

SANSKRIT (MAURITIUS)

Paper 3216/01
Translation and Set Texts

Key messages

Candidates should be reminded of the importance of precision in the following key areas:

- Accurate knowledge of how to transliterate the Devanagari script and attention to detail in doing so.
- Thorough knowledge of the set texts and particularly the vocabulary used in them so that comprehension questions can be answered precisely rather than from a general knowledge of the story.

General comments

The majority of candidates displayed a sound level of Sanskrit in their scripts, with many candidates achieving excellent marks.

The strongest candidates demonstrated their knowledge of vocabulary and word endings and their accuracy in transliterating the Devanagari script.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

- (ii) The word for 'strength' was less well known by candidates.
- (iii) The phrase 'a hero among monkeys' was less well known by candidates.
- (vi) It is important to translate every word. Many candidates omitted 'after that'.

Question 2

This question requires sound knowledge of how to transcribe the Devanagari symbols and careful attention to detail in doing so. It was clear in some cases that candidates had gone back to check over their work and this had allowed them to spot and correct inaccuracies in their first attempt.

Well-spaced work makes it easier for candidates to check their work and for any corrections to be clearly legible.

Question 3

This question was generally well answered. A few candidates misunderstood the question, particularly in parts (i) and (iii), and gave an answer which was not relevant. Attention to detail in writing the Devanagari script was mostly good but care is needed not to omit the halanta symbol at the ends of words where appropriate.

- (iii) The strongest candidates recognised that this question was asking about both sons and allowed for this either by using a dual form or a two sentence answer, 'The first son had one eye, one ear etc., then 'The second son had one eye, one ear etc.'

Question 4

The candidates knew this story, but the best answers were a literal translation rather than a paraphrase.

- (a) (iv) Many candidates said Bharata was angry with his mother rather than translating literally and saying he shouted at her.

Question 4

- (b) Knowledge of the story in this passage was less secure. Again, the best answers were a literal translation rather than a paraphrase. Accurate knowledge of word endings was needed to know who was the subject of each sentence and who was the object.

It is important to look at the number of marks available. Each part question received four marks and so there should be four points in the answer.

- (ii) Some candidates omitted 'O my pupil' from their translation leaving just 'I want a gift' which is sufficient for two marks but not four. Drona's acceptance of Ekalavya as his pupil is an important point in the story and is needed to gain the other two marks here.
- (iv) Some candidates omitted a translation of 'sasmitam' from their answer.
- (v) Some candidates omitted 'now' from their answer.

SANSKRIT (MAURITIUS)

Paper 3216/02
Translation of Set Texts and Panini
Grammar

Key messages

Candidates should focus on the following areas to improve their ability to do well in the examination:

- Candidates should ensure they know the set vocabulary in order to translate sentences from Sanskrit to English.
- Candidates should read the question carefully to ensure they understand the demands of the question.
- Candidates should know the Panini terms well to be able to apply the correct form.

General comments

Candidates showed good ability in translating set texts from Sanskrit to English, recalling the grammar and vocabulary. Candidates also showed accuracy in recalling Panini grammar.

Comments on specific questions

Question 2

- (iv) Some candidates did not include all qualities in the list and therefore did not attain full marks.
- (v) Some candidates did not include all qualities in the list and therefore did not attain full marks.

Question 3

- (ii) Candidates should include 'in the other world'.
- (iii) Candidates needed to include 'at the water's edge'.
- (v) Some candidates omitted the word 'lovely'.

Question 4

- (b) Candidates should know the terms and what tense they are in.
- (d) Candidates needed to know the rule asked and to provide a correct example – o + v (vowel other than a) = av.