MARATHI

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Paper 9688/02
Reading and Writing
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Key messages

To excel in the Reading and Writing paper, it is imperative that candidates demonstrate understanding of the passage given. They are expected to answer the questions precisely and concisely and in their own words as far as possible. To this end, candidates could benefit from practice of grammar and vocabulary and guidance with resources (books, plays and TV serials in Marathi). Wider general reading is advisable. Candidates would benefit from more practice in finding and understanding synonyms in Marathi. Candidates should not 'lift' the text and use it unaltered in their answer as this does not show understanding of the text and cannot be credited.

General comments

The influence of the Hindi language on the Marathi used by the candidates has been evident. This often resulted in incorrect use of words and grammar. Candidates should be trained to express their views in Marathi using complex and varied structures.

Candidates often made grammatical mistakes of the kind that changes the meaning of the word completely, e.g. पहाट instead of पहात; नोंद -नोंड , दातून for दाटून.

When answering the comprehension questions (**Questions 3** and **4**) candidates should make every effort to fully understand the demands of the question before attempting to answer. Many candidates copied out long portions of the text, which was often not selective enough to demonstrate adequate comprehension. Some candidates tried hard to use their own words and the stronger candidates successfully showed their ability to express their views in their own words, using complex and varied language. However, some candidates tended to be vague or express their ideas with limited vocabulary and / or copy it all from the text. Particular areas of improvement include vocabulary and grammar in complex structures.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1

Question 1

Candidates are expected to answer the questions by finding the synonym of the given word from the passage.

Responses to this question were good. Every word was attempted by all and many candidates have answered successfully found all five synonyms.

Question 2

Responses to **Question 2** (which was about clarifying phrases), were good. Many candidates achieved very good results in this question and some managed to score the maximum.

'जाणीव ह णे'- (to realise) and 'ताब्यात ठेवणे (to keep under control) were a challenging for some candidates.

Question 3

It was evident that candidates found the topic accessible and all of them attempted to answer all questions. The answers were mostly informative, but some candidates copied out large chunks of text almost indiscriminately and thus their answers could not be credited. Candidates should use their own words as far as possible.

Question 4

Response on the **Question 4** has been attempted by all of the candidates – quite successfully in many cases. However, as was the case with Question 3 some candidates copied out long portions of the text, which was usually not selective enough to demonstrate adequate comprehension. Candidates should be encouraged to be selective in their answers and to use their own words.

Question 5

(a)   Responses to **Question 5(a)** were satisfactory. It was about activities people do to stay healthy. Most candidates understood the demands of the question and came up with reasonable summaries of the main points in the two reading texts. Some candidates wrote too much, almost retelling the passages in their entirety, while others struggled to use their own words.

(b)   **Question 5(b)** asked about the facilities available in the candidates' country for maintaining good health. Responses were generally good, and many candidates described successfully the facilities they or their acquaintances use to stay in shape. However, in a minority of cases this part was not attempted.

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Paper 9688/03
Essay

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Key messages

In order to do well in this paper, candidates need to understand the demands and the focus of the question before beginning to write their answers. The planning of the answer in bullet points can avoid repetition of the same point and give structure to the ideas. Candidates need to ensure that they support their views with relevant examples.

General comments

This is an Essay paper in which candidates are required to compose one essay from a choice of five topics. The essays are marked out of 40, with 16 marks for Content and 24 marks for Quality of Language. Overall, the performance of candidates was good. A few candidates have done exceptionally well, but some at the lower end of the scale struggled to express their views and also lost marks because of the quality of their language.

Use of Hindi was much in evidence and usually incorrect.

Comments on individual questions

The responses to this paper were good. Most of the candidates opted for Topic 5, 'Pollution' and wrote about the harmful effects of the different types of pollution such as pollution of noise, water, air etc.

There were some answers on the topics of 'Hobby' and 'Family relations' as well. For the latter there were some good responses discussing the relationships within the types of families (e.g. extended or nuclear).

Very few candidates opted to write about the 'Legal acceptance of drugs' on 'War and Peace' perhaps because most were put off by the perceived difficulty of the necessary vocabulary.

Most of the candidates showed good understanding of the topics and questions.

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Paper 9688/04
Texts
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Key messages

In order to do well in this paper, candidates need to ensure that they answer the specific question asked and that they understand the focus of the question before beginning to write their answers.

Candidates should be reminded that, in passage-based questions, the passage is a stimulus to be used as a springboard to give them a starting point for their answer.

General comments

Overall candidates responded well on this paper. However, some answers appeared pre-prepared and therefore did not answer the question as well as possible. A few candidates lost marks because the quality of their Marathi was so poor in places that it rendered parts of their answers unintelligible.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1

Question 1

This was the most popular text on the paper and answers were generally very good.

Most candidates who chose to answer on this text opted for **Question 1(b)** on importance of 'The path of Devotion'. There were only a few answers to **1(a)** perhaps because the question **1(b)** was more general.

Question 2

This was another hymn-based question, like Question 1, but it was attempted by a much lower proportion of the candidates. There were some good answers and perceptive analyses.

Question 3

Too few candidates chose this question to make comment possible.

Section 2

Question 4

This was the most popular question in Section 2, based on the play 'ती फुलराणी'. Responses on **Question 4(a)** were generally good. The majority of candidates who chose this question made many relevant points which demonstrated that they clearly understood the set text.

Question 4(b) was attempted by very few of the candidates.

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Question 5

This was another very popular question which was answered satisfactorily by many.

5(a) and **5(b)** were equally opted for. Questions on the short stories such as 'मुके प्रेम' and 'राधी' have proved to be popular and many of the students have found it easier to write about these than the hymns or plays.

Question 6

Too few candidates chose this question to make comment possible.

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Paper 9688/05
Prose

Key messages

In order to do well in this paper, candidates should ensure that they read through the prose passage carefully before beginning to translate. While translating, candidates should bear in mind the context of the passage and the tenses used. It is not enough to translate individual words or short phrases from the text without any reference to the context. Candidates should try to allow themselves a little time at the end to read over what they have written to ensure that it makes sense. It is advisable to check their spelling and grammar. Particular attention should be given to tenses while translating.

General comments

Candidates seemed to have no trouble understanding the English text about the advantages and disadvantages of living in cities, compared to life in small villages.

Candidates were required to translate this short passage from English into Marathi and, in general, they have performed well on this paper. Many candidates demonstrated good translation skills

A few candidates tried to translate every word individually but without them adding up to meaningful sentences. Unfortunately, such efforts could not be credited.

Some answers 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.