

# 2024 VCE Tamil written external assessment report

## General comments

Overall, students performed well in the 2024 VCE Tamil written examination. Most students highlighted the keywords and phrases used in the questions in Section 1 and ensured they addressed them appropriately in their responses. They took detailed notes of the facts and information from the listening texts, using the provided space, and answered the questions correctly. Some students made necessary notes in the given space, but did not provide them when answering questions. Students are advised that no marks are given for correct points in the note-taking space. To obtain full marks, students should think of the keywords and phrases of the question, rework the information from their notes, and write down their responses using appropriate starting and concluding clauses.

The following words and phrases played major roles in the examination this year:

- 'points' in Question 2
- பற்றுச்சீட்டுக்கள் (receipts) in Question 8
- மைத்துனர் (cousin) in Question 9
- அன்றாடப் பழக்க வழக்கங்கள், நடைமுறைகள் (everyday habits and customs) in Question 11.

When answering questions in Section 1 Parts A and B, it is important that students use the specified language. This year a significant number of responses lost marks for using the wrong language. Some students wasted time crossing off answers in the wrong language and rewriting them in the correct language.

When answering questions in Section 1, students should wait for the second play of the listening text to organise their notes and then write their response. Additionally, they should not use the same piece of information to answer more than one question; for example, some students gave the same information in Questions 3a. and 3b.

For each question, the allocated marks and the answer space provided are good indicators of how long the answers should be. In Section 1 and Section 2, many responses needed to be brief and to the point; however, some students produced large paragraphs to get only 2 marks, such as for Question 8b., explaining how மொய்விருந்து (Moivirunthu) is still in practice even after the development of technology. In cases where extra space is required, students would be better to use the blank space beneath the lines rather than squeezing their response into the answer space.

In Section 1 Part A, responses should not include any part of the question to start or complete an answer as this wastes valuable time that may be needed for longer responses. Additionally, the provided spaces allow only for brief answers. Responses can be started with only one or a few words, such as 'Because', 'The reasons are' or 'As the first speaker said'.

It is important that students should extract the facts, information and ideas from the texts themselves. Students should not give their own ideas and facts from their general knowledge to answer any questions in Section 1 or Section 2 Part A.

Several students who responded well in many questions in all three sections left some questions unanswered in both Section 1 and Section 2. Leaving questions unanswered should be avoided. It is always preferable to attempt an answer than to leave a blank space.

When answering questions in Section 2 Part B and Section 3, students must use the knowledge and the skills from pages 40–42 of the *VCE Tamil Study Design from 2024*, about the main characteristics of different kinds of writing and of common text types. Many responses that demonstrated fluent writing in Tamil and confident use of grammar and syntax were not awarded full marks because they did not use the required structures and language features of the relevant text type and kind of writing.

## 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.

Note: Student responses reproduced in this report have not been corrected for grammar, spelling or factual information.

## Section 1: Listening and responding

This section assessed the students' capacity to understand general and specific aspects of texts by identifying and analysing information and conveying the information accurately and appropriately.

Some responses in this section scored highly with well-written paragraphs.

Students should not give their own ideas or information from their general knowledge to answer questions in this section.

### Question 1

The evidence was as follows:

- They are about to travel together and chat/joke around for 8 to 9 hours.
- They cook each other's favourite foods and share them.
- They are about to stay over at a sibling's house for another sibling's wedding.
- Both pairs of siblings live close to each other.

Many responses obtained three marks out of four for this question. They missed the last point of information.

Students should not use the same point of information more than once to answer the question. For example, some low-scoring responses supplied three sentences about sharing food only. Repeated information will not gain marks.

An example of a high-scoring response:

*They are close because two siblings with their families are going to travel 8-9 hours to attend another sibling's wedding having fun on the way. They are making and sharing their favorite food. These two siblings are invited by another pair of siblings to stay in their houses. Both pairs of siblings live closer to each other.*

### Question 2

The points were as follows:

- The teachers and principal will oversee the project and change the timetable to suit.
- Creating a link between three of the subjects and learning practically.
- The food prepared by the canteen will be cheaper and healthier for all students.

- Making use of vacant land at the rear of the school and harvest rainwater.
- Elected students in rotation are responsible for running the project (the farming students growing the crops, the home economics students preparing the food, and the business students selling the products).

Some responses, without focusing on the word 'points' in the question, described the speaker's politeness and gratitude.

### Question 3a.

- There are many elements in her books that motivate children to enjoy reading.
- Reading skills increased exponentially.

The following is an example of a high-scoring response:

*She won best childrens literature award because her published books have been written in such a way that they motivate children to read them. They have increased children's reading skills according to the judging panel.*

### Question 3b.

- She remembers events from when she was small and writes about them.
- She makes sure there is a lesson in each story she writes, based on her experience as a kindergarten teacher.
- Books are available in print and audio form, making them accessible to a variety of users.
- Children connect to characters in her books that are based on family members and pets.

Some lower-scoring responses provided students' own ideas to answer this question, such as that she included illustrations in her book and used language suitable for children.

### Question 4

The lessons were:

- விரைவாக நித்திரைக்குச் செல்லல் (to go to bed early)
- நன்றாக உணவு உண்ணுதல் (to eat well)
- உயர்தரமான உயிர்காப்புத் திறன்களும் பலகை முதலான மிதப்பு உபகரணப் பயன்பாடும் (high-quality lifesaving skills and use of flotation devices such as boards)
- சிறந்த நீச்சல் நுட்பங்கள் (better swimming techniques).

Most responses scored full marks for this question.

### Question 5

The reasons were:

- அனுபவம் மிக்க தமிழாசிரியர்கள் தம்பதிகளாக அழைத்துச் செல்கிறார்கள்.-பாதுகாப்பாக இருக்கும். (Couples who are Tamil teachers and have experience would accompany you (safety aspect).)
- இளைஞர்கள், பாடசாலை வாழ்க்கை நிறைவைக் கொண்டாட ஒரு வாய்ப்பு. (Youths get to celebrate the end of schooling.)
- பெற்றோர் பிறந்தநாட்டைப்பார்க்கவும் நண்பர்களின் பெற்றோர்கள் பிறந்தநாடுகளைப் பார்க்கவும் ஒரு சந்தர்ப்பம். (A chance to see the birth countries of parents and friends.)
- தமிழ்வுகுப்புக்களில் கற்ற கலாச்சாரமக்கியத்துவம்பெற்ற இடங்களுக்குச் செல்ல. (Visit culturally significant places that you have studied in Tamil classes.)

- கடவுச்சீட்டைமாத்திரம் கொடுத்தால் போதும், ஏனைய ஒழுங்குகள் மிகக்குறைந்தசெலவில் செய்யப்படும், மாணவர் அல்லது பெற்றோர் தரும் பணத்தைவீணாக்காமல், மிகமலிவானவிலையில் விமான, பேருந்துப் பயணங்கள் ஒழுங்குசெய்யப்படும். (Everything is organised for you; affordable travel arrangements including buses and flights, while ensuring that all money that is contributed by the student and/or parents is used efficiently. Only have to submit your passport.)

Most responses scored four marks out of five for this question. Responses generally missed the first point of information.

Students are reminded they should not use the same point of information more than once to answer the question. For example, some responses provided the same information about 'cheap transport' in three different sentences. Repeated information will not gain marks.

## Question 6

- அவரது புகைப்படத்தை உள்ளூர்ச் செய்தித்தாளில் வெற்றிச் செய்தியுடன் பதிப்பிடுந்தார். (She published his photo in the newspaper with the winning news.)
- விண்ணப்பிப்பதற்குத் தேவையான எட்வேட்டின் விபரங்களை நினைவில்வைத்து அவருக்காகத் தானே விண்ணப்பத்தை அனுப்பி ... (memorised all his details and filled in the application on his behalf ...)
- ஓட்டப்போட்டிக்குரிய காலணியையும் அரைவிலைக்கு வாங்கஊக்குவித்து ... (encouraged him to buy new running shoes at half-price ...)
- எப்போதுமே எட்வேட் சுறுசுறுப்பாக இருக்க ஊக்குவித்து ... ( always encouraged him to be active...)
- தானே அவரைத் தனது மகிழுந்தில் கொண்டுசென்று அவர் பதற்றத்துடன் இருந்ததால் தான் அங்கேயே இருந்து கவனித்து ... (dropped him at the running track, stayed and supported him as he was nervous ...)
- எட்வேட் ஓட்டப்போட்டியில் முதலிடம் பெறக்காரணமாக இருந்தார். (He was the reason Edward came first in the race.)

Most responses scored five marks for this question, missing the first piece of information, which was mentioned when Edward was welcomed.

## Section 2: Reading and responding

### Question 7a.

- It is a difficult course / she has to study a new subject and different courses.
- She has no experience in 3D design.

### Question 7b.

- She can speak in two languages.
- She is a competent student.
- Her knowledge of sculpture/carving from her parents will benefit her.

### Question 8a.

- Members of the community provide a helping hand in the form of cash to a farmer who is struggling.
- The farmer would serve a feast and community members would give the farmer an amount they can afford to give after socialising and eating. The amounts are recorded, and that farmer would then repay this amount (same or greater) to each person that donated when they held their own Moivirunthu.
- When rules are broken, a complaint is made at a *panchayat*, which is like a village court comprising group members from the same community.

Some responses, without knowing the meaning of பற்றுச்சீட்டுக்கள் (receipts), used 'cheques' and 'online payments' in their answers.

## Question 8b.

- There are more ways to share the details of a Moivirunthu.
- Invitations are printed in modern format, messages are shared via mobile phones and receipts are printed via computers.

Some responses included lengthy paragraphs explaining how the Moivirunthu is still in practice even after technological changes and urbanisation, which was not required in the answer.

## Question 9

Some students produced excellent evaluative letters with appropriate structure and language features, demonstrating strong writing skills. They considered both sides of the issue when responding to the given stimuli. However, some students responded to only one or two stimuli. Some students started their letters with 'மைத்துனர்' (cousin) and used 'சகோதரர்' (brother/sister) as the farewell.

The following phrases and sentences are from typical high-scoring responses:

- கிராமப்புறக் கடைகளில் அல்லது வீதியோரங்களில் பொருட்களை வாங்கப் பணமே உதவும்.  
(Only currency is used to purchase from village shops or by the side of the roads.)
- தட்சணைகளை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ள அட்டைகளைப் பயன்படுத்தும் முறை இதுவரையில்லை.  
(So far, there are no ways to donate 'daksina' (donate money to a guru or a priest) by card.)
- வீட்டில் சிறியவேலைகளைச் செய்பவர்களுக்குக் கூலி பணமாகவே கொடுக்கப்படவேண்டும்.  
(The wages must be given in cash for the people who do odd jobs.)
- கடன் அட்டையைப் பயன்படுத்தி நீ வாங்கும்பொருள் உண்மையில் உன்னுடையதல்ல என்பதை ஞாபகப்படுத்திக்கொள். நீ ஒரு பொருளை வாங்குவதற்காகப் பணத்தைச் சேமித்து அப்பணத்தைக் கொடுத்து அப்பொருளை வாங்கும்போது கிடைக்கும் திருப்தியே உண்மையான திருப்தி.  
(Actually, the item you buy using a credit card is not yours. Remember it. The real satisfaction is you save your money to buy a thing and buy it using that money.)
- உனக்குப் பிடித்த அல்லது அவசியமான பொருளை, பணமில்லாத நிலையிலும் வாங்கக் கடனட்டை உதவும்.  
(When you do not have money, but you want to buy something you need or you like, a credit card will be useful.)
- கட்டணங்கள் இப்படியே இருக்கும் என்று நம்பக்கூடாது. குபேரா வங்கி கட்டாயம் தனக்கு விரும்பிய நேரம் கூட்டும்.  
(Do not believe that the rates will stay the same. Kubera bank will increase the rates whenever they wish.)
- எங்கள் பாட்டி கூறுவதுபோல ஆழமறியாமல் காலைவிடாதே சிந்தித்துச் செயலாற்று.  
(As our grandmother says, do not step without knowing the depth of water think and act.)

## Section 3: Writing in Tamil

Many students wrote well-planned and coherent pieces that were accompanied by the skilful use of vocabulary, sentence structures, grammar and syntax. Responses included many spelling mistakes. One of the criteria used to assess in this section was how well students demonstrated their vocabulary in Tamil.

## Question 10

Students were asked to write a personal, reflective piece in the form of a journal entry. The topic was how the structure of Tamil families has evolved over time, particularly in the changing world of women.

The following is from a typical high-scoring response:

பல்லாயிரம் வருடங்களாக சமையலறையில் அடங்கிக்கிடந்த பெண்கள் பெருமையுடன் வேலைக்குச்சென்று சம்பாதித்துத் தங்கள் குடும்ப முன்னேற்றத்துக்கு உதவுகிறார்கள்.

(The women who have been confined to the kitchen for thousands of years now go to work, earn and support to develop their families.)

Some students who selected this question demonstrated a very good understanding of the text type 'journal entry' and created suitable scenarios to start their writing.

For example, the following is from a high-scoring response:

30-09-2024 இன்று, நன்கு விளங்கி முழுமையாக ஏற்றுக்கொண்டு முதியோரில்லத்தில் மகிழ்ச்சியாக வாழும் அம்மம்மாவுடன் அவர் தனது இளம்வயதில் எவ்வளவு கட்டுப்பாடுகளுடன் வாழ்ந்தார் என்பதைக்கேட்டுவிட்டு வந்தேன். வழியில் அம்மாவின் வேலைத்தலத்தில் அவரது விளக்கத்தை எத்தனை ஆண்டொழிலாளர்கள் கேட்டுக்கொண்டிருந்தார்கள் என்பதையும் பார்த்துவிட்டு வந்து அப்பா சமைத்த சாப்பாட்டைச் சாப்பிட்டேன். இச்சம்பவங்கள் என்னை ...

(30/09/2024 Today, I heard from my grandma, who is living in a nursing home with understanding and acceptance, how much restraint she had to live with in her young age. On the way, I saw how many male employees listened to my mother's demonstration at her workplace. Then I had my dinner prepared by my father. These events made me ...)

## Question 11

Most students chose this question, which required students to write a speech to persuade the audience to continue the habits and customs that have been followed for thousands of years.

Some responses described pride or the greatness of Tamil language and culture instead of everyday habits and customs. Some responses appeared to have been prepared or memorised for the Discussion section of the oral examination and did not relate to the requested task.

The following phrases and sentences are from typical high-scoring responses:

- நாம் பழங்கால வேர்களை மறக்காமல் அவற்றுடன் இணைந்து வாழவேண்டும்.  
(We should not forget our ancient roots and coexist with them.)
- சூரியன் உதிக்கு முன் எழுந்து கோலம் போடுதல், உதயகாலத்துக்குப் பொருத்தமான பாடல்களைக் கேட்டல் என்பன, மனம் அமைதிபெற அவசியமானவை. குறிப்பாக, சிறுவர்கள் வீட்டில் இருந்தால் அவர்கள் பார்த்துப் பழக வேண்டும். பெற்றோர்களே தயவுசெய்து கவனியுங்கள்.  
(Waking up before sunrise, making 'kolam', listening to songs suitable for dawn, all these are necessary for peace of mind. Especially, if children are at home, these are very essential they need to copy. Parents, attention please.)
- தொடாமல் வணக்கஞ்செய்தல்  
(Greeting without touching)
- நாம் ஆங்கிலேய நாட்டிலிருந்து ஆங்கிலம்பேசுவதால் நாம் ஆங்கிலேயராகிவிட முடியாது.  
(We cannot change into English people by speaking English in English-speaking countries.)
- உங்களது தனித்துவம் போய்விடும், நீங்கள் யாரென்பது உங்களுக்கே தெரியாமல் போய்விடும்.  
(Your peculiarity will be gone. You will not know who you are.)
- உங்கள் பிள்ளைகளுடன் நீங்கள் இப்போது தமிழில் பேசாவிடில் அவர்களுடைய பிள்ளைகளுக்கும் தமிழ் தெரியாமல்போகும் இப்படியே உங்கள் பரம்பரைக்கே தெரியாமல் போய்விடும், கேட்கவே கவலை வரவில்லையா?  
(If you do not speak Tamil with your children now, their children will not know Tamil. Then simply your generation will not know Tamil. Don't you feel sad?)
- கதவருகே பாதணிகளைக் கழற்றுவது  
(Removing footwear at the door)

## Question 12

Students were required to write a blog post about how artificial intelligence is changing the way we live and learn. Most students who chose this question responded very well.

Students who selected this question demonstrated a high level of understanding and depth of treatment of information, ideas and/or opinions, and vocabulary relevant to artificial intelligence. However, most responses turned into strong persuasive or evaluative articles.

The following sentences are from typical high-scoring responses:

- தொழில்நுட்ப வளர்ச்சியால் மக்கள் மாறிவிட்ட ஒரு உலகத்துக்கே சென்றுகொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள்.  
(Because of the development of technology, people are moving to a different world.)
- நாம் கைத்தொலைபேசியில் விரும்பியவற்றைத் தேடுதற்கும் விளம்பரதாரர்கள் எமக்கு விருப்பமாக இருக்கக்கூடும் என்ற விடயங்களை அனுப்புவதற்கும் செயற்கை நுண்ணறிவே பயன்படுகிறது.  
(Artificial intelligence is used to search our favourite things and the advertisers to send things that they think we may like.)

Following are some examples of incorrect use in this year's examination. Corrections are provided.

Incorrect	Correct	Translation
உன்னின்	உனது	your
மறத்தல்	மறத்தல்	forgetting
வடையம்	விடயம்	matter
அடுத்துக்காட்டு	எடுத்துக்காட்டு	example
நீங்களை	உங்களை	you