

# TAMIL

Paper 3226/01  
Composition

## Key messages

In order to do well in this paper, candidates should:

- ensure that they answer **one** question from **Section A** and **one** question from **Section B**
- adhere to the word limits specified
- ensure that their work is legible, accurate and logically presented
- show an awareness of the conventions of paragraphing and sentence structure
- demonstrate adequate control of vocabulary, syntax and grammar, punctuation and spelling
- understand and be able to employ a range of apt vocabulary
- be able to order and present facts, ideas and options
- ensure that they present their responses in the form stipulated in the question (e.g. letter, dialogue etc.)
- plan their use of time for each question and allow time for thorough checking of their work

## General comments

In general candidates performed quite well on this paper.

In **Section A**, **Topic (a)** was the most popular and in **Section B**, **Topic (c)** was the one 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 ப – பா (பாடசாலை – படசாலை) போன்ற குறில் – நெடில் எழுத்துக்கள்
- 5 ல – ல் (கல்வி – கலவி) போன்ற மெய் – உயிர்மெய் எழுத்துக்கள்

Candidates seemed to have organised their time in the examination well and followed the instructions outlined in the rubrics.

## Comments on specific questions

### **Section A – Letter, Report or Speech, Dialogue**

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

**Question 1(a)** asked candidates to write a letter to the council explaining why the local swimming pool should **not** be closed. This was the most popular question, and many candidates demonstrated a sound knowledge of letter-writing conventions. The majority of candidates did well here.

**Question 1(b)**, which asked candidates to write a report about a video game that they liked, was generally tackled adequately. Candidates came up with a variety of interesting examples that were often accompanied by well-structured explanations.

**Question 1(c)**, which asked candidates to produce a dialogue between two players on opposing football teams, produced some vibrant responses.

### **Section B – Essay**

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

**Question 2(a)**, which asked candidates to write an essay on whether or not children should have limited access to Internet and television, was generally tackled quite well.

There was a mixed response to **Question 2(b)**, which asked candidates to write an essay on whether global warming is going to cause a big problem. The most successful candidates organised their essay methodically into paragraphs and provided in-depth explanations and justifications for their views.

**Question 2(c)**, which asked candidates to write an essay based on the proverb: ‘a guilty conscience needs no accuser’, was a very popular topic and most candidates wrote a good piece in response.

Candidates who chose **Question 2(d)**, which asked them to write an essay stating their opinion on whether the legal age for driving should be changed, presented mixed views.

# TAMIL

**Paper 3226/02**  
**Translation and Reading**  
**Comprehension**

## Key messages

In order to do well in this paper, candidates need to make sure that they express themselves in clear, correct and concise language.

In addition, it is recommendable that candidates:

- ensure that they plan their time for each question and allow time for thorough checking of their work
- ensure that their work is legible and logically presented
- read the translation passages carefully before beginning to translate
- understand and employ a range of vocabulary
- exercise control of appropriate structures

## General comments

Overall, a range of performance was seen on this paper. Candidates seemed to have organised their time in the examination well and followed the instructions outlined in the rubrics.

## Comments on specific questions

### **Section A – Translation**

#### **Question 1:** Translation into English

Candidates were required to translate a passage from Tamil into English. Although there was variance in the level of ability in candidates' responses, the majority of them seemed to cope relatively very well with this exercise.

#### **Question 2:** Translation into Tamil

Candidates were required to translate a passage from English into Tamil. As in question 1, a range of performances was observed here. Some common errors recorded were as follows:

- 1 ன – ண – ந
- 2 ல – ள – ழ
- 3 ர – ற
- 4 கீழே – கீழை, கிளை

### **Section B – Reading Comprehension**

Most candidates demonstrated a reasonable understanding of the passage. The majority of candidates gave appropriate answers to **Questions 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10** and **12**. **Question 5, 8** and **11** seemed to be the least accessible questions in this exercise, and weaker candidates tended to omit the second part for **Questions 5** and **11**, and only provided a partial response for **Question 8**.

If two marks are available for a question, then candidates will need to provide two points in their answer in order to have access to full marks for that question. Likewise if three marks are available for a question, then candidates will need to provide three points, and so on.