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<p>Paper 9687/02 Reading and Writing</p>
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Key messages

To do well, candidates should:

- wherever possible, write answers in their own words (instead of simply lifting phrases from the text)
- ensure all aspects of each question are answered
- pay attention to spelling, grammar and sentence structure in their answers
- keep to the word limit in **Question 5**.

General comments

The quality of candidates' responses covered the full range of ability. Those who did well were able to respond to the questions fully, ensuring they gave the relevant amount of detail for the marks available. It is important for candidates to realise that in **Questions 3 and 4**, the number of marks allocated to a question is equal to the amount of information required. For example, [3] marks means three pieces of information are required in the answer.

Marks are awarded separately for the quality of language used in the responses. These marks are used to assess ability to manipulate language in a meaningful way. Although there is no need to find synonyms for every word from the text, candidates should try to express their answers in their own words to demonstrate their linguistic ability. If answers are entirely lifted from the text, with no manipulation, the mark for language cannot reach the higher bands.

It is important to keep to the given word limit in **Question 5a** and **5b**. The word limit represents the total that can be written across both parts of the question. Any material exceeding the word limit is not assessed.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

(a) – (e) Candidates are required to match words from Text 1, which are similar in meaning to the given words. All candidates attempted all the questions, and most performed well. **Questions 1b, 1c** and **1e** were challenging for some of the weaker candidates.

Question 2

(a) – (e) This is a sentence writing exercise. Candidates must show understanding of the given words/phrases by constructing sentences. Stronger candidates did this well. Some weaker candidates were able to convey the meaning, but the grammatical structure and spellings were not always correct.

Question 3 and 4

(a) – (e) These questions assess comprehension skills by asking questions from two texts about two differing aspects of a topic. Almost all candidates attempted all the questions. Some weaker candidates did not understand **Question 3e** about the contribution of medicine; instead they wrote

about working in factories. Many candidates successfully constructed their answers using their own phrasing, with only a minimum amount of lifting from the text.

Question 5

- (a) Strong candidates were able to construct their answer systematically and succinctly, keeping well within the word limit. Some candidates exceeded the word limit; marks could therefore not be awarded to the whole answer in **5a** or **5b**.
- (b) This question required candidates' personal response rather than repetition of ideas from the text. Candidates generally engaged well in expressing their own ideas. Candidates who exceeded the word limit in answering **Question 5a** could not have their response to **5b** assessed.

Language marks

In **Questions 3, 4** and **5**, the language used by the strongest candidates was mostly accurate, including some complex sentences to express ideas, and correct formation of common tenses and regular verbs. Weaker candidates made persistent errors in tenses, verbs and spellings.

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Paper 9687/03
Essay

Key messages

Candidates should ensure that:

- their essay answers the question that has been asked, rather than being essay on general topic area or focused on heading
- they take a short time to plan the structure of the response before beginning to write, to improve the quality of their essay
- they take care over their accuracy of language. A firm grasp of grammar is needed, for example in singular and plural forms of words, and gender.

General comments

Many candidates performed very well with interesting essays. Some candidates showed a good understanding of the question, developing a response with a high standard of language, including a good grasp of grammar, extensive vocabulary and idiom.

The structure of the response is important. A tightly focused piece reads very well and will be rewarded accordingly, whilst an answer with few links between sub-points can lead to a meandering answer which will gain fewer marks.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

This topic was 'youth' (युवा). The question stated that today's youth is definitely talented and capable, but sometimes becomes impatient and irrational to achieve his/her goal. Many candidates performed well in this question.

Question 2

The topic was 'medium of communication' (संचार साधन). The question stated that in today's era, it is our need and compulsion to stay connected with different types of media. This was quite a popular question. Many candidates manage answered very well. A few candidates merely gave the advantages and disadvantages of communications, instead of answering the full question.

Question 3

The topic was 'equality of opportunity' (अवसर की समानता). The question stated that every citizen of the country should have an equal opportunity to develop their skill and potential. The strongest candidates were able to describe all categories of society, whereas most candidates only wrote about gender equality.

Question 4

The topic was 'Free time activities' (खाली समय की गतिविधियां). The question stated that a person gets mental happiness and satisfaction by using their leisure time in socially useful work. Some candidates gave

interesting and relevant answers. Weaker candidates wrote about their normal routine or simple personal activities and were not able to deal with the use of their free time for socially useful work.

Question 5

The topic was 'progress in science and medicine' (वैज्ञानिक तथा चिकित्सा क्षेत्र में प्रगतिशीलता). The question asked how rapid development in the field of science has affected our lives. This question was also answered very well by many candidates. A few candidates wrote only about the medical field.

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Paper 9687/04
Texts

Key messages

- Candidates should consider the questions carefully and write a response which ensures that all parts of the question are fully answered, without including any unnecessary additional pre-learnt material.
- Candidates should allocate equal time to the questions they answer, so they do not run out of time to answer the last question.
- It is important to be clear about the different genres (story, play or poem) when writing the answer.
- Candidates must know how many questions to answer, and only answer one question on any particular work.

General comments

Candidates were generally well prepared for the examination.

It is important that candidates understand the demands of the questions with a given extract. They must systematically develop a response which explains the meaning of the extract, literary techniques used and the writer's intentions.

It is important to express responses clearly, using appropriate vocabulary to express ideas and opinions.

Comments on specific questions

Part 1

Question 1

- (a) The question was in two parts. The first part was to explain the meaning of the verse and the second part was to review how the excerpt conveyed the poet's devotion to Krishna through different examples. The best responses were complete with an explanation of the verse and the poet's intended meaning.
- (b) Good responses were based on the set text to provide a detailed answer. Answers that narrated the whole story of Ramcharit Manas did not satisfy the demand of the question.

Question 2

- (a) Some very analytical and well thought out responses were seen. Weaker candidates were unable to discuss the poet's progressive ideas. Some candidates attributed the poem to महादेवी/प्रसाद.
- (b) A few candidates were able to discuss the poet's contrasting emotional journey in the poems in question and the literary aspects of linguistic expressions.

Question 3

- (a) Many candidates chose this question. The best responses focussed on the extract, rather than writing the whole story of Saket.
- (b) Many candidates answered the question successfully, using their knowledge of the text to discuss Urmila's character in depth.

Part 2

Question 4

- (a) and (b) Some very articulate and intelligent responses were seen. Candidates showed outstanding ability to organise material and focussed on the author's intentions by citing the text to support their points in a systematic and well organised way.

Question 5

- (a) and (b) Responses to these questions were variable. Some very good responses to **Question 5b** showed a deep insight into the author's intention and underlying theme, with reference to the plot. Candidates paid close attention to detail of the story, while showing good insight when discussing the character and various issues arising from the narrative.

Question 6

- (a) and (b) Very few candidates attempted these two questions. The answers provided were generally satisfactory.

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Paper 9687/05
Prose

Key messages

To do well in this examination, candidates should:

- check sentences carefully to ensure that they are grammatically correct, paying particular attention to the accurate use of verb forms and gender agreements
- use correct syntax
- check spellings carefully.

General comments

In general, most candidates performed well.

General areas for improvement include use of syntax, correct spelling and grammatical accuracy.

Candidates should be reminded to write in an appropriate register and avoid colloquialisms.

Candidates would well be advised to allow a few minutes at the end of the exam to check their translation for any possible mistakes and to make sure that the translated sentences make sense.

Comments on specific aspects of the translations

Below are some examples of candidates' incorrect answers with the accepted answer and the nature of the error;

<i>To translate</i>	<i>Candidates' responses</i>	<i>Accepted answers</i>	<i>Nature of error</i>
<i>the gardener who sees</i>	जो माली देखती है	माली जो देखता है	<i>case error</i>
<i>became a political term</i>	नैतिक शब्द हो गया	राजनीतिक शब्द बन गया	<i>Etymological error</i>
<i>pollution, nature</i>	प्रदूषन, प्रकृती	प्रदूषण, प्रकृति	<i>Spellings error</i>
<i>This new awareness</i>	यह नई चेतना	यह नई जागरूकता या जानकारी	<i>Wrong word usage</i>

Translating of some other words such as economy, stability, issues and measurement also presented the candidates with some challenge.