

SANSKRIT

Paper 0499/12
Language

Key messages

Candidates should be reminded of the importance of precision in the following key areas of Sanskrit language:

- Singulars and plurals (noun endings in particular)
- Spelling (being able to hear the word accurately in one's mind is helpful here).
- Word order when translating into Sanskrit and the agreement of verb and subject where appropriate.
- Applying the rules of Sandhi

General comments

Overall there was a sound level of Sanskrit on display in this year's scripts, the standard of which was broadly in line with previous years.

Candidates would do well to revise the rules of Sandhi thoroughly- some otherwise accomplished candidates found this area difficult.

The strongest candidates demonstrated accurate knowledge of vocabulary, word endings, and Sandhi and the ability to interpret these in translation from Sanskrit and employ them in translation into Sanskrit.

Comments on specific questions

The paper was well answered by many candidates. The following specific points were noted by Examiners:

Question 1

(b) (c) and (e) It is important to look at the number of marks and be sure to translate every word.

(f) This question had 2 marks so a two-word answer was required. Many candidates supplied only one word or missed the plural ('footprints' not 'footprint').

(g) A lot of candidates did not gain marks on the Sandhi. In particular, vowel Sandhi and visarga Sandhi both caused issues. Some candidates chose to answer this question in transliteration greatly increasing the work required and the probability of errors. This practice should be avoided.

Question 2

(a) This section was generally well answered. Where there was an issue it was mostly not knowing the vocabulary particularly the words for **(v)** 'entered' and **(viii)** 'donkey'. Candidates should number their answers to each subsection of the question. Candidates do not need to write out the whole passage.

- (b) (c)** These sentences were generally well answered. The strongest candidates were precise in their approach and ensured they had translated each word accurately. Missing out words should be avoided – checking the completed answers is important. There was some confusion about who was speaking and who listening in **(b)(i)** and whether the masters or the servants were becoming careless in **(c)(ii)**. Accurate understanding of word endings was needed to get these points right.

Question 3

The question paper requires answers in Devanagari script – some candidates did not observe this instruction and answered in transliteration.

The same issues arose in all three parts of the question.

- (i)** Word order – the verb should be at the end of each phrase or sentence.
- (ii)** Agreement of subject and verb and of adjective with its noun.
- (iii)** Choosing the correct tense for the verb.
- (iv)** Accurate knowledge of basic vocabulary is essential for this question.
- (v)** Also not all candidates spotted that the 'deer' in **3(a)** were plural.

Question 4

This question was generally well answered. The points of difficulty were:

- (c) (d)** Vocabulary for food, other and birds often not known.
- (e)** It is important to look at the number of marks available and be sure to translate every word. Some candidates found construal challenging – attention needs to be paid to agreement of endings to construe correctly.

SANSKRIT

Paper 0499/22
Literature and Epic Civilisation

Key messages

Candidates should focus on the following areas to improve their performance in the examination:

- Candidates are advised to revise the set texts thoroughly, with particular attention to accurate vocabulary translation and a clear understanding of the grammar.
- Candidates should ensure they are familiar with key terms and concepts related to the Epic Civilisation in order to respond effectively to related questions.
- Candidates are encouraged to practise articulating their personal responses and opinions on a range of topics connected to both the set texts and the Epic Civilisation content.

General comments

Candidates showed good knowledge of the set texts and the Epic civilisation, recalling the relevant vocabulary, grammar and information in answering the questions effectively. A few candidates struggled with translating the seen set text. Some candidates found it difficult to recall the terms in the Epic Civilisation section.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Mahabharata

- (a) Check for how many marks are awarded to ensure three pieces of information are given. Some answers did not include 'eighth'.
- (c) Ensure 'tu' is translated – 'but'.
- (d) Translate 'saḥ' – 'that'.

Question 2

Bhagavad Gita

- (a) Include 'here' for 'iha'.
- (c) (i) 'Seeing' should be given in the answer for 'darśana'.
- (ii) It would be useful for candidates to revise the Samāsas, compounds, so they understand the difference between a tatpuruṣa and Bahuvrihi.

Question 3

Epic Civilisation

Candidates should familiarise themselves with the glossary found at the end of each chapter in the Epic Civilisation resource. Two pieces of information were required for each term.

- (b) Ensure that the qualities are not mixed up: Sṛṣṭi – rajas; sthiti – sattva; pralaya – tamas.
- (d) Candidates should focus on understanding what each vital breath's function is.
- (e) (iii) śikṣā – is pronunciation and should not be confused with knowledge.
- (f) For the short essay, candidates should articulate their response with their opinion, backed up by the relevant information from what they have read. They should argue the points providing good evidence with a clear understanding of the question.

Question 4

Pañcatantra

- (c) Include 'And' for 'ca' in the translation.
- (e) Candidates should revise the Samāśas, compounds, ensuring they understand how to translate the words correctly.
- (h) Candidates should provide four reasonable and full responses on typical features of the Pañcatantra. This can include; use of animals; animals with human characteristics; satire; moral; practical wisdom.