

MARATHI (MAURITIUS)

Paper 3218/01
Composition

Key messages

In order to do well in this paper, candidates should:

- ensure they answer **one** question from **Section A** and **one** question from **Section B**;
- adhere to the rubric, especially those regarding the word limits;
- ensure that their work is legible, accurate and logically presented;
- ensure that their answer is based on the question;
- manage their time carefully;
- try to enrich their vocabulary by reading more widely.

General comments

In 2024, there was room for improvement in the performance of candidates in Paper 1. It was noticed that by now almost all candidates have understood the importance of keeping to the word limit and most of the compositions were written accordingly. Candidates should continue to adhere to the word limit specified in the question paper.

In Paper 1, almost all candidates presented their work in well-planned paragraphs, using appropriate punctuation marks and sequencing the sentences in a logical order. Nevertheless, only a small number of candidates demonstrated a mastery over a wide range of vocabulary and the use of varied sentence structures.

The handwriting of candidates has improved considerably. Most of their work was well-presented and legible. There are still a few candidates who should pay attention to punctuation marks, paragraphing and writing legibly, and they should also clearly mention the number of the question that they have attempted.

It was indeed very satisfying to note that only a handful of candidates seemed to be unfamiliar with the basic grammatical rules of the Marathi language. The most common errors were spelling mistakes, subject-object-verb agreement, use of all types of pronouns, agreement of adjectives as well as limited use of idioms and expressions.

Candidates can improve their writing skills by further practice and consolidation activities as well as by expanding their range of reading materials in order to enrich their grammar and vocabulary. To enrich their vocabulary, they should be encouraged to read materials from reliable sources in Marathi which are available online.

Comments on specific questions

Section A – Letter, Report or Speech, Dialogue

Candidates were asked to write **one** composition of approximately **120 words** on one of the three given topics. Most candidates opted for **Question 1 (c) (Dialogue): Your elder sister won an award for bravery. Write a dialogue in which the two of you discussed her achievement.** Others opted for **Question 1(a) (Informal Letter): Your name is Abhay/Ajita and your address is Ram-Maruti Road, Dagotiere. Write a letter to your cousin in India about how the Commonwealth Games have affected you.** **Question 1(b) (Report Writing): Write a report to your science teacher after your visit to a science exhibition** was not a popular option for candidates.

Question 1

- (a) This year, candidates were asked to write a letter to a cousin in India about how Commonwealth Games have affected him/her. Candidates were asked to give their reaction and how they felt, as well as the effects the games had on them. But it seems candidates did not understand that they needed to express their reactions in words. Thus, the few who opted for letter writing were unable to produce good letters. Using precise vocabulary was found to be challenging. Hence, it was rare to find candidates scoring highly in this question.
- (b) This year, candidates were asked to write a report to the Science teacher after a visit to a Science Exhibition. Educators need to ensure that candidates are comfortable writing both reports and speeches because this was not a popular option.
- (c) As noted in the past, it was observed that many candidates had a preference for dialogue writing. This year also it was noticed that most of them opted for dialogue writing. The question was to write a dialogue where an elder sister won an award for bravery and this achievement is being discussed. Many candidates opted for this question. Some of them even scored very good marks. However, a few candidates were confused with the word '**bravery**' and '**brave**.' Thus, they were unable to express themselves and could not produce grammatically correct sentences.

Section B – Essay

Candidates were asked to write an essay of approximately **200** words on **one** of the **four** given topics. This year two descriptive, one argumentative and one narrative essay topics were given. As noted in previous years, this year also most of the candidates opted for the narrative essay and scored good marks. A few of them chose one of the two descriptive essays but were unable to give a good description. It seems that candidates are more familiar with describing how Ganesh Chaturthi is celebrated rather than describing what one can see around standing in a pandal where Ganesh Chaturthi is being celebrated. This explains poor performance in this question. Hence, the few who opted for this topic were not able to give a very good description and their essays tended to be more narrative than descriptive.

It was noted that although Mauritius Independence and Republic Day is celebrated every year at school level as well as national level, nobody opted for this descriptive essay.

Regarding the argumentative topic, generally few candidates opt for it. This year a few candidates opted for **Question 2 (c), 'If everyone takes care of the environment, Mauritius will remain a heaven on earth.'** Most of them used their own experiences to write about this topic. Pollution and use of plastic bags were nicely discussed. Good essays were produced on this topic scoring very good marks.

Certain candidates seem to have been well trained in using idioms and expressions in their work and this year was no exception. In addition, paragraphs were well linked in most of the essays. It was interesting to note that almost all the answers were relevant to the topic title. Yet, for a majority, vocabulary was not wide enough to convey meaning with precision.

Question 2

- (a) This year the first essay was a descriptive one. '**You are at a celebration of Mauritius Independence and Republic Day in your town. Describe the scene around you.**' It seems this essay was beyond candidates' reach because it was not a popular choice.
- (b) This essay also was a descriptive one. '**You are in the pandal of the Ganesh Chaturthi celebration. Describe what you see around you.**' This was a popular choice. Every year the Ganesh Chaturthi festival is celebrated with great joy in the Marathi community and candidates have a great knowledge of how this festival is celebrated. So most of them opted for this topic. But most of the essays were narrative rather than descriptive, which resulted in the loss of marks.
- (c) '**If everyone takes care of the environment, Mauritius will remain a heaven on earth.**' This year, a few candidates opted for this argumentative writing task. It was noted that candidates tried their best discuss on this topic and they scored very good marks. Pollution and use of plastic bags were brought up in the discussion. It was noted that people in Mauritius are well aware of the impact of pollution on the environment and precautionary measures that are taken to avoid things which pollute the island.

- (d) This essay was a narrative one and it was noted that most of the candidates opted for it. It seems candidates are more at ease with narrative essays rather than descriptive and argumentative ones. **'You arrived at the Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam International Airport to receive your father coming from abroad. Narrate what happened next.'** Candidates were able to express their ideas and experiences on this topic. It was noted that candidates had already experienced this kind of situation and they were able to create the atmosphere with lot of success.

To acquire good writing skills and to enrich their vocabulary, candidates are advised to read books in Marathi and to have more exposure to the language by watching films in Marathi regularly.

MARATHI (MAURITIUS)

Paper 3218/02
Translation and Reading
Comprehension

Key messages

In order to do well in this paper, candidates should:

- read the translation passages carefully before attempting to translate.
- read the comprehension carefully to gain a clear understanding of the context.
- ensure that they manage their time carefully and allow sufficient time for a thorough check of their work.
- ensure that their work is legible and logically presented.

General comments

Overall, the performance of candidates in Paper 2 could have been better. Generally, candidates respond very positively to the first translation which is an extract of about 90 words to be translated in English. This year, the extract was based on the theme of 'ambition.' It was noted that many candidates do not know the meaning of many words in the extract and were not able to attempt it successfully and correctly. It seems there were many words which candidates were unfamiliar with. The translation was beyond the reach of many of them and very few candidates were able to score good marks.

Candidates found the second translation task challenging. For **Question 2**, an extract of about 120 words in English was given to be translated in the target language which was just beyond the reach of many candidates. Many of them have faced great difficulty translating this text. Thus, words like 'ball of fire, seasons, axis, century, solar energy, green energy, potential, current energy', were wrongly translated by most of them. This year, gaps were noticed in both translations.

In **Section B**, many candidates had difficulty showing understanding of the passage. Most of the candidates attempted all the questions but they were not successful in scoring full marks.

Candidates should be encouraged to read a variety of books, newspapers and articles in Marathi, as this will increase exposure to a wide range of Marathi vocabulary, grammar and idioms, and it will help candidates to improve their writing skills and reading skills. Candidates should try to learn new vocabulary words in context.

Comments on specific questions

Section A – Translation

Question 1: Translate into English

For this question, candidates had to translate a passage of approximately 90 words from Marathi to English. The extract was on the theme of 'ambition' and it was noted that most of the candidates could not translate it and they scored very few marks. Words like 'स्पर्धात्मक, युग, महत्त्वाकांक्षी, दिशाहीन, शीड, कमजोरी, पर्याय, योजना, कौशल्य and प्राविण्य', were wrongly translated.

Question 2: Translate into Marathi

This question required candidates to translate a passage of approximately 120 words from English to Marathi. Most of the candidates tried their best to translate this passage. However, many of them found it

challenging and failed to complete the task. It was noticed that gaps were frequent in most of the answers. Very often words such as, 'ball of fire, seasons, axis, century, solar energy, green energy, potential, current energy' were wrongly translated. Given that the extract was in English, most of them were able to understand it but were unable to translate it. Thus, gaps were noticed in most translations. Although candidates are being given good practice in doing translations, more practice is still needed.

Section B – Reading Comprehension Question 3 – 10

In **Section B**, the reading comprehension was not understood by many candidates.

It was noted that although candidates tried to provide suitable answers to the **Questions 3 to 10**, yet only a few were able to score full marks. Educators are advised to give opportunities for more practice in this type of question where one mark is given for one piece of information and candidates must be guided accordingly.

Candidates are advised to give concise answers, avoid lifting and writing irrelevant words or sentences.

Candidates' work needs to be legible, accurate and very well presented. Candidates can expand their range of vocabulary by more exposure to the language. This can be achieved only by encouraging them to read widely and to practice writing exercises.