



Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE

In Tamil (4TA1)

Paper 01: Reading, Writing and Translation

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Introduction

Tamil paper has three sections comprising of 100 marks in total:

Section A Reading comprehension: 40 marks (AO1)

Section B Writing: 40 marks (AO2)

Section C Translation: 20 marks (AO3)

Section A includes Q1, Q2, Q3, and Q4, with Q1 (AO1) with multiple choice questions with word choices where candidates are expected to comprehend and locate responses to attain their mark.

Question 1:

Q1 is very well accessed and answered. The students were able to score well and with good language capability compared to very few candidates with emerging capacity. The distractor built within the word list for choosing has worked well to enable that all candidates could access and attain to their best of ability showing good level of comprehension.

Question 2:

These questions require students to read, comprehend and retrieve. In 2024 the question was based on discussions points regarding “Volunteering” compared to discussion about the importance of sports in children’s life in 2505 paper. This has been comparable and well received by all students. The question was accessible and based on the reading and comprehending capability of the students, the outcome of the question is very well achieved. It is evident that students are trained well to respond to only one double marker than choosing multiple although there were a few that was double marked or not taken full advantage to gain the available marks.

Question 3:

This question involves the students to read, comprehend and answer the questions to achieve maximum of 12 marks. The 2024 paper was based on “Trains” compared to “work and entrepreneurship” in 2025 paper. The component requirements have been carefully considered, and the topic titles are thoughtfully chosen to provide variety. This question was over all positively answered by all and the built in difficulty to score the two markers has worked very well in line with the inbuilt low, medium and high difficulty questions. Most candidates were able to score well with an exception of some getting mixed up with the vocabulary for workers and entrepreneurs, providing ambiguous responses and a direct incomplete lift from the test for 3g/3h preventing them from scoring fully.

Question 4:

This question comprised of two parts.

Part (a) with Questions in Open response type questions from a literary text. The 2024 on “literature from a literary text and 2025 was about the life of a Transport industrialist Dr Mahalingam. Questions were based on 7 or 8 sub-questions, with 1-2 marks per question, adding up to 10 marks. This question has clearly set boundaries, and the outcome provides us a good opportunity to set grade boundaries successfully with almost all candidates scoring fully.

Part (b) Question type was based on the link topic of part a with summary questions. The text has been linked with the “water transport” with the text in part a) and not the same text as part a with two people talking about the memoir with one speaker could be ‘for’ and the other ‘against’. The two questions worth 2 marks each. Part (i) asks the candidate to summarise the views of the first speaker on two points, and part (ii) asks the candidate to summarise the views of the second speakers on two points. The part i was very well received and answered and the (ii) has clearly been answered by candidates of high and some medium ability candidates. The lesser able could not interpret some specific advantages and disadvantages of water transport and therefore were not able to fully provide clear responses to score well. This question concludes the section A with AO1 part of reading and comprehension part of the question paper.

Section B: AO2 – Writing (AO2)

Part of the paper comprising of Q5 and Q6.

Question 5: Question type is built with Multiple statement of prompt boxes with one speaker. The question was based on “my holiday” and the candidates have been encouraged to use all the prompts. Almost all candidates have accessed it well with an odd exception of select few. Word limits given to students though fixed, most candidates wrote an extensive essay with full freedom to express imagination and facts that they could draw from their own experience. This question was very well answered with a flare and freedom of expression given to the students with clear pointers of the stimulus provided inclusive of past, present and future tense. Most candidates have answered very well following the given stimulus and marking utilising the boundaries provided. It has been slightly unexpected to witness a select few candidates who clearly lacked in their ability to construct a sentence that could make sense for the marker. The grammatical errors and linguistic skills were very low that it had prevented them to score well.

Question 6: This question type is a longer writing task with an open response choice of 6a, 6b, and 6c.

6a) Write a blog for your local newspaper on the benefits of their hobby including name and details of your hobby, reasons why they chose this hobby including benefits of playing this hobby for your future as prompts to provide structure and boundary. This was clearly the most popular of the three and has provided a good opportunity for the candidates to express and evidence their ability and imagination.

6b) required the candidates to write an email to your friend who lives abroad explaining a popular cultural celebration of where you live with name and description of a cultural activity, memories celebrated in the past and reasons as to why you would recommend taking part in this celebration. This was equally well received but slightly lower following the 6a. The purpose of the piece of writing required 'to explain', 'to interest' and 'to persuade to cover one of the above purposes.

6c) Write a letter detailing your future study plans including details of qualifications and qualities with specifying future prospectus of employment opportunities any details of experiences or people that influenced their choice. This was not attempted by many and has been less favoured of the three.

Section C - Translation: AO3

Question 7

Translation from 2024 paper is on Library as compared to this year on Money matters. Translation passage from English into the Tamil within the allowed word count. It was divided into roughly 20 equal parts and was set up in demand and target a range of vocabulary and grammatical structure and use of tenses. Most candidates have shown real translation skills and was able with good few in the medium ability. Students weren't awarded/penalised for the same word twice however was not awarded for ambiguous translation. Variants were allowed and effective translation of the text without negative marking for misspelt or for basic grammatical errors are dismissed so long that the translation and meaning of the text is clear and cohesive. The passage didn't portray any obscure vocabulary and was within the range and at acceptable level entered for the exam.

- Q1 - well answered
- Q2 – well answered
- Most Q3 other than 3g & 3h were all well answered

- Q4a mostly well answered for a slightly few losing out the 4(vii)
- 4b(ii) had mixed responses and only a select few have scored the full marks.
- Q5 was mostly answered well with good command over grammar, tense vocabulary and provided the marker with variety and an enriching exercise to mark
- Q6 - 6a and 6b well answered compared to 6c.
- Q7 was translated well and is evident to the candidates' true level of command over the native language

Summary:

Most centres were able to interpret and apply the guidelines provided around topics, themes and marking criteria provide as part of the SAMS material given with the specification. Centres should ensure the candidates make effective use of space given in the paper and lines provided for the response are used well to avoid over corrections, cramming and having to use additional papers. However, use of additional papers has no implications or negative effects on the standard of marking.

Overall, it has been a pleasure to mark and to witness that candidates are accessing and responding to the paper as intended in a positive manner and comparable to the past year with similar demand. A well-deserved year of work. The greatest proportion of marks comes section B writing and are comparable year on year.

