

2015 VCE Tamil written examination report

General comments

Students' general level of performance on the 2015 Tamil written examination was good. Some students, however, did not read the questions properly, could not identify the key word or phrase within the questions, or could not distinguish active from passive voice. Many students took detailed notes of the facts and information that they heard in the listening texts, but could not then give the necessary points in their responses.

Teachers and students are advised that the examination will not consist solely of questions that require translation or the simple recall of factual information. While some simpler items may be found, there will also be some items pitched at a higher cognitive level, requiring analysis, synthesis or evaluation. Furthermore, the examination will not expect factual information from students' general knowledge. Students are expected to find the information and facts from the listening or written texts and manipulate and analyse them to respond to the questions.

Specific information

This report provides sample answers or an indication of what answers may have included. Unless otherwise stated, these are not intended to be exemplary or complete responses.

Section 1 – Listening and Responding

When answering questions in Section 1, students should remember:

- to respond to the questions in the appropriate language
- to write their answers in the allocated spaces
- to ensure all responses are based on the texts and are to the point
- that the same piece of information must not be used in more than one answer
- that notes written in the margin are not assessed.

Part A – Answer in English

Students were presented with three texts in Tamil. Students were expected to demonstrate their understanding of the question and respond using relevant, accurate and appropriate connecting words that demonstrated their understanding of the question.

Text 1

Question 1a.

The woman is surprised because, not only does the man produce the same products, but he has bought multiple packets of his business competitor's products.

Most students responded well to this question. Some students did not supply both pieces of information.

Question 1b.

He wants to conduct quality control by comparing them with his competitor's products in terms of their freshness/shelf life to see whether he should improve his own products.

Most students responded well to this question and supplied both pieces of information.

Text 2

Question 2a.

Their father could also be secretly planning a surprise party. Therefore, they need to tell him that they plan to take their mother to a restaurant for her birthday without telling him about the real surprise party that they have planned. By doing this, they should lead their father to reveal any plans he may have.

The majority of students were able to answer this question correctly and obtained full marks. Some students did not respond to all aspects of the question.

Question 2b.

The pieces of evidence are:

- They want to organise a surprise 50th birthday party for her.
- They are personally paying for the expenses of the party – the son is putting a lot of his earnings towards it/was prepared to give a year's salary.
- They appreciate the good guidance she has given them.
- They appreciate the fact that their mother has also acted as their father in his absence.
- The daughter was moved to tears just thinking of the speech she was going to give at her mother's surprise party.

Some students responded well to this question, but many missed some of the pieces evidence.

Text 3

Question 3

- The audience preferred Bala to conduct the seminar.
- Bala did not stay in Toronto because he wanted to prepare for the seminar.
- On the flight home, Bala did not sleep and did not even take care of their child because he wanted to continue preparing for the seminar.
- Bala (usually) managed any difficult situations successfully with a sense of humour.

Text 4

Question 4

கபிலன் மாலாவுக்கு (நீண்ட காலமாகக்) குப்பை வாளிகளை ஒழுங்காகப் பயன்படுத்துமாறு சொல்லிவந்தார். எச்சரிக்கைக் கடிதம் வந்துங்கூட, மாலா, தனதும் தனது குப்பைவாளியினதும் 'புகழை'ப்பற்றிப் பேசுகிறாரே தவிர, திருந்துவதாகத் தெரியவில்லை என்று நினைத்தும், தண்டப்பணம் கட்ட வேண்டும் என்பதற்காக அல்லாமல் ஒவ்வொருவரும் (மாலா) தாமாக உணர்ந்து திருந்தவேண்டும் என்பதற்காகவும் அப்பழமொழியை எடுத்துக்கூறினார்.

Part B – Answer in Tamil

Kabilan is quoting the proverb because he had been asking Mala (for a long time) to use the bins wisely. Even after Mala received the warning letter, she is still talking about her own popularity and that of her bins, but there is no evidence that she will do the right thing. Kabilan believes that that everyone (including Mala) should do the right thing.

Text 5 Question 5

பாட்டியாரது தாதியின் குணாதியங்களான இனிய முகமும் கருணை மிகுந்த கண்களும், சிரமமான வேளைகளிலும் மனங்கோணாது இனியவார்த்தைகள் பேசுதலும் இகபரனைக் கவர்ந்திருந்தன. நேரத்துக்குக் கடமையாற்றுதல், நுணுக்கமான வேலைகளைச் சரியாகச் செய்தல் முதலிய அவரது நடத்தைகள் இகபரனுக்கு விருப்பத்தை ஏற்படுத்தின. இவற்றால் தாதித்தொழிலைத் தெரிவுசெய்த இகபரன், அந்தத்தாதியையே பாவனை செய்து வருகிறார். மேலும் அந்தத் தாதி, பின்னர் இகபரனுக்குத் தாதிப் பாடசாலையில் பல பாடங்களைக் கற்பித்திருந்தார். எனவேதான் தனது வெற்றிகளுக்கெல்லாம் அவர்தான் காரணம் என்கிறார்.

Igaparan was attracted by the qualities of Grandma's nurse such as her compassion and kindness even in difficult times. He admired her conduct such as her punctuality and her ability to do even delicate tasks appropriately. Later, she taught many subjects in his nursing school. Now Igaparan follows her examples when he does his own duties in difficult times. These are the reasons why Igaparan attributes his own success to his grandmother's nurse.

Text 6 Question 6a.

ஒஸ்ரேலியாவில் பல்லைக் கட்டினால் பின்வரும் நன்மைகளை மேரி அடையலாம்.

- கட்டிய பல்லை அடிக்கடி சரிபார்க்கவும் இறுக்கவும் இலகுவாக இருக்கும்.
- கட்டிய பல் சரியாகவரும் என்ற உத்தரவாதம் இங்கே கிடைக்கும்.
- இந்தியாவுக்குப் போய்வருவதற்காகச் செலவு செய்ய வேண்டிய தேவை ஏற்படாது.

The following are the benefits Mary will enjoy if she has her braces fitted in Australia:

- They will be easy to check and be tightened.
- Their quality will be guaranteed in Australia.
- Transport expenses to and from India will be avoided.

High-scoring responses used appropriate grammar and sentence structures. Low-scoring responses gave only limited answers.

Question 6b.

மாலா பணத்தின்மீது பொறுப்புடையவள் என்பதைப் பின்வருமாறு வெளிப்படுத்துகிறாள்.

- அவள் பல்லுக்கு இறுக்கி பொருத்த மலிவான வழிகளைத்தேடுகிறாள்.
- வேலை செய்து உழைக்கிறாள்.
- மாமனாரின் பணத்தைக் கட்டாயம் ஒரு வருடத்தில் திருப்பித் தருவதாக உறுதி கூறுகிறாள்.

Mary demonstrated her responsible attitude to money in the following ways:

- She looked for a more economical way to have her braces fitted.
- She works and earns her own income.
- She guarantees that she will repay her uncle's loan.

Most students responded well to this question.

Section 2 – Reading and Responding Part A – Answer in English

Text 7 Question 7a.

In Vanni

- Students don't have bicycles, so they can't travel any distance to continue further education.

- Many students drop out of school.
- There are no science laboratories and a lack of educational equipment in primary schools.

In Australia

- Parents drop off and pick up their children in cars, not only to their regular schools but also to extra activities like dance classes.
- Schools have well-equipped auditoriums, with the latest screens, lights and sound systems.

Low-scoring responses included the student's own opinions and knowledge.

Question 7b.

The students were supported in the following ways.

- The school offered the hall free of charge.
- Parents helped by driving students to rehearsals.
- The dance teacher offered her classroom and acted as their mentor.

Text 8

Question 8a.

Because it is a month since final exams and many students are getting their licences.

Question 8b.

Two of:

- You may have an accident by changing lanes without caution.
- You may kill or injure a pedestrian or make a pedestrian fearful by not giving them enough time or distance to cross the road.
- Other drivers may be angry with you for not using good road manners.
- You may be fined for not observing speed limits.

Many students did not understand the word 'consequences' in this context and translated the whole paragraph into English.

Part B – Answer in Tamil

Text 9

Question 9

Students were required to write an email to apply for an advertised position. Some students gave creative and interesting responses. Phrases from high-scoring responses included:

- தமிழ் விழாக்களைத் தலைமை தாங்கி நடத்திய ...
- நான்கு அறைகளில் ஒன்றை...
- எந்தத் தடங்கலுமின்றி இப்போது ஒரு தொலைக்காட்சியில் செய்தி வாசிக்கிறேன் ஆனால் இணையத்தில் வாசித்தால் உலகெங்கும் போய்ச் சேரும்...

Students should not repeat words and phrases found in the text itself. They are expected to rephrase or supply alternative words and phrases.

Many students demonstrated good clarity of expression, but quite a few misspelled some words; for example:

- தமிழ் பல்லியில் படித்தேன்.
- நிறைய ஆண்டுகளுக்கு ஒஸ்ரேலியாவில் வாழ்ந்தேன்.
- தமிழ் பெசம் மக்கல்

Section 3 – Writing in Tamil

In this section, students were asked to show their ability to write an original text of approximately 250 words in Tamil in response to one of three questions.

Questions 10 and 11 were the most popular and many students responded very well.

Many students were able to demonstrate their knowledge of Tamil by writing well-planned and well-written pieces that were cohesive and varied in vocabulary and sentence structure. Their pieces were accompanied by the skilful and apt use of proverbs and relevant ideas. It was evident that these students had a sound understanding of grammar, syntax and vocabulary, and the ability to use their knowledge effectively.

Question 10

This question required students to write the script of a short play in which the main characters are a mother and her teenage child.

Sentences and phrases from high-scoring responses included:

- அம்மா சமைக்கிறார் கதவு தட்டப்படுகிறது
- போதுமம்மா அதிகம் உண்டுவிட்டேன்...ஆம் ஆங்கிலம், உயிரியல், இரசாயனம் தமிழ்...
- நீங்கள் கூறுவது போல எனக்குப் புள்ளிகள் முக்கியமில்லை தமிழை எதிர்காலச் சந்ததியினருக்கு எடுத்துச் செல்ல...
- தாத்தாஇறப்பதற்கு முன்னர் என்ன என்னிடம் கேட்டுக்கொண்டார்? நீ என்மீது பாசம் வைத்திருந்தால் தமிழை...உண்மையான தமிழனாக...
- மூலிகைகளைப்பற்றி அறிய...
- ஐயோ அம்மா பயப்பட வேண்டாம். அம்மாறா!
- மக்கள் அனைவரும் பல்லக்கில் ஏறினால் பல்லக்குச் சுமப்பது யார்?
- அம்மா என்னை எவருமே ஆங்கிலேயன் என்று அடையாளம் காணப்போவதில்லை...
- நீங்கள் படித்துச் சித்திபெற்று, தமிழையேபடிப்பித்து இப்போது என்னை எடுக்க வேண்டாம் என்று...
- ஏனடா அடம்பிடிக்கிறாய்? ம்... ம்... ம்...
- ஏன் ஒற்றைக்காலில் நிற்கிறாய்?
- சரியாப்போச்சு, இப்ப படிக்கிற பாடங்களையே கவனமாகப் படிப்பதில்லை...
- இப்படி அப்பாவிடம் கதைத்திருந்தால் அவர் உன்னை வீட்டைவிட்டுத் துரத்தியிருப்பார்.
- நீ தமிழில் அக்கறை காட்டுவது நல்லது ஆனால் பன்னிரண்டாம் வகுப்பில் படிக்க விடவே மாட்டேன்.
- நான் பிடித்த முயலுக்கு...

Question 11

This question required students to write an article commenting on a given statement and establishing a point of view.

The following are phrases from high-scoring responses.

- ... நிறுவனத்தின் மிகப்பிந்திய உற்பத்திப் பொருட்கள் அனைத்தையும் வைத்திருப்பதே...
- பணம் இன்றைய சமுதாயத்தில் மிக அவசிய பொருளாகிவிட்டது. அந்தப்பண ஆசை குறிப்பிட்ட தொழிலுக்கான ஆசையாகி விடுகிறது
- பணம் பாதாளம் மட்டும் பாயும்.
- பணம் இல்லாவிட்டால் பிணம்.

Question 12

This question required students to write a reflective narrative describing an event that changed their opinion about a neighbour.

High-scoring responses dealt with the topic in an original and interesting manner. They demonstrated a good command of language, and relevant and creative ideas appropriate to the question. The following are phrases from high-scoring responses.

- பார்த்தால் பிள்ளை கடத்துபவர் போல இருக்கிறார்...
- தனது உயிரைத்துச்சமாக மதித்து...
- மாலா பிறப்பதற்கு முன் என்னையும் மலடி என்று கூறிய சமூகந்தானே...