

SANSKRIT

Paper 0499/11
Language

Key messages

Candidates should be careful that they are taking into account the following when answering questions:

- if a question gets 2 marks there will be 2 elements to the answer
- if you do not know a word, check if it has been glossed
- do not use a word with a less well known declension if there is a word with the same meaning and a well known declension (candidates who used रजन् rather than नृप in **Question 3** almost never got the ending right)
- write legibly – interestingly this was much more a problem with the Sanskrit script than the English
- include halanta signs (for example in **Question 3**)
- where comprehension questions ask for a particular line, it is essential that the answer given comes from that line.

General comments

The strongest candidates had a secure knowledge of vocabulary, including accurate spelling and an accurate grasp of the word endings for different numbers, genders and tenses.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

The comprehension was generally well answered. The performance on Sandhi was mixed. Particular care is needed with the sandhi of punar.

Question 2

The comprehension was generally well answered, though many candidates translated 'palace' as 'garden' and 'garden' as 'palace'. Candidates are encouraged to think about whether their translation makes sense. The sentences for translation were generally well answered with full marks awarded to those with strong vocabulary who also made sure to include every word in their translation.

Question 3

This question had 15 marks for writing 12 words so accuracy was key. It covered a range of cases and tenses. Where vocabulary, spelling and endings were accurately known full marks were obtained.

दृष्ट्वा causes a lot of problems often coming out as दृष्टवा. Also श्रेष्ठः frequently misspelt श्रेष्टः. Missing halanta signs were also common. In short, care is needed to ensure that writing in Sanskrit is accurate.

Question 4

Generally the standard of answers to this question was lower – the candidates seemed to find it more difficult or perhaps ran out of time. Answers were largely a matter of objective correctness.

In **4(b)** a fairly literal translation of the Sanskrit worked better than trying to paraphrase meaning (which ran the risk of not conveying the full sense of 'by what trick...').

SANSKRIT

Paper 0499/12
Language

There were too few candidates for a meaningful report to be produced.

SANSKRIT

Paper 0499/21
Literature and Epic Civilisation

Key messages

A few general points about examination technique are worth noting:

- if a question gets 2 marks there will be 2 elements to the answer, especially in the case of the short Epic Civilisation Questions
- ensure that answers to the Gita questions refer to the relevant lines, and give enough detail
- when translating from the set text, ensure that you do not miss words out, especially when there are similar ideas twice
- if the question asks for a personal response or opinion, ensure that there is one and that it is well supported with a logical argument and evidence.

General comments

The strongest candidates handled the demands of the timing and the variety of material covered with consummate ease.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

These questions were generally well answered, and the text appeared to be well known by the majority of candidates. Candidates are reminded of the importance of accurate transliteration (including vowel length) when giving names. Candidates should find a clear message from the story, and refer to the contents of the passage to support their answers.

Question 2

Candidates more or less fell into two groups – those who knew the text, and those who did not. They should be reminded of the importance of knowing this text thoroughly, as revision and knowledge really pay off in this area. **(a)** required a comment on the content of the first two lines – this is not just a general question, so it is important to keep closely to what is in the text. In **(b)**, accuracy and coverage are the keys to full marks. **Part (c)** was well answered, as was **(d)**.

Question 3

These questions were well answered. Candidates should, however, ensure that they do not muddle similar Sanskrit words/concepts. A key issue was also reading the question carefully – if, as in **(c)**, the English for terms is requested, candidates must give the English, and not the Sanskrit. The essays were well answered, with some candidates demonstrating an impressive knowledge of a variety of content and textual reference to support their points. For the highest marks, clear, accurate knowledge and a point of view which is well-argued for are needed, as outlined on the marking grid.

Question 4

These questions were also well answered. However, in **(a)** it is worth noting that 4 marks are available, so 4 details are needed. In **part (d)** candidates should ensure that they look at all the features – the use of a metrical form is one point, but other features such as repetition or use of related words should be noted. This is a brief question about the style of the Sanskrit rather than the content, so style needs to form the basis of the answer, not just stating that there is a moral.

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Paper 0499/22
Literature and Epic Civilisation

There were too few candidates for a meaningful report to be produced.