

HINDI LANGUAGE

Paper 8687/02
Reading and Writing

General Comments

Candidates appeared to be well prepared for the examination and the overall performance of candidates was of a very good standard. The paper was well balanced and unlike previous years, candidates did not find one part more difficult than the other. It was encouraging to see that most candidates answered the questions in their own words rather than copying from the text.

This paper was successful in differentiating across the ability-range with a number of outstanding candidates; at the other end of the ability-range, candidates often lost marks on the grammatical aspect of the language, especially forming correct agreement of adjectives, use of complex structure, orthography and difficulty with irregular verbs.

Candidates should also be reminded that **Question 3** and **Question 4** assess comprehension of the passage, not the candidate's own knowledge of the subject.

To perform better or excellently, candidates must have a reasonable understanding of the vocabulary used in the context, not just the meaning in the dictionary. Candidates would benefit from exposure to linguistic variations, interpretations and implications in context.

Comments on specific Questions

Part 1

Question 1

Most candidates attempted this question satisfactorily. Less able candidates found **1(b)** and **1(d)** rather difficult as they were thinking of an event rather than one word for the description.

Question 2

Almost all candidates attempted this question. Here question **2(e)** elicited the poorest response.

Question 3

Candidates found the topic 'user' friendly' and the source material modern and easy to follow. Generally their answers were informative, relevant, and well organised except question **3(d)** where some candidates answered this question in general terms rather than with specific reference to the text.

Question 4

Candidates responded well to this question.

Question 5

Although the overall understanding was commendable, the responses to question **5(b)** were rather disappointing.

- (a) Quite a few candidates tackled this question successfully. Most candidates managed to compare both passages and responded well to the issue raised. Candidates should be reminded to compare each point and give examples to substantiate the point they wish to make.

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Essay

General Comments

Candidates' work demonstrated a wide range of ability. Quite a few scored in the upper range of 28 to 35 marks. At the bottom end of the scale a few candidates could only manage a score of between 5 to 12 marks. The majority of the candidates scored in the middle range of achievement between 15 and 27 marks. As has been the case in previous assessments, some candidates under-performed mainly due to dialect interference, lack of structure, coupled with either an inappropriate or a narrow range of vocabulary deployed. It was however encouraging to note that the overall stretch of achievement this year again has been higher than in previous years. There is a noticeable change in the standard of performance of all of the candidates in all areas of essay writing-language, layout, content and development. It is clear that the teachers and the majority of the candidates have worked hard and have been focused.

The most frequently occurring errors noted this year were:

1. The lack of gender and number recognition and their misapplication in the essays.
2. Major misunderstanding of **Questions 4 and 5** by a few candidates.
3. The lack of use of the polite forms of expression of the Hindi Language which are an integral part of its grammar.

More Specific Comments

The popular essays were 2, 3 and 6. The best essays were well planned with a sustained theme, well illustrated, coherently argued and structured. It was a pleasure to read them. The high scoring candidates demonstrated a good grasp of linguistic competence, a command of wide ranging vocabulary and an ability to handle complex sentence patterns. Question 2, dealing with the excessive influence of cinema and sporting stars on the lives of today's youngsters, was particularly well handled by the majority of the candidates who had chosen it. However some of the essays were rather negative in the sense that they concentrated solely on the bad influences that the stars were exerting on the young people.

The majority of the essays were however within a range where there is sufficient material which is reasonably relevant but the content is uninspired and flat or too long, rambling and repetitive. The vocabulary used is narrow and the sentence structure is irregular.

The essays at the bottom end of performance were disconnected, reflecting confused or distorted views with poor sentence structure, poor sequencing and full of grammatical errors including serious misspelling of everyday words.