

2025 VCE Tamil oral external assessment report

Refer to the [Tamil study design](#) and [examination criteria and specifications](#) for full details on this study and how it is assessed.

Section 1: Conversation

What students did well

In the 2025 examination, students:

- engaged in a general conversation about their personal world, and aspects of Tamil language and culture in Australian society from a personal or community perspective; for example, school and home life, family and friends, interests and aspirations
- demonstrated an excellent level of understanding by responding readily and communicating confidently; many carried the conversation forward with spontaneity
- used appropriate vocabulary and structures in their responses; for example, இரசிகர் கூட்டம் (number of spectators), மெல்புரன் துடுப்பாட்ட மைதானம் (Melbourne Cricket Ground), சர்வதேச விளையாட்டுக்களுக்குப் புகழ்வாய்ந்த இடம் (popular venue for international games), நிபுணத்துவம் (expertise), முற்றுமுழுவதும் (on the whole), தார்மிகக் கடமை (moral duty) and பகுப்பாய்வு (analysis)
- provided a range of relevant information, ideas and opinions with an appropriate depth.

Areas for improvement

In preparation for the examination, students could:

- ensure adequate preparation for the conversation with relevance, depth and range of information, ideas and opinions. Some responses lacked a valid link to the assessors' questions, suggesting students may have memorised common topics. Students should listen carefully to the questions asked by the assessors before responding. Some students picked some words from the question and responded immediately, but their response did not address the question.
- practise answering a range of questions to be able to advance the conversation. Some students offered one- or two-word answers and were unable to elaborate and advance the conversation. Students should be encouraged to practise a variety of questions and be prepared for different levels of questions about their personal world and aspects of the Tamil language and culture.
- improve grammar and build on appropriate vocabulary.

Section 2: Discussion

What students did well

In the 2025 examination, students:

- clearly introduced the focus of their subtopic from a community and/or global perspective, alerting assessors to the image they had brought to support the discussion of one or more of the prescribed topics studied in class, which are related to the concepts of Identity, Legacy, Responsibility or Sustainability
- engaged in a discussion using relevant information, ideas and opinions. Students who selected subtopics about social issues that were culturally appropriate and related to their interests or passions were able to demonstrate an excellent range of information, ideas and opinions clearly and logically with highly relevant responses.
- clarified, elaborated on and defended ideas and opinions. When questions were put to them, students were able to defend their point of view confidently and elaborate on their ideas with suitable new information using appropriate vocabulary and grammar.
- communicated effectively with assessors throughout the discussion. Many students used advanced vocabulary and synonyms; for example, மேம்படுத்தல் (develop), மெருகூட்டல் (polish) and கவனச்சிதறல் (distraction).

Areas for improvement

In preparation for the examination, students could:

- choose an appropriate subtopic to suit their ability and interests. Students should select subtopics that they find interesting, but which have depth, and adequately research them in order to be able to develop suitable content, ideas and appropriate vocabulary in their exchange with assessors. Students should be able to express their views on the subtopic and be able to compare ideas and opinions. Subtopics that lead students to recount information and facts without providing ideas and opinions should be avoided.
- demonstrate the capacity to elaborate and reflect on information, ideas and opinions by interacting authentically with assessors. Students should avoid relying on pre-learned or memorised scripts, or single articles from the internet, as the sole source of information for their subtopics. Although some students were very fluent in Tamil, they reproduced a memorised speech in a rapid-style monologue that was based on information and lacked opinions or ideas. When prompted to elaborate on or clarify their discussions, students replied that they had not researched that information.
- use the image to support the discussion on the subtopic. Almost all students brought an image to the examination this year; however, some did not make use of the image during the discussion. Some of the images used by students were limited in ideas and did not allow students to elaborate on their ideas and opinions to support their discussion. Most of the images did not adhere to the specific requirements in the revised curriculum, such as being relevant to the chosen subtopic.

- build a vocabulary specific to the subtopic selected. Some students used common English words instead of Tamil. Students are recommended to practise the Tamil words for போல (like), ஆகவே (so), ஆனால் (but), உண்மையாகவே (actually), as well as common verbs such as உடன்பட்டார் and ஒத்துக்கொண்டார் (both of which mean 'agreed'). Students would benefit from practising the correct use of ordinal and cardinal numbers in Tamil, and should avoid using proverbs and idioms that do not relate to the discussion of their subtopic.
- note the following common errors made in this year's examination. Corrections are provided.

Incorrect	Correct	Translation
ஆதரவு	ஆதாரம்	evidence
நடுவுதல்	நடுதல்	planting
போகிவிட்டது	போய்விட்டது	gone
பண்பாடுகள்	பண்டிகைகள்	festivals
எண்ணம்	எண்ணிக்கை	numbers
மூலசக்தி	மூளையின் சக்தி	brain power