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FOREWORD

This booklet contains reports written by Examiners on the work of candidates in certain papers. **Its contents are primarily for the information of the subject teachers concerned.**

TAMIL

GCE Ordinary Level

Paper 3206/01

Composition

General comments

Question 1 (a) and **(b)** were more popular than **Question 1 (c)**, which was attempted by just three candidates. Answers to **Question 1 (a)** appeared more fluent than those given for the other two questions.

On **Question 2 – Essay**, **(a)** was chosen most frequently; however, the range of marks awarded here did not suggest that it was easier than the other questions.

Across **Questions 1** and **2**, the weakest candidates frequently made spelling errors and/or struggled to construct sentences correctly.

The main confusions occurred with the use of the following letters:

1. ண - ண - ண - ண 2. ல - ள - ழ 3. ர - ற

Nevertheless, it should be noted that fewer candidates made spelling mistakes than last year.

A wide range of marks was achieved on this paper.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

- (a) A wide range of marks was awarded. Stronger candidates overall did well; weaker candidates overall answered this part badly suggesting that the question discriminates well between candidates.
- (b) There was a relatively small range of marks within the responses, with marks tending to clump around the middle range (5-9). This group did include candidates who performed at higher and lower ends of the attainment range. Errors included spelling mistakes, low word count and repetition.
- (c) The responses encompassed a broad range, with the weaker candidates struggling with both syntax and spelling, whilst the stronger candidates were fluent in these areas.

Question 2

- (a) Scores on this question ranged from the very weak to the fairly good. Stronger answers were characterised by good syntax and spelling. More emphasis tended to be given to what candidates aspired to, with much less emphasis on why they made these choices. This often led to repetition.
- (b) Very weak to fairly good responses here. At the weak end, responses tended to be much too short with a large number of errors. At the other extreme, writing was accurate and precise.
- (c) Only a very small number of candidates chose this question.
- (d) Six candidates attempted this essay. A wide range of marks was awarded here with limited responses from weaker candidates and fluent, well-presented arguments made by stronger candidates.

Conclusion

Question 1 (a) and **Question 2 (d)** appeared to differentiate most successfully between candidates, with most other questions showing a reasonable degree of differentiation.

Paper 3206/02

Translation and Reading Comprehension

General comments

A better range of marks was attained on the translation questions this year, perhaps because candidates have had more practice after the exam was sat for the first time in May/June last year.

Overall, a wide range of marks was attained. Weaker candidates tended to score less across all parts of this paper, but in general, even the weaker candidates picked up more marks on Paper 2 than they were able to do on Paper 1.

Comments on specific questions

Most of the candidates gave correct answers to **Questions 1, 2 and 9**.

On **Question 3** even the strongest candidates gave only two points and not four points. Some candidates gave answers to **Questions 4 and 5** in **Question 3**. This, in turn, meant that **Questions 4 and 5** were often answered incorrectly.

A large number of candidates only got one or two points per **Questions 6 and 9**.

Most candidates answered **Question 7** correctly.

On **Question 8**, all candidates were unable to grasp the fact that people are prepared to spend a lot of money going on holiday.

Most candidates answered **Question 10** correctly.

In **Question 11**, details relating to religion were much more frequently given than details relating to cultural aspects of customs and celebrations.

Conclusion

Most candidates demonstrated a reasonably good understanding of the Comprehension passage and their responses, but candidates are still reminded to read questions carefully before answering. Spelling was not an issue in the Comprehension exercise as the candidates used the relevant text from the passage. Candidates are reminded, however, that they must try to answer the questions in their own words.

Almost all marks awarded were above the 50% mark.