

SANSKRIT

Paper 3216/01
Translation and Set Texts

Key messages

The main requirements for this paper are familiarity with the set texts as they appear in the syllabus, precise knowledge of IAST transliteration, and an ability to comprehend a short passage in Sanskrit and provide appropriate answers taken from the passage.

General comments

Good answers to the set text questions showed an ability to recognise the Sanskrit and translate or answer the questions clearly in English. The Sanskrit unseen comprehension called for an understanding of the passage and an ability to select the correct part of it as required. Good answers to the transliteration question showed a familiarity with IAST symbols.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

The best answers showed a thorough knowledge of the text and an ability to translate fully into English. Some candidates relied on more general knowledge of the story and as a result the translation was less accurate. Some made guesses as to which story was being presented.

(iii) and (iv) Some candidates confused the answers to these two questions. The first stated that Duryodhana's poison was destroyed by the snakes' poison and the second said that the snakes' poison was also destroyed by Duryodhana's poison. Many candidates presented the translation in the reverse order; the need here is to look carefully at the Sanskrit grammar and give an answer reflecting this.

Question 2

Candidates who were familiar with the transliteration letters scored highly in this question. Candidates can improve on their marks by learning the transliterated alphabet and applying the symbols consistently.

Question 3

Many candidates answered these comprehension questions accurately. Some gave more information than was asked for and some did not answer the questions with the correct extract from the passage.

Question 4

The best answers to this question took full account of the question and answered in detail from the passage. Some candidates used their knowledge of the stories and the resulting answers were general in nature. Candidates need to read the questions very carefully and then answer from the information provided.

SANSKRIT

Paper 3216/02
Translation of Set Texts and Panini
Grammar

Key messages

The main requirements for this paper are a thorough knowledge of the set texts and the rules of Panini's grammar as detailed in the syllabus.

General comments

Candidates who were familiar with the set texts and the rules of grammar set out in the syllabus and who put their answers in English, where appropriate, scored highly in this paper.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

This question required an accurate translation from Sanskrit into English. Candidates with a good vocabulary and detailed knowledge of noun and verb endings scored well in this paper. Some candidates did not attempt the question. Candidates can improve by learning their noun and verb endings and by increasing their vocabulary.

Question 2

This question required candidates to translate into English 4 out of 5 verses from the Bhagavad Gita. Those who were familiar with the verses and who could present them fully in English scored well.

(i) Some candidates confused this verse with verse 1:26 and answered accordingly.

Question 3

Candidates who knew the story, and answered the questions fully and clearly, scored the highest marks. Candidates can improve by studying the set text stories carefully and by answering the questions in full by reference to the passage in the paper. Some candidates gave general answers based on their general knowledge of the story.

Question 4

Candidates need to learn the rules required by the syllabus for this question, which tests knowledge of verb and noun endings as well as sandhi rules and knowledge of specific sutras. When candidates know these well, they score highly in this question.