

SANSKRIT

Paper 3216/01
Paper 1

Key messages

The main requirement for doing well in this paper is a thorough knowledge, based on the syllabus, of basic Sanskrit grammar and the set texts. A good basic vocabulary is also needed, along with familiarity with transliteration rules. It further requires an understanding of how sentences are put together and of the significance of noun/verb endings.

General comments

In strong answers in this paper, there was a thorough knowledge of the set texts, an understanding of the rules of grammar, and the transliteration rules were accurately and carefully applied.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1: Set Text translation – 25 marks.

There were many excellent answers to this question. The best answers showed familiarity with the set text along with a facility to translate into English. Weaker answers showed lack of recognition of the text, the vocabulary, and the endings.

Question 2: Transliteration passage – 20 marks.

Some responses showed a good grasp of the transliteration rules and applied them consistently and with careful attention to the diacritic marks. Candidates need to know the detail of these transliteration rules to improve performance in this question.

Question 3: Unseen comprehension to be answered in Sanskrit – 15 marks.

Candidates performed well on this question. Strongest candidates showed understanding of the meaning of the questions. Improvements could be made by knowledge of the question words in Sanskrit.

Question 4: (a) and (b) set text stories – 40 marks.

The stronger responses showed familiarity with the stories as presented in the syllabus. The highest marks were achieved by candidates who gave full and accurate answers to the questions. Less strong responses relied on general knowledge of these stories and gave insufficient detail. Candidates can improve their performance by learning the set text stories, being familiar with the vocabulary and answering the questions with sufficient details from the examination paper passages.

SANSKRIT

Paper 3216/02
Paper 2

Key messages

Requirements to perform well in this paper are familiarity with the set text stories, verses, and Panini grammar rules as per the syllabus. A good basic vocabulary, knowledge of noun and verb endings, and recognition of transliterated Sanskrit is also necessary.

General comments

In strong answers in this paper, there was a thorough knowledge of the set texts. There was also a good knowledge of the grammar rules which were accurately applied.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1: Unseen passage translation – 20 marks.

The strongest responses demonstrated a good vocabulary. Better answers also showed an appreciation of how to translate into English verb and noun endings, even where the full meaning or the vocabulary was not understood.

Question 2: Set Text translation – 20 marks.

Some candidates found this question challenging as they appeared to be unfamiliar with the verses. The strongest responses demonstrated a thorough knowledge of the text. Performance could be improved by increased familiarity with the verses in English.

Question 3: Set text comprehension – 20 marks.

Candidates who performed well on this question knew the story and understood the questions. Strongest candidates gave full answers based on the passage. Performance could be improved by increased familiarity with the stories in English.

Question 4: Panini grammar – 40 marks.

The stronger responses showed accurate recognition of the different declensions of noun endings and their uses and the different conjugations of verb endings. The grammar rules as detailed in the syllabus need to be learned in order to achieve high marks. Candidates can improve their marks by learning these along with the English terms.