

HINDI AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

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 the communication of the correct answer. Candidates are not required to write in full sentences to score the marks so long as the answer is clear.
- 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

Overall, performance was very good this year. Most candidates understood the requirements of the examination and in **Exercises 4 and 6** wrote within the word limit.

Comments on Specific Questions

Section 1

Exercise 1 Questions 1–5

Most candidates had no difficulties in answering **Questions 1 to 5** correctly. For **Question 1**, a common error was to give the answer 'he introduces himself wearing a red Kurta' rather than the correct answer 'by bowing his head and saying "Namaste"'.

Exercise 2 Question 6

In this exercise, candidates were asked to transfer information from the text provided without any kind of error or inaccuracy. Generally, candidates found the correct information for completing the form. To achieve full credit, candidates should read the rubric carefully and fill out the form in the order suggested.

Exercise 3 Questions 7–9

Question 7

Most candidates were able to write two correct points about how children are exploited by drawing them into television work.

Question 8

Most candidates managed to write the three points required for this question.

Question 9

Most candidates provided the correct points for this question.

Exercise 4 Question 10

In this summary-writing exercise up to 6 marks were available for Content and 4 marks for Language. Most candidates were well-prepared and generally performed very 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 candidates had written precisely, covering 5 or 6 correct points from the text. Most candidates wrote their answer within the word limit. However, a small number of candidates exceeded the word limit.

Section 2

Exercise 5 Questions 11–17

Most candidates successfully answered **Questions 11-14**, where they had to choose true or false and supply the correct statement for the false option.

Most candidates gave correct statements for **Questions 15 and 16**. For **Question 17**, the question was 'What kind of writing is liked by people' and better answers made reference to 'different experiences' as well as 'written in 'easy' Hindi'.

Exercise 6 Question 18

This year's essay topic was to write about an experience of a rainy day. Candidates were asked to write a diary entry describing how their plans were affected by the rain. Most candidates attempted the exercise successfully. Several candidates began with their holiday plans and explained how they got changed due to the rainy weather. Good answers included some interesting examples of different places visited and difficulties they experienced because of the rain.

Candidates need to make sure that they check their spellings carefully. Examples of errors included the use of the vowel sounds 'Ee', using non-aspirated letters instead of aspirated letters and incorrect use of the conjunct especially with the letter 'Ra'. In addition, candidates can improve on the syntax of their writing by not translating word by word from English to Hindi. For example, some candidates used the word in Hindi for 'clever' whereas the same word has a negative connotation in Hindi which was not appropriate in the context in which it was used.

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Paper 0549/02

Listening

Key messages

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

- Write down 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 performance was seen. Most candidates attempted all the questions in the paper.

In this paper, 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, then the answer is incorrect.

Exercise 1, Questions 1–6

Most candidates gave the correct answers to **Questions 1, 2, 5 and 6**. In **Question 3**, some candidates confused right-hand side and left-hand side. In **Question 4**, some candidates wrote 'coffee shop' instead of 'coffee house' and were unable to achieve mark.

Exercise 2, Questions 7(i)–(viii)

Many candidates gave correct responses in this exercise, **Question (iv)** was a question that some candidates answered incorrectly.

Exercise 3, Questions 8–13

Most candidates did well in this exercise but some candidates, especially in **Question 9 and 13**, guessed at the answers and ticked the wrong options.

Exercise 4, Questions 14–20

Candidates made a good attempt to answer the questions in this exercise. For most of the questions, candidates were asked to give more than one piece of information as part of the full correct answer. Although the majority of candidates were able to provide some details required, many candidates missed marks by giving incomplete answers to some or all of the questions.

Question 14

Most candidates answered this very well.

Question 15

Some candidates wrote 'China', 'Europe', or 'America' instead of 'in the fields of education and advertising'

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Question 16

Many candidates were unable to give the two correct answers for this question. The correct answers were 'old stories' and 'folk stories'.

Question 17

The correct answer was 'literature and history'. Many students only partially answered the question.

Question 18

The correct answer was 'development of new tools in the field of entertainment', but some candidates wrote about the opening of new cinema halls and lost the mark.

Question 19

This question has two marks and two parts were required. The first part was 'families make their living by making the puppets' (rather than staging the puppet shows) and the second part of the answer needed all three words of 'naach, gana and dhol bajana (singing, dancing and beating drums)' but some candidates gave this as the only answer or missed out one of the elements and were unable to secure full marks.

Question 20

Many candidates scored the mark in the first part but, in the second part, some candidates didn't give complete answers. The required response was 'reasonable efforts have not been made to preserve the art of puppetry'. Some candidates didn't write 'samuchit pryas' but just wrote 'pryas' and couldn't score the mark for this part.