

TAMIL

Paper 3206/01
Composition

General comments

In general, candidates performed quite well on this paper, with a wide range of marks awarded. Some candidates performed very well indeed.

The topics in both sections were popular with candidates. In **Section A**, topic **(a)** was the most popular, and in **Section B**, topics **(c)** and **(d)** were the ones most often selected.

It was encouraging to note that the stronger candidates made significantly fewer spelling errors than last year. Weaker candidates generally struggled to construct sentences accurately and made frequent spelling mistakes.

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 4. கீழே – கீழை

Candidates seemed to have organised their time in the examination well, and there were no rubric infringements.

Comments on specific questions

Section A – Letter, Report, Dialogue or Speech

Candidates were asked to write a response of approximately 120 words to one of the three given topics.

The performance of the candidates in this section of the paper was quite varied.

In their responses, the stronger candidates made fewer spelling errors than those who took last year's examination, and showed that they could write fluently and accurately. Weaker candidates struggled to construct sentences accurately, and also made frequent errors of syntax and spelling.

Section B – Essay

Candidates were asked to write one essay of approximately 200 words, from a choice of four topics.

Again, the performance of the candidates in this section of the paper was quite varied.

Weaker candidates tended to struggle with spelling, and a lack of vocabulary resulted in repetition and answers that were often too brief.

Stronger candidates wrote fluently and displayed a good grasp of syntax and spelling. Arguments and ideas tended to be well-organised and well-presented.



TAMIL

Paper 3206/02 Translation and Reading Comprehension

General comments

On the whole, candidates performed quite well on this paper, with a wide range of marks awarded. Weaker candidates tended to score more marks on this paper than on Paper 1.

Candidates seemed to have organised their time in the examination well, and there were no rubric infringements.

Comments on specific questions

Section A – Translation

There was a mixed response to this section. Stronger candidates tended to express themselves well in both English and Tamil.

Section B – Reading Comprehension

The majority of candidates demonstrated a sound understanding of the passage when writing their answers.

Candidates tended to do very well in **Questions 1, 4, 5** and **9**, giving the correct answers.

Many candidates failed to obtain full marks on **Questions 2, 3, 6, 7** and **8**, having only provided one detail in each case. Several candidates misunderstood **Questions 7** and **8** and gave answers that were not appropriate.

A number of candidates did not mention their opinion in **Question 10**.

In general, spelling was more accurate in **Section B** than in **Section A**.