

TAMIL

Paper 3226/01
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 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 vocabulary.
- Be able to order and present facts, ideas and options.
- Ensure the same word is not repeated many times.
- Ensure that they present their responses in the form stipulated in the question (e.g., **Question 1(a)** – letter, **Question 1(b)** – Report, **Question 1(c)** – dialogue etc).
- Plan their use of time for each question and allow time for thorough checking of their work.

General comments

In addition to spelling, grammatical errors were prevalent, particularly with subject-verb agreement and the use of tenses. Candidates are encouraged to pay close attention to these aspects of language to improve their writing quality. Some examples are as follows:

Aspect	Incorrect	Correct
ன – ண – ந	புல்லிகள் கடிணமாக	புள்ளிகள் கடினமாக
ல – ள – ழ	புரியவிள்ளை	புரியவில்லை
ர – ற	பெறிய	பெரிய
குறில் – நெடில்	முளை	மூளை
மெய் மிகும் இடங்கள்	அதிகம்மாக தீ பெட்டி கை பிடி	அதிகமாக தீப்பெட்டி கைப்பிடி
ஒருமை, பன்மைக்கான வினை முடிவுகள்	புத்தகங்கள் உள்ளது பல பைகள் இருந்தது	புத்தகங்கள் உள்ளன பல பைகள் இருந்தன
பொருள் மாற்றத்தைத் தரும் சொற்கள்	நனைத்தால் வடை	நினைத்தால் விடை

Overall, it is evident that while many candidates showcased commendable effort and improvement, particularly in spelling among more proficient writers, there remains a need to focus on accuracy in both spelling and grammar. Continued practice and attention to these areas could lead to even better performance in future assessments.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Topics **(a)** and **(c)** were the most popular choices. **Section A 1(a)** should include both a sender and receiver's address, which is crucial for the proper format of letter writing.

Spoken Tamil is permitted when **Section A** involves writing an informal letter. However, only Written Tamil is appropriate for any formal letters.

Spoken Tamil can be used without spelling and grammar mistakes in **Section A** topic **(c)**, which involves a dialogue.

Section B

In **Section B**, topics **(a)** and **(b)** were most frequently selected. Candidates were generally more confident in expressing their ideas, but they still need to focus on organising their thoughts coherently. The use of paragraphs and connectors to link ideas was a common area of improvement. The clarity and flow of the argument can enhance overall comprehension and engagement for the reader.

TAMIL

Paper 3226/02
Translation and Reading
Comprehension

Key messages

To do well in this examination paper, candidates are strongly encouraged to:

- Ensure that all questions in both **Section A** and **Section B** are fully addressed.
- Demonstrate adequate control over vocabulary, syntax, grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
- Possess a diverse and apt vocabulary, allowing for precise expression of ideas and concepts in the target language.
- Effectively organise and present facts, ideas, and opinions. Clarity and coherence in argumentation are crucial for proper communication.

General comments

The overall performance of candidates on this paper is commendable. Stronger candidates displayed exceptional proficiency, particularly in the translation section, demonstrating their ability to convey meanings adeptly. However, weaker candidates encountered difficulties, particularly in accurately constructing sentences, selecting appropriate vocabulary, and minimising grammatical errors during translations.

A critical point of consideration for candidates is the avoidance of colloquial Tamil expressions in the English-Tamil translation segment. While it is essential to comprehend the source English text accurately, employing formal language is equally important in the examination.

Moreover, common spelling errors were observed, particularly relating to the misuse of specific letters, which were frequently written incorrectly.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

In the Tamil into English Translation

1. Weaker candidates have replaced the phrase “railway station” with ‘taxi station’, ‘gas station’ etc.
2. It was expected that except for the words *Butter* and *Jam*, no other English words should be transliterated into Tamil.
3. In Sri Lankan Tamil, ‘Girl friend’ is referred to as ‘நண்பி’ too. Thus, if any candidate had used this term in their translation, it was accepted as correct.