TAMIL

Paper 8689/22
Reading and Writing

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Key messages

To perform well in this examination, candidates are advised to:

- Ensure they answer all questions in both *Section 1* and *Section 2*.
- Follow the specified word limits, particularly for **Question 5** in *Section 2*.
- Present their work clearly, accurately, and in a logical sequence.
- Demonstrate proper paragraph and sentence structure.
- Maintain good control over vocabulary, grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
- Use a diverse and appropriate range of vocabulary.
- Present facts, ideas, and opinions in a clear, logical order.
- Avoid repeating the same words unnecessarily.
- Format responses in the manner required by **Question 5(b)**.
- Manage their time effectively across questions, leaving enough time to review and refine their answers.

General comments

Spelling Accuracy

Candidates who showed fewer spelling mistakes generally performed better, highlighting the need for everyone to improve their spelling skills.

Many spelling errors are caused by incorrect letter formation. Candidates should review their alphabet and practice writing words to reduce these mistakes.

Specific Question Guidance

For **Questions 1** and **2**, straightforward, simple sentences are sufficient for full marks. However, the ability to craft more complex sentences can provide an advantage.

In **Question 5(a)**, the summary should be brief but comprehensive, distilling key points from both parts of the passage. A good summary should:

- Be written in the candidate's own words.
- Include about ten relevant points from both passages.
- Directly address the question's requirements.

Common Spelling Challenges

While no exhaustive list is provided, frequent difficulties include:

Homophones and words with similar sounds.

Words that differ by a single letter, for example:

1 'விடை' vs. 'வடை'
2 'புளி' vs. 'புலி'

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Summary

Areas for Improvement: Greater attention is needed on spelling accuracy and constructing correct, clear sentences across all responses.

Sentence Structure: While simple sentences can secure full marks in some questions, employing complex sentences will help express ideas more fully and demonstrate greater language proficiency.

Summarisation Skills: Effective summaries should reflect a good understanding of the content while being concise. Candidates should aim to encapsulate main ideas in their own words.

Spelling Practice: Regular review and practice of common problematic words will help reduce errors. Focusing on understanding how words are formed and used will improve spelling accuracy.

Typical Spelling Errors: Frequent mistakes involve incorrect letter formation, especially with certain consonants and vowels. Attention to these details is recommended to enhance overall performance.

Common problematic spelling errors include:

ன – ண – ந

ல – ள – ழ

ர – ற (examples: கருத்து – கர்த்து)

ட – ற (examples: கொண்டு – கொண்று)

Differences between short and long forms, such as மூளை – முளை, படி – பாடி

Candidates are encouraged to focus on these specific areas to improve their overall examination results.

TAMIL

Paper 8689/32 **Essay**

Key messages

This is an essay paper in which candidates are required to compose one essay from a choice of five topics. The essay is marked out of 40, with 16 marks available for Content and 24 marks available for Quality of Language.

General comments

Candidates answered the question clearly and most candidates demonstrated a commendable understanding of the subject matter and attempted the questions with clarity and structure. A number of candidates showcased a strong language proficiency, with well-organised answers. However, there were also several common mistakes and areas of concern. The most common spelling errors were:

1. ல – ழ – ள
2. ந – ன – ண
3. ர – ற
4. த் – ட்

Most candidates often confused the letters 'ன', 'ண', and 'ந', which have distinct sounds but are frequently miswritten. Example, ஆன்டு = ஆண்டு.

Mixing Singular and Plural: Using the singular form when the plural is required. It can lead to grammatical errors. In Tamil, this often involves incorrectly applying the plural suffix '–கள்' (–kaL) or misunderstanding sandhi rules. One of the sandhi word: using 'சொல்' (sol – word) instead of 'சொற்கள்' (sorkal – words) when pluralizing 'சொல்' (sol – word).

Omitting the plural suffix **'–கள்' (–kaL)** where it is required for nouns.

ந்திப் பிழழ (sandhip Pizhai).

Example of correct sandhi:

நல்ல (nalla) + **மனிதர்** (manidhar) → **நல்ல மனிதர்** (nalla manidhar) No changes needed here; correct form.

Example of misapplied sandhi:

*   **அவன்** (avan) + **ஊர்** (oor) → **அவனூர் (Wrong).**

    Correct: **அவனுடைய ஊர்** (avanudaiya oor) or **அவன் இருக்கும் ஊர்**
    (Directly joining 'avan + oor' without correct linking is a sandhi mistake.)

Using singular pronouns instead of the appropriate plural forms.

Confusing inherently plural nouns with singular forms.

The candidate must pay more attention on this. They can improve by doing more practice.

Next, is the 'குறில்' and 'சநடில்' letters. It refers to short vowel and long vowel sound.

Example: திழைகள் (incorrect) – தீழைகள் (correct)

Some candidates tended to use colloquial language commonly found in daily conversation. Such informal expressions are not appropriate in a formal writing context and should be replaced with a more suitable academic or literary language.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Some candidates answered this question well. However, others misinterpreted it by writing only about what makes a relationship good or providing a general definition of 'healthy relationships' without addressing the challenges. The question specifically required discussion on problems or barriers (such as miscommunication, stress, and lack of time) that can negatively affect healthy relationships.

Question 2

Very few candidates attempted this question, likely due to its challenging nature. Many who did either fully agreed or disagreed with the statement without presenting a balanced discussion. The question requires candidates to explore both the positive and negative impacts of superstition before taking a stance. The examples used were often weak or irrelevant. Stronger responses should include relatable and impactful examples, such as people not walking under ladders or having bad luck for breaking a mirror. Weaker answers lacked depth and cohesion, with some merely listing effects without real analysis or explanation.

Question 3

This question was attempted by most candidates, and many gave strong responses. Candidates generally evaluated the points well, supported by appropriate examples and analysis. However, a common issue was overly lengthy introductions—some candidates wrote nearly half a page of introduction before addressing the main points. The core idea, that employees need adequate rest during the workday, was well-explained with relevant examples.

Question 4

This was the most popular question in the paper, with the majority of candidates attempting it. Most candidates argued that face-to-face classes are better than online classes. Some responses provided a comparison of both formats by discussing their advantages and disadvantages. However, a few responses lacked structural balance—spending significantly more time on one side than the other (e.g., three paragraphs on online classes and only one short paragraph on physical classes). For a fair comparison, both sides should be given equal attention.

Question 5

Fewer candidates attempted this question, but those who did generally performed well. The question asked why existing animals should be protected and how efforts by individuals, schools, governments, and society can contribute to their survival. Some candidates simply listed points—such as 'animals should be saved' or 'animals need their natural habitats'—without providing adequate explanation or elaboration.