Tamil: Second Language ATAR course practical (oral) examination requirements

2025

Acknowledgement of Country

Kaya. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) acknowledges that our offices are on Whadjuk Noongar boodjar and that we deliver our services on the country of many traditional custodians and language groups throughout Western Australia. The Authority acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We offer our respect to Elders past and present.

2025/22827

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Tamil: Second Language ATAR course practical (oral) examination

This document provides general advice to teachers, candidates and parents/carers/guardians about the Tamil: Second Language ATAR course practical (oral) examination.

Where a Year 12 ATAR course has both a written and a practical examination, students are required to sit for both of these examinations. Students who do not sit an ATAR course examination and do not have an approved sickness/misadventure application for that course will not have the grades for the pair of units completed in that year contribute to the calculation of the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE).

The practical (oral) examination for the Tamil: Second Language ATAR course will be held during the period from **Saturday, 27 September** to **Sunday, 26 October 2025** (weekends and the public holiday included) at metropolitan locations. Candidates must be available to complete their practical (oral) examination during this time. A *Personalised practical (oral) examination timetable* (Appendix 1) for each candidate will be made available from **Tuesday, 9 September 2025**. Examination timetables can be downloaded by schools/providers via SIRS and by students from the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) student portal (https://studentportal.scsa.wa.edu.au/). Country candidates are expected to sit their practical (oral) examination via telephone or may choose to travel to the examination centre at their own cost.

For the Tamil: Second Language ATAR course examination, the weightings are:

- Written examination   65%
- Practical (oral) examination   35%

1. Reporting achievement

Teachers are responsible for ensuring the practical (oral) examination requirements are met and candidates are adequately prepared. Teachers must ensure they are using the current syllabus. Any further advice on matters related to the syllabus or assessment will be published in the *7to12 Circulars* (https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/circulars/7to12-circulars) on the Authority website.

Teachers should also refer to the ATAR course examination information published in Section 6 of the *WACE Manual* (http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/wace-manual) on the Authority website.

For all ATAR courses with a practical examination, for the pair of units, schools are required to submit to the Authority a:

- school mark out of 100 (weighted for each component)
- school mark out of 100 for the written component
- school mark out of 100 for the practical component
- grade for the completed pair of units.

2. Candidates with an injury, illness or disability

Candidates who have a permanent disability or condition that could prevent them demonstrating their knowledge, understanding or skills under standard examination conditions may apply to be assessed with equitable access adjustments.

Application is made through the school on the form available from the Applications and Order Forms page (https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/forms/forms) on the Authority website. Adjustments requested for the written examinations do not apply to the practical examinations. Requests for adjustments in the practical examinations must be stated separately in the application, and relate directly to the nature and duration of the practical examination. Applications should be received by the Authority by **Thursday, 27 March 2025.**

3. Provisions for sickness or misadventure

Consideration may be given to candidates (with the exception of non-school candidates) suffering from a temporary sickness or misadventure close to or during the examinations. The candidate may submit a *Sickness/Misadventure Application* if they believe their performance in an examination has been affected by the sickness or misadventure.

If a candidate misses or is not able to complete an examination session for health reasons, it is important that medical evidence be provided to verify the nature and severity of the illness/injury. In most cases, that will mean producing evidence from a medical professional who was consulted on the day of the examination or the day before.

Applications will be considered only if made on the correct form, available from the Application and Order Forms page (https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/forms/forms) on the Authority website from September. Applications that relate to the practical component must be submitted immediately following the practical examination.

Only one form should be used to cover all practical examinations for which the application is being made. The completed form and all supporting evidence must be received by the Authority by **4.00 pm Thursday, 30 October 2025**.

4. Principles of external assessment

The marking process preserves the anonymity of candidates and their school. This requires that candidates are identified only by their Western Australian student number (WASN).

Markers apply a consistent standard to assess the candidate's performance. This requires:

- a marking key for the practical (oral) examination
- attendance at a marker training meeting prior to the commencement of marking
- trial marking of sample oral recordings to ensure a common understanding of the marking key
- the practical (oral) examination to be marked independently by two markers who then reconcile any differences between them
- the Chief Marker to ensure consistency throughout the marking by monitoring the marking process and reconciling significant differences where necessary.

5. Criteria for marking

Practical (oral) performance is assessed on what a candidate is able to demonstrate through the conversation. The *Tamil: Second Language ATAR course practical (oral) marking key 2025*, published on the Authority website, identifies the assessment criteria and describes levels of candidate performance for each criterion. Candidates are therefore advised to familiarise themselves with the marking key as preparation for their performance in the examination. Candidates are strongly advised to participate in a conversation with the marker, rather than attempt to recite a prepared response that resembles a monologue. In the interest of the candidate, such monologues will be interrupted by the marker at an appropriate point.

A numerical scale is used to assess candidate performance in the practical (oral) examination. All candidates are examined against the following criteria:

- content and communication
    - response
    - communication and engagement
- language
    - linguistic resources – range
    - linguistic resources – accuracy
    - pronunciation.

6. Marking procedure

Each candidate's practical (oral) examination is marked independently by two markers. One marker leads the conversation while the second marker sits in the background and makes notes on the candidate's performance. An audio recording of each candidate's performance is made. The audio recordings are used to ensure comparability between markers when necessary.

7. Examination procedure

On the day of the practical (oral) examination, the candidate **must** bring a signed hard copy of their *Personalised practical (oral) examination timetable* (Appendix 1) to the examination as proof of enrolment. An image of their *Personalised practical (oral) examination timetable* on their mobile phone will **not** be accepted as proof of enrolment. Candidates must also present a form of photographic identification; an image of the candidate's identification on a phone is acceptable.

If a candidate is found with any unauthorised materials during the examination, they will be referred to the Breach of Examination Rules Committee.

Candidates must **not** wear or carry anything that identifies them or any person, school, club or achievements. Any candidate who does not comply with these requirements will be referred to the Breach of Examination Rules Committee. The candidate is responsible for their personal belongings at all times.

The candidate must report to a supervisor at the examination centre at the scheduled reporting time. This reporting time is 20 minutes before the scheduled examination time. The scheduled examination time is the time at which the examination commences.

A candidate who has not reported to a supervisor once their scheduled examination time has commenced will not be admitted to the practical (oral) examination and the examination cannot be rescheduled.

The candidate is taken to an interview room at the prescribed time.

The candidate must leave the examination area once they have completed the examination. The candidate must not have contact with candidates waiting to be examined, teachers or other parties who are seeking information about the examination until all the examinations have concluded. Any candidate who does not comply with these requirements will be referred to the Breach of Examination Rules Committee.

8. Breach of examination rules

An alleged breach of examination rules will be referred to the Breach of Examination Rules Committee. Further information related to examination breaches can be found on the Rules of conduct for Year 12 ATAR course examinations page (https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/assessment/examinations/rules-of-conduct-for-atar-course-examinations) on the Authority website and in Part II of the *Year 12 Information Handbook,* published in July.

A breach of one of these rules can result in cancellation of part or all of the practical raw examination mark.

9. Structure of the practical (oral) examination

Examination	Duration
Speaking in Tamil	approximately 12–15 minutes

10. Conduct of the practical (oral) examination

When the candidate enters the interview room, the marker begins by greeting the candidate in Tamil and then asks them in English to state their WASN. The candidate reads out their WASN in English.

For example:

Marker:	வணக்கம். நீங்கள் எப்படி இருக்கிறீர்கள்?
Candidate:	வணக்கம். நான் நலமாக இருக்கிறேன். நன்றி.
Marker:	I am your interviewer for the Tamil: Second Language practical (oral) examination today. Can you read me your WA student number in English please?
Candidate:	Yes, my number is ...
Marker:	Thank you. I'll repeat that number (repeats number to confirm).

The marker initiates the practical (oral) examination with a question regarding the candidate's nominated topics from Unit 3 and Unit 4.

For example:

Marker: இன்றைய உரையாடலிற்காக நீங்கள் தேந்தெடுத்த தலைப்பு என்ன?

The candidate nominates their two topics for the conversation. One of the topics is from Unit 3 and is related to the Personal or the Community perspectives. The other topic is from Unit 4 and is related to the Community or the Global perspectives.

The marker asks questions in Tamil about the nominated topics that provide the candidate with the opportunity to share information and express ideas and/or opinions on the topics. The candidate uses their responses to sustain the conversation and should aim to display a range of linguistic resources during this time.

At the end of this conversation, the marker asks the candidate whether they have any more to add to the conversation.

Marker: உங்களுடைய தலைப்பு தொடர்பாக வேறு ஏதாவது கூற விரும்புகிறீர்களா?

Candidate: இல்லை/ஆம்.

Marker: நல்லது. நீங்கள் இந்த ஆண்டு கற்ற வேறு சில தலைப்புகளைப் பற்றிக் கலந்துரையாடுவோம்.

The marker then asks questions in Tamil to encourage the candidate to speak, in Tamil, about at least two topics, including one from Unit 3 and one from Unit 4. These topics exclude those nominated previously by the candidate.

At the end the conversation, the marker stands, thanks the candidate and states that the examination has concluded.

For example:

Marker: நன்றி. உரையாடலை இத்துடன் நிறைவு செய்வோம்.

11. Key dates

Thursday, 24 July 2025
Last date for withdrawal of enrolment from ATAR courses with a practical examination component

Tuesday, 9 September 2025
Personalised practical examination timetables can be downloaded by schools/providers via SIRS. Students can access their personalised practical examination timetables via the student portal

Saturday, 27 September to **Sunday, 26 October 2025** (weekends and the public holiday included)
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Appendix 1: Personalised practical (oral) examination timetable

Government of Western Australia
School Curriculum and Standards Authority

Personalised practical (oral) examination timetable 2025
Tamil: Second Language

WA student number: | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |

Candidate: Name

School name: School   School code: XXXX

Examination details

Course:	Tamil: Second Language
Date:	Day, Date Month Year
Reporting time:	2:10 pm
Examination time:	2:30 pm
Venue:	Venue
	(Re-check on the day prior to the examination)
Reporting location:	Reporting room

> **These examination details are final and no changes can be made.**

Candidates, staff and visitors are required to comply with all venue-specific requirements.

Candidates who are unwell must complete and submit a *Sickness/Misadventure Application Form*, with supporting evidence, to the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority). If you are a non-school candidate for this course, there is no option to apply for Sickness/Misadventure.

Candidates who have not reported to a supervisor once their scheduled examination time has commenced will not be admitted to the practical (oral) examination. The examination cannot be rescheduled.

Candidates **must not** wear or carry anything that identifies either them or any school, club or achievements. Failure to do so will result in a breach of examination rules.

Candidates are required to sign this timetable prior to the examination. This signed timetable must be shown to the supervisor, with photographic ID, when registering at the examination venue for the practical (oral) examination. Digital copies of your timetable, e.g. on a mobile telephone, are **not** permitted.

Candidates **must not** contact the venue about the examination arrangements. Any queries must be directed to the Authority on 9273 6377.

Signature ....Date ....

Emergency contact for candidates: Phone 0434 734 248

Google Maps QR code:

Google Maps link: https://studentportal.scsa.wa.edu.au/

Description: Venue and location information