

# TAMIL

**Paper 3206/01**  
**Composition**

## Key messages

To do well in this paper, candidates need to:

- Ensure that they answer **one** question from **Section A** and **one** question from **Section B**.
- Adhere to the word limit specified.
- Ensure that their handwriting is legible, spelling is accurate and ideas are logically presented.
- Use paragraphs appropriately to organise their writing and use a variety of sentence structures.
- Demonstrate adequate control of vocabulary, syntax and grammar, punctuation and spelling.
- Understand and be able to make use of a range of vocabulary words.
- Be able to present facts, ideas and opinions in a logical and concise way.
- Ensure that they present their responses in the form stipulated in the question (e.g. letter, dialogue, report)
- Plan their use of time for each question and allow for thorough checking of their work.

## General comments

In general, candidates performed quite well in this paper, with a wide range of marks awarded.

In **Section A**, topic **(a)** was the most popular and in **Section B**, topic **(a)** was the one most often attempted.

It was encouraging to note that stronger candidates made significantly few spelling errors. However, weaker candidates struggled to construct sentences accurately. Some also made frequent grammatical errors, with spelling and punctuation often being erratic.

The most common spelling mistakes occurred in the use of the following letters, which were often written in an incorrect form.

1. ன – ண.
2. ல – ள
3. தீடிரென்று – திடிரென்று
4. வந்தி – வண்டி
5. நான் மித்தாய் சாப்பித்தேன் – நான் மிட்டாய் சாப்பிட்டேன்

The most common mistakes with improper use of prepositions are as follows.

1. நான் அவரை ஒரு ரொட்டி கொடுத்தேன்
2. நீ தெரியுமா?
3. நான் பசி இருக்கிறேன்.
4. அவன் வீட்டுக்கு அடைந்தான்
5. நான் நீந்த மிகவும் பிடிக்கும்.

Other mistakes that occurred in the compositions are as follows:

1. நான் நல்லமாய் இருந்தேன்.
2. அவர் ஆப்பில் பழம் சாப்பிட்டவில்லை.
3. நான் பள்ளி விடுமுறை நாட்கள் கிடைப்பேன்.



4. கனவையில் நிறைய மக்கள் இருந்தன.
5. அவர் ஒரு வீடு இருந்தாமல்.
6. எனக்கு மிகவும் இன்பமாய் இருந்தேன்.

Most candidates managed their time well and there were no rubric infringements.

#### **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)** required candidates to write a letter to their grandfather who lives abroad about their future holiday plans. This was chosen by most candidates. Many candidates wrote a good response to this question. Weaker candidates struggled to produce accurate syntax and spelling while stronger candidates demonstrated fluency in these areas.

**Question 1(b)** required candidates to write a report for a newspaper about a Tamil Cultural programme. It was chosen by a few candidates.

**Question 1(c)** required candidates to produce a dialogue detailing a conversation between the candidate and their friend about a strange dream they had recently. This was also a popular choice. The performance of candidates was generally satisfactory.

#### **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)** asked candidates to write a story about the time when they came across an old man asking for help while they were walking alone on the road. This was the most popular question in this section.

There were fluent, well-presented essays from stronger candidates. They wrote very interesting stories with a wide range of vocabulary and organised their essay methodically into paragraphs. They also demonstrated adequate control of vocabulary, syntax and grammar, punctuation and spelling. On the other hand, there was limited response from weaker candidates, both in terms of content and linguistic accuracy. Common errors included spelling mistakes, low word count and repetition.

**Question 2(b)** required candidates to describe a rush-hour traffic jam in their locality. This was the second most popular question in this section. This question was tackled well. However, some minor spelling mistakes were noted in some essays.

**Question 2(c)** asked candidates to write an essay on the effectiveness of co-education. Very few candidates attempted this question.

**Question 2(d)** asked candidates to discuss whether women should be given more rights than they have now. This was attempted by very few candidates. Again, the performance here was generally good.

#### **Examples of some expressions and vocabulary used by stronger candidates**

1. மருத்துவர்கள் குலுங்கி குலுங்கி நகைத்தார்கள்.
2. என் மனம் அழுத்தமாய் பரப்பரத்தது.
3. பிறகு எங்களுடைய சாப்பாடு வயிரார சாப்பிடுவோம்.
4. பயம் என்னைக் கௌவியது.
5. 'எத்தனை எத்தனை நினைவுகள் அனைத்தும் என் மனதில் அலை அலையாக பாய்ந்து வந்தன.
6. 'ஐயா! ஆபத்தில் உதவுபவன் உண்மை நண்பன்!' என்று நான் சொன்னேன்.
7. அவர் முக மலர்ச்சியோடு ரொட்டியை ஏற்றுக் கொண்டார்.
8. அந்த தருணம் பசுமரத்தாணி போல ஆழமாகப் பதியும்.
9. அந்த தங்கமான சூழ்நிலையைக் கிடைக்க எனக்கு அளவில்லா மகிழ்ச்சி
10. சூரியனைக் கண்ட தாமரை போல் இரு
11. ரிங்/ரிங்/என்று கடிகாரம் ஒலித்ததும் நான் சட்டென்று எழுந்தேன்.

12. கல் போல் மனம் கொண்ட
13. தெருவில் மக்கள் நடமாட்டம் இல்லை
14. உடையார் முன் இல்லார் போல்
15. வெறி பிடித்த நாய் போல்

# TAMIL

**Paper 3206/02**  
**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, candidates need to:

- Show that they can understand and adequately convey information.
- Understand, order and present facts.
- Evaluate information, select what is relevant to specific purposes and express it in their own words.
- Show a sense of audience and an awareness of register.
- Exercise control of appropriate structures.
- Understand and employ a range of vocabulary.
- Be able to recognise implicit meaning and attitude.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the conventions of sentence structure.
- Demonstrate adequate control of vocabulary, syntax and grammar, punctuation and spelling.
- Ensure that their work is legible and logically presented.
- Read the translation passages carefully before beginning to translate.

## General comments

Overall, a range of performance was seen in this paper. Candidates seemed to have organised their time in the examination well and there were no rubric infringements.

## Comments on specific questions

### **Section A – Translation**

#### **Question 1 – Translation into English**

Candidates were required to translate a passage from Tamil into English. Many candidates coped very well with this exercise. However, some candidates faced difficulties while translating the phrases **மீன் விற்கும் வியாபாரம்** and **வாடகை வீட்டில்**. Overall, the candidates demonstrated good control of vocabulary, syntax and grammar, punctuation and spelling.

#### **Question 2 – Translation into Tamil**

Candidates were required to translate a passage from English into Tamil. A range of responses could be seen in this question. A few candidates coped very well with this exercise while others had difficulties with specific words and sentence structure. Stronger candidates demonstrated good translation skills. Weaker responses were characterised by serious grammatical errors, in particular, in the use of tenses and in the placement of the subject, object and verb in a sentence. Candidates could benefit from more practice in these areas.

Most candidates could not translate the sentence **‘the woodcutter dropped his axe’**. Some candidates could not give the exact translation for the words **‘woodcutter’, ‘torn’, ‘earn’, ‘harm’ and ‘plant’**. The most

common spelling mistakes occurred in the use of the following letters, which were often written in an incorrect form.

1. ி – ண.
2. ி – ள

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

Only a minority of candidates demonstrated a thorough understanding of the passage.

The majority of candidates gave correct answers to **Questions 3, 4, 7 and 9.**

Weaker candidates provided partial response to **Questions 5, 6 and 8.** Many did not refer to the key terms of these questions and therefore did not give a satisfactory reply to this question.

If two marks are allocated to a question, then candidates will need to provide two elements in their answer in order to obtain to full marks for that question. Likewise, if three marks are awarded for a question, then candidates will need to provide three elements.

For the comprehension questions, candidates should make sure they have understood the full demands of the question before attempting to answer.

Many candidates copied out long portions of the text, which was not always selective enough to demonstrate adequate comprehension.

A number of candidates struggled to provide synonyms of the words given in **Question 10.** உடல்நலம் (health) and வழக்கம்போல் (as usual) were found most challenging.

Some candidates wrote sentences using the words given in **Question 10** instead of giving the meaning of these words. Hence, resulting in loss of marks.