

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

- (i) The word for wife (and particularly recognising it with a dual ending) was less well known by candidates.
- (iv) It is important to translate every word. Many candidates omitted 'this'.
- (vi) Many candidates omitted 'however'.

Question 2

This question requires sound knowledge of how to transcribe the Devanagari symbols and careful attention to detail in doing so. Many candidates produced excellent answers. However some candidates were confused about the order of consonants in conjunct consonants and how to represent short and long vowels and did not transliterate the less frequently occurring letters accurately.

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 very well answered. 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.

Question 4

- (a) The candidates know this story, but the best answers were a literal translation rather than a paraphrase and included all the relevant information.

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. In particular,

- (iv) The strongest answers included that Dasaratha performed (1) a sacrifice (1) with sages (1) for a son (1).
- (b) Knowledge of the detail of the story in this passage was less secure. Again, the best answers were a literal translation rather than a paraphrase.

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. In particular,

- (ii) Some candidates omitted to include 'When Duryodhana came to Gandhari' and just said 'His thighs were not covered'. This is a 4 mark question and the first phrase, which is in the text, is needed to gain the two of the 4 marks available here.
- (iii) Some candidates omitted a translation of kam cit 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 performance in the exam:

- Candidates should know how to transliterate the Devanagari script accurately using the correct diacritics. For long vowels the use of macron should be used e.g. ā.
- Candidates should know the translations of the set text thoroughly.
- Candidates should avoid providing a summary of set texts for comprehension questions. They should use the text and translate accordingly.
- For the grammar element, candidates should ensure they know how to decline verbs in various cases and numbers and how to conjugate verbs in all persons, numbers and tenses.
- Candidates should ensure they know the relevant rules for sandhi and provide appropriate examples.

General comments

Candidates who performed well in the examination demonstrated strong knowledge of the set texts, including the Bhagavad Gita. Their comprehension of the prescribed passages was evident, and they showed a solid understanding of Panini's grammar, displaying accurate use of noun and verb forms as well as the relevant rules of script.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

For the Sanskrit word, Śaṅkara, candidates should avoid translating as Śiva.

Question 2

Candidates should ensure they are writing the correct translation for the verse and not for different verses in the Bhagavad Gita.

Question 3

- (i) Candidates should translate tapas as 'austerity'.
- (ii) Translate *āśramasamnidhāne* as 'near the hermitage'. Candidates are not translating 'near'.
- (v) Some candidates did not provide 'cat, dog and tiger' for the changes.

Question 4

- (i) Candidates should include halantas in the text where there needs to be one e.g. त्वम्
- (d) Candidates needed to provide correct Sandhi rule: *nare + api = nare pi*; *vāyo + api = vāyo pi*.

- (e) (ii) Candidates should provide 4 letters of the series and not just one and mention lips.
- (iii) Candidates should ensure they know how to write 'ai' in Devanagari as ऐ.