the main points in the verse.

# SANSKRIT

Paper 0499/22  
Literature and Epic Civilisation

## Key messages

Candidates should focus on the following areas to improve their ability to do well in the examination:

- Candidates should revise the set text stories, focusing on the grammar.
- Candidates should look at the marks available for the Epic Civilisation questions to guide the number of points given.
- Candidates should provide clear opinions to answer the extended questions on the Bhagavad Gita and the essay.
- Candidates should make clear arguments to express their opinion.

## General comments

Candidates showed good knowledge of the set texts and the Epic civilisation, recalling the relevant vocabulary, grammar, and information in answering the questions effectively. A few candidates struggled with translating the seen set texts which affected the accuracy of their responses. Some candidates struggled with the terms in Epic Civilisation and therefore there should be sufficient time spent on learning the terms according to the syllabus.

## Comments on specific questions

### Question 1

- (a) The answer should include 'mantra' or 'magical word/verse'.
- (b) For kaḥ cana to use 'certain/some'.

### Question 2

- (a) (i) The answer needed to show understanding of changing of old to new clothes.
- (d) Candidates were being asked to form an opinion on the verse specified.

### Question 3

- (a) Candidates need to provide two points for each term. Some candidates used terms outside of the Epic Civilisation terms and depending on the answer these were accepted. Candidates should learn the terms as given to ensure they achieve full marks.
- (d) Candidates needed to provide the English translations as specified by the question.
- (e) (i) Candidates should use the correct names of the asramas: brahmacarin; grhastha; vanaprastha; and sannyasin.

### Question 4

- (b) (ii) Many candidates did not recognise the compound as a Bahuvrihi.
- (f) Some candidates referred to 'br̥haspatir' which is not on line 8.