

# HINDI AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

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Paper 0549/01  
Reading and Writing

## Key messages

- In **Exercises 1, 3 and 5** the emphasis is on reading skills. Spelling errors are tolerated provided they do not interfere with communicating the correct answer to the Examiner. As long as the answer is clear, candidates are not required to write in full sentences.
- In **Exercise 2**, complete accuracy is required when filling in the person's contact details.
- In **Exercise 4** and **Exercise 6**, marks are awarded not only for content but also for accuracy of language. Therefore, it is important that candidates check their work carefully for spelling and grammatical errors.

## General comments

Most candidates performed well in this year's examination. The candidates followed the guidelines well and most of them had written their answers within the word limit. The majority of candidates appeared to be at ease with **Exercises 1, 2, 3 and 5**.

## Comments on specific questions

### **Section 1**

#### **Exercise 1**

##### **Questions 1–6**

This exercise focused on a text about a boy who lives in a village and for several tasks, such as applying for a job or booking a railway ticket, he had to go to the nearest city. Now with the help of his laptop and the internet he is able to overcome his difficulties. As a result he is able to save his time and managed to avoid several trips to the city. The majority of candidates had no difficulties in answering **Questions 1 to 6**. Most of the candidates answered the questions correctly.

#### **Exercise 2**

##### **Question 7**

In this exercise candidates were required to transfer information from the text provided without any kind of error or inaccuracy. Generally, candidates did not face any difficulty in finding the correct information to complete the form. Our repeated request has been to ensure that while writing the address, candidates always follow the correct order. For instance, first mention the house number, then the apartment name and finally the city name. Continuing to follow this order is important. This year most of the candidates correctly wrote the address.

#### **Exercise 3**

##### **Questions 8–10**

The topic of this year's text was the improvement of educational standards in government schools. The text gave examples of several reasons why people look down on government schools. It also highlighted an improvement in the results and how different schools have managed to do this.

### Question 8

The first heading required candidates to read the given text and then use it to write two points. These two points needed to show the reasons why people look down on state school education.

### Question 9

This required the candidates to write three facts which highlight the success of these schools and their educational system.

### Question 10

What kind of perspective and approach is needed to improve these institutions? The majority of candidates were able to provide the right points under this heading.

### Exercise 4

### Question 11

In this summary-writing exercise up to six marks are available for Content and four marks for Language. This year most candidates appear to be well-prepared for the requirements of this exercise and generally performed well. Many candidates wrote their summaries in their own words and were therefore able to access the full range of marks available for Language. Most of the candidates had written precisely, covering 5 or 6 correct points from the text. They also managed to secure 3 out of 4 marks for language; a few candidates scored full marks for language. The majority of the candidates restricted their answer within the word limit. However, a small minority of candidates still exceeded the word limit.

## Section 2

### Exercise 5

### Questions 12–18

This text was about a singer who inherited music from his family. The text narrated the story of Nube Khan who successfully used social media and popular studios to record his songs and helped him popularise traditional folk singing again. As a result, more people are listening to this music than before. For these four **Questions (12 – 15)** there were true/false options, and most candidates correctly attempted these. A minority of candidates gave an incorrect reply to question no. 13 as “true”, when this statement was “false”. From **Question 16 – 18**, most of the candidates gave accurate statements. Very few candidates gave an incorrect reply to **Question 18**.

### Exercise 6

### Question 19

This year’s essay topic was on whether reality television encourages creative talent. Most of the candidates attempted the exercise successfully. Several candidates argued against the statement and explained why reality television plays no part in nurturing creative talents. Good answers gave examples of several Bollywood stars and underlined their individual hard work rather than reality television.

Some candidates gave reasons in support of reality television. They included examples of certain individuals who have received success from social media and reality television.

Teachers should encourage their candidates to think and write in Hindi because if they attempt to translate English phrases into Hindi then grammatical mistakes and spelling mistakes become a matter of concern.

# HINDI AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Paper 0549/02  
Listening

## Key messages

In order to do well in this examination, candidates should:

- Write their answers as clearly as possible so that the meaning can be understood.
- Take care to include all the relevant details in their answers to the questions in **Exercise 4**.

## General comments

Overall, candidates performed quite well in this examination and the full range of ability was observed. Most candidates attempted all the questions in the paper.

For this component, credit is given for communication of the correct information. Answers are not assessed for the accuracy of spelling and grammar. However, if language errors change the meaning or the meaning is unclear, the answer cannot be given credit.

## Comments on specific questions

### Exercise 1

#### Questions 1–6

The majority of candidates performed reasonably well on this exercise. **Questions 1–6** require short answers, and most candidates fared well. There were variations in spelling of some words. Some of the words are part of basic vocabulary and candidates are expected to be able to spell them correctly. Marks were awarded if the misspelt word did not change the meaning, but not for answers such as 'उवरण', 'आगरण', 'आगारण' instead of आवरण. Marks were not awarded for these variations.

#### Question 1

Was mostly answered correctly, some candidates confused 'गाड़ी' with 'डिब्बे' which changed the context of the answer. There were several variations in spelling of 'डिब्बे' Marks were awarded if the misspelt word did not change the meaning.

#### Question 2

Although this question required careful listening, it was mostly answered correctly.

#### Question 3

There were many variations of spelling the words 'आवरण' and 'पृष्ठ' such as, 'उवरण', 'आगरण', 'आगारण'. Marks were not awarded for them.

#### Question 4 and 5

Were accessible to majority of candidates

### Question 6

Required a complete answer 'उसको खोलकर सुरक्षा जाँच होती है' It was found to be a little challenging. The Listening test assesses candidates' ability to register the main information required to answer the question without getting distracted by the peripheral information, such as 'कस्टम का नियम'.

### Question 7 (i–viii)

Candidates were required to fill in the blank spaces with the appropriate word. As in the previous section, accuracy of spelling was a major issue. There were too many variations in spelling of words like 'स्थानीय', 'लाख', 'हाथी दाँत' whereas 'प्रयास' was spelt mostly correctly.

### Questions 8–13

Most candidates scored well in this True/False section. However, some candidates showed a misunderstanding of what to do, either by ticking both boxes or leaving them blank. A number of weaker candidates chose the wrong option.

### Questions 14–19

These questions were intended to be more challenging. Attention to detail and use of precise vocabulary were both required. Some still offered one or two-words answers with insufficient detail which led to marks being lost.

### Question 14

The answer 'सम्पन्न वर्ग' was found to be a bit challenging. There are some implications for acquiring wider Hindi vocabulary in order to access such questions.

### Question 15 (i)(ii)

These were mostly understood well.

### Question 16 (i) and (ii)

The answers are expected to be precise and marks could not be awarded to vague answers such as, 'नहाने से', 'बेसिन खुला रखने से'. Answers like these are not specific enough for awarding marks.

### Question 18, 19 and 20

Generally presented a challenge to the candidates, very few candidates answered them correctly.

### Summary

Candidates should listen to the recording very carefully and develop techniques and strategies to enable them to identify and select appropriate detail for their answers. There is a need to increase one's Hindi vocabulary to access some questions and also to focus on sounds and letters, paying particular attention to similar sounding letters. Candidates should gain as much practice as possible at listening exercises in class, and attempt past papers under timed conditions. This would certainly help to raise the overall standard.