

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

June 2011

International GCSE Tamil (4TA0)
Paper 1

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General Comments

This is the first year that IGCSE Tamil 4TA0 has been sat, and it was pleasing to note an increase in the number of UK based centres making entries for this examination. For both established and new centres to Edexcel, please note that to ensure candidates are allowed to perform to the best of their abilities. teachers should familiarise themselves with the specification and make use of past papers from the legacy qualification O level Tamil (7644). There were some instances where candidates who appeared to have a good grasp of Tamil, lost marks as they did not follow the rubrics.

However, the pieces of compositions written in response to the questions paper were quite interesting with the majority of the candidates providing imaginative and creative answers and scored good marks.

Question 1

Most candidates did very well and scored good marks. However some of the candidates did not achieve good marks as they could not translate the sentences. Candidates should be encouraged to practice translating from English in Tamil to ensure they do not lose mark needlessly.

Question 2

The text set for this section was accessible and the majority of the candidates understood the contents in the English language. Candidates gave a range of different vocabulary and their translation. The more able candidates at the upper end of ability range scored good marks and used a wide range of vocabulary and their translations were of a good quality. Less able candidates lost marks as they made common mistakes relating to the sentence structure, grammar and spelling.

Question 3

Most of the candidates did well on this question, particularly those candidates with a strong grasp of English. Their construction of sentences was appropriate and the contents of the text understood well by these candidates. Less able candidates lost marks as they did not complete their sentences.

Question 4

This section of the paper was attempted well by all candidates. As the candidate were given options to choose what they write about, option (C) appeared to be the most favourite as a majority of candidates chose this. The question was designed to promote creative thinking and directed candidates to write about what they enjoyed in a film.

The second favourite choice of candidates was option (D) which required of them to write about a writer. These candidates achieved high marks in their respective pieces of composition. The content of their work demonstrated that the majority of candidates know about films and were able to describe what they have seen using analytical and creative thinking. There were very good evidence of originality, as personal thinking of candidates was evident in their writings and in some cases detailed and elaborate descriptions of the plot and the actors demonstrating good subject knowledge. The

candidates who managed to score good marks on this question had a sound knowledge of grammar and appropriate vocabulary. The majority of the essays were of a high standard.

A few of the candidates found it difficult to address the points clearly and added irrelevant detail. Most candidates who attempted this question were able to understand the topic and have written according to their ability and they were awarded marks accordingly.

A few candidates did not attempt this section and did not write any piece of composition. This group of candidates had limited knowledge of Tamil and did not know how to construct sentences or spelling simple Tamil words. Their common mistakes were spellings, sentence structure and a lack of understanding of the use of singular and plural nouns and verb agreement.

Overall, candidates have responded well to this paper. Teachers are advised to pay attention to the specification contents and grammatical structures defined in the specification. Those candidates who are preparing for the exam by themselves should ensure they are familiar with the requirement of the specification.

For all centres and candidates for further information about Tamil, please refer to the Edexcel Tamil page: <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/igcse/igcse09/lang/tamil/Pages/default.aspx> for access to past papers please refer to the legacy specification, please go here: <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/olevel/languages/7644/Pages/default.aspx>

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The modern foreign languages specifications share a common design, but the assessments in different languages are not identical. Grade boundaries at unit level reflect these differences in assessments, ensuring that candidate outcomes across these specifications are comparable at specification level.

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