

TAMIL

Paper 9689/02
Reading and Writing

General Comments

Candidates performed well on the whole. They need to read the questions carefully and do exactly as asked. Candidates tend to copy the language used in the question paper rather than rephrasing in their own words. Spelling mistakes and errors of syntax were not uncommon.

Comments on individual questions

In **Question 2**, some of the vocabulary appeared to cause problems and candidates found this word manipulation exercise very tricky.

In **Question 3**, candidates needed to make more of an effort to use their own words. They will not gain marks for simple repetition.

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Papers 9689/03

Essay

General comments

The overall performance of the candidates for this paper was good, with only a small number of candidates at both extremes of the mark range. Weaker candidates' responses were characterised by a combination of poorer language skills (spelling mistakes and poor construction of sentences) and a degree of misunderstanding of the question, especially on **Questions 2, 4, and 5**, leading to loss of marks for content.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Two candidates attempted this question. Both of them did very well scoring high marks.

Question 2

Eight candidates attempted this question, achieving marks in the middle of the range (15-35).

Question 3

No candidates attempted this question.

Question 4

This was one of the most popular questions. Nineteen candidates attempted this question. A good range of marks was attained (15-40). Poor spelling and lack of focused content were seen in weaker candidates' responses. Strong candidates' responses were characterised by well-structured, complex sentences and few spelling and grammatical errors.

Question 5

This was the most popular question, attempted by 20 candidates. This question produced the widest range of marks (10-36). Spelling errors, repetition and poor focus on content were seen in weaker responses. Strong candidates' responses were characterised by well-structured, complex sentences with few errors.

Question 6

This question was attempted by three candidates.

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Paper 9689/04

Texts

General Comments

Overall the performance on this paper was good. The main problem was that candidates failed to read the rubric correctly. Candidates must answer 3 questions, one from **Section 1**, one from **Section 2** and one from either section. Each question answered must be on a different text.

Comments on individual questions

Candidates favoured the question on poetry. The short story and drama were less popular. Some candidates answered too many questions. This puts them at a severe disadvantage and teachers must make sure their candidates understand the format of the examination to avoid this happening again.

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Paper 9689/05

Prose

General comments

The overall performance of candidates was generally good. The marks ranged between 14 and 37. The majority of candidates gained more than half the marks available while the weaker candidates lost marks through spelling errors and incorrect sentence construction.

Specific phrases that caused problems for some candidates included 'had not found one which she thought her mother would like' and 'piled high with tattered books by the front of the store'. The third sentence proved a challenge to even the stronger candidates. Some of the best candidates got around the difficulty here by dividing the sentence into two sentences in order to translate it fairly accurately.