



# **TAMIL: BACKGROUND LANGUAGE**

## **ATAR course sample examination**

### **Marking key**

Marking keys are an explicit statement about what the examining panel expect of candidates when they respond to particular examination items. They help ensure a consistent interpretation of the criteria that guide the awarding of marks.

## Section One: Listening and responding

30% (35 Marks)

## Part A: Listening and responding in English

15% (15 Marks)

## Question 1

(12 marks)

You have listened to Maran and Akana's discussion. Write a reflective summary commenting on **three** points that Akana **and** Maran each said about their future family choices and state your point of view about family choices.

Write approximately **60** words in **English**.

Description	Marks
Content and relevance – write a reflective summary considering Akana's views, any three of the following	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• wants to live as a single-family when she was young/wants to live a single-family life, like her parents</li> <li>• already decided where to build her house</li> <li>• to have one child</li> <li>• maintains distant relationships with relatives</li> <li>• parents should live independently during their elder years</li> <li>• prefers to spend in accordance with her and her husband's earnings</li> <li>• she wants her husband and herself to be the only ones making decisions</li> </ul>	1–3
Maran's views, any three of the following	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• aspires to build a large house to live together as a joint family</li> <li>• wants their children to receive their parents' love, warmth and blessings</li> <li>• when Maran and his wife go to work, their children can be happy with their grandparents</li> <li>• children easily learn and follow the Tamil culture and customs through their grandparents</li> <li>• his parents would be happier living together with his family than in an elderly home</li> </ul>	1–3
provides a personal point of view	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>7</b>
Accuracy of English	
Uses language with a high level of accuracy and consistency. Inaccuracies do not affect meaning or flow	3
Uses language with a good level of accuracy. Word order is fairly accurate. Words are occasionally written inaccurately or inappropriately chosen. Inaccuracies occasionally affect meaning or flow	2
Makes incorrect use of language, such as word order and word choice, which impedes meaning and flow	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3</b>
Organisation	
Sequences information cohesively and coherently. Ideas are connected clearly in an appropriate length	2
Some sequencing and paragraphing with simple and straightforward connections	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

## Question 2

(3 marks)

List **three** objections Maran made to Akana's future choices or Akana made to Maran's future choices. Tick the box to indicate your selection and write your answer below.

Maran's objection against Akana

OR

Akana's objection against Maran

Description	Marks
<b>Objections</b>	
Maran's objections against Akana <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in the future, she may experience loneliness</li> <li>• children will miss out on the love and affection of grandparents</li> <li>• she would not gain happiness by losing relationships and living alone away from society</li> </ul> OR Akana's objections against Maran <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• living expenses will be multifold</li> <li>• may need to adhere to the opinions and decisions of their parents</li> <li>• differences in opinions between him and his grandparents may lead to frustration and problems</li> </ul>	1-3
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>

## Part B: Listening and responding in Tamil

15% (20 Marks)

## Question 3

(20 marks)

Having heard the Tamizhakaram radio program, you are inspired to write an email to your friend, who is very interested in listening to Bharathithasan's songs and reading his poems. In your email describing Bharathithasan's life and contributions, you should:

- state **four** pieces of information about his background
- state **two** reasons behind his alias 'Bharathithasan'
- outline **three** contributions to Tamil art and how his name is still proclaimed today.

Write approximately **75** words in **Tamil**.

Description	Marks
Content and relevance – write an email considering:	
Background information any four of	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• he is the most famous among all the Tamil poets</li> <li>• his birth name was Suppurathinam</li> <li>• he was born in 1891 in Puduwai to Kanakasabai Muthaliyar and Lakshmi Ammal</li> <li>• he was very interested in the Tamil language at an early age</li> <li>• he studied Tamil literature and grammar properly in school</li> <li>• he achieved a Degree in Arts and worked as a Tamil teacher.</li> </ul>	1–4
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>4</b>
Reasons behind his alias 'Bharathithasan'	
he idolised Subramaniya Bharathiyar to the extent that he considered him his Guru	1
he changed his name to 'Bharathithasan' from the day he befriended the poet Bharathiyar	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2</b>
His contributions to Tamil art any three of	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• he was gifted at a young age to compose beautiful and expressive Tamil songs</li> <li>• he has contributed innumerable productions of art to the Tamil language</li> <li>• to this day, people read his art creations/poems and listen to sweet songs</li> <li>• a university named 'Bharathithasan University' has been established</li> <li>• the Tamil Nadu government gives the title of 'Bharathithasan Viruthu' to the best poet every year.</li> </ul>	1–3
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3</b>
Linguistic resources – grammar	
Effectively uses a wide range of grammar and sentence structures	3
Uses a range of grammar and sentence structures	2
Relies predominantly on a limited range of sentence structures	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3</b>
Linguistic resources – vocabulary	
Effectively uses a wide range of vocabulary and expressions	3
Uses a wide range of relevant vocabulary and expressions	2
Uses a satisfactory range of vocabulary and expressions	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3</b>

Accuracy of Tamil	
Uses language with a high level of accuracy and consistency. Inaccuracies do not affect meaning or flow	3
Uses language with a good level of accuracy. Word order is fairly accurate. Words are occasionally written inaccurately or inappropriately chosen. Inaccuracies occasionally affect meaning or flow	2
Makes incorrect use of language, such as word order and word choice, which impedes meaning and flow	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3</b>
Organisation	
Sequences information cohesively and coherently. Ideas are connected clearly in an appropriate length	2
Some sequencing and paragraphing with simple and straightforward connections	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>

## Section Two: Reading and responding

30% (65 Marks)

## Part A: Reading and responding in English

10% (25 Marks)

## Question 4

(16 marks)

Drawing on this article, write an informative note to your friend. Include:

- **three** characteristics of the Tamil language
- **two** pieces of evidence that state how the Tamil language had spread from South India to other countries in ancient times
- **three** pieces of evidence which highlight the spread of the Tamil language in the world today.

Write approximately **100** words in **English**.

Description	Marks
Content and relevance – write an informative note which includes:	
Characteristics of the Tamil language any three of	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tamil is one of the oldest languages in the world/Tamil is the oldest of all the Dravidian languages that originated in South India</li> <li>• Tamil is one of the seven languages in the world that have been given the distinction of being a classical language</li> <li>• Tolkappiyam, a grammar book of the Tamil language, was written in the second century BC</li> <li>• Tamil is a language with a unique literary tradition and richness.</li> </ul>	1–3
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3</b>
How Tamil language had spread from southern India to other countries in Ancient times any two of	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• even before the rule of the Chola kings, the Tamil language began to spread to different countries through traders</li> <li>• during archaeological excavations conducted in Southeast Asian countries, copper plates with Tamil characters have been found</li> <li>• there is a mention of the Tamil and Korean marital relationships in old literature.</li> </ul>	1–2
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2</b>
Evidence which highlights the spread of the Tamil language in the world today	
at present there are 90 million/nine crore people in the world who have Tamil as their mother tongue	1
apart from the state of Tamil Nadu in India, Tamil is one of the official languages in Sri Lanka and Singapore	1
the Tamil language is included in the school curriculum of various world countries, including Australia	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3</b>
Accuracy of English	
Uses a broad range of language accurately, including vocabulary, grammar and a variety of sentence structures appropriate to the context and purpose of writing	4
Uses a range of language, including vocabulary, grammar and sentence structures, mostly accurately	3
Uses language, including vocabulary, grammar and sentence structures, that is suitable and mostly accurate, but errors are evident	2
Uses a limited range of language, including vocabulary, grammar and sentence structures and the meaning is sometimes impeded	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>4</b>

Styles of writing, text type and sequencing	
Writes an informative note. Uses all the key conventions of a note accurately, including: an opening salutation and signing off. Language is authentic and informal. Content should be brief and to the point, conveying a specific piece of information with little extra detail	4
Uses most of the key conventions of a note accurately. Ideas are well-organised and follow a logical sequence throughout	3
Uses some of the key conventions of a note accurately. Ideas are organised, follow a logical sequence, but may lack direction	2
Uses few of the key conventions of a note accurately. Ideas are organised, follow a logical sequence, but may lack direction	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>

## Question 5

(9 marks)

Drawing information from this article, write a blog post to persuade Tamil readers on how 'Tamil migrants around the world contribute to developing the Tamil language abroad'.

Write approximately **50** words in **English**.

Description	Marks
<b>Content and relevance – write a blog post that includes</b>	
<b>Tamil migrants have helped to teach the Tamil language abroad</b>	
migrated Tamils living around the world have started Tamil schools in various countries and are doing voluntary teaching at these schools	1
students who were born in diaspora countries and learned Tamil as a second language are working as Tamil language teachers all over the world	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Accuracy of English</b>	
Uses a broad range of language accurately, including vocabulary, grammar and a variety of sentence structures appropriate to the context and purpose of writing	4
Uses a range of language, including vocabulary, grammar and sentence structures, mostly accurately	3
Uses language, including vocabulary, grammar and sentence structures, that is suitable and mostly accurate, but errors are evident	2
Uses a limited range of language, including vocabulary, grammar and sentence structures and the meaning is sometimes impeded	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Styles of writing, text type and sequencing</b>	
Uses all the key conventions accurately for the context, audience, purpose, text type and style of writing. The blog post includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses a formal informative register but may also use an informal register</li> <li>conveys information as clearly, comprehensively and accurately as possible and is structured and sequenced logically</li> <li>includes a range of adjectives, adverbs, facts, examples, explanations, analogies and quotations, and provides references as evidence</li> </ul>	3
Uses most of the key conventions of a blog post accurately. Content is well-organised and sequenced logically, within and between paragraphs and throughout the writing	2
Uses some of the key conventions of a blog post accurately. Ideas are organised follow a logical sequence, but may lack direction	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>



## Part B: Reading and responding in Tamil

20% (40 Marks)

## Question 6

(20 marks)

Use information from the poem to reflect on how the author is willing to contribute to society. Write a detailed review in which you include **two** ways:

- the author is going to contribute to society
- the author is going to contribute to the environment
- the author is going to contribute to politics
- this poem inspires your thoughts.

Write approximately **120** words in **Tamil**.

Description	Marks
<b>Content and relevance</b>	
Author's desired contributions to society any two of	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• volunteer for the community</li> <li>• not find differences in society</li> <li>• respect for elders</li> <li>• voice out for wild animals</li> </ul>	1–2
Author's desired contributions to the environment any two of	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• grow trees that extend to the sky</li> <li>• do not buy products that cause harm</li> <li>• not promote products that cause harm</li> </ul>	1–2
Author's desired contributions to politics any two of	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• gain knowledge about politics</li> <li>• cast a vote with knowledge</li> <li>• oppose the government solemnly</li> </ul>	1–2
Provides two ways this poem inspires own thoughts	1–2
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Linguistic resources – grammar</b>	
Effectively uses a wide range of grammar and sentence structures	3
Uses a range of grammar and sentence structures	2
Relies predominantly on a limited range of sentence structures	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Linguistic resources – vocabulary</b>	
Uses a wide range of relevant vocabulary and expressions	2
Uses a satisfactory range of vocabulary and expressions	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Accuracy of Tamil</b>	
Uses language with a high level of accuracy and consistency. Inaccuracies do not affect meaning or flow	3
Uses language with a good level of accuracy. Word order is fairly accurate. Words are occasionally written inaccurately or inappropriately chosen. Inaccuracies occasionally affect meaning or flow	2
Makes incorrect use of language, such as word order and word choice, which impedes meaning and flow	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Organisation</b>	
Sequences information cohesively and coherently. Ideas are connected clearly in an appropriate length	2
Some sequencing and paragraphing with simple and straightforward connections	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Conventions of text type</b>	
Uses all conventions of a reflective review (e.g. language and structure are formal, and more personal and evaluative comments are often included)	2
Uses some of the conventions of a reflective review	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>

## Question 7

(20 marks)

Write an article in which you state the author's opinion on **two** changes:

- that individuals need to make
- we need to make at our workplaces
- that need to be made in the society.

Write approximately **150** words in **Tamil**.

Description	Marks
<b>Content and relevance</b>	
<b>Changes individuals need to make any two of</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• makes a comment about the author's opinion on collecting and utilising rainwater</li> <li>• makes a comment about the author's opinion on generating electricity with solar panels</li> <li>• makes a comment about the author's opinion on making home gardens and planting trees</li> <li>• makes a comment about the author's opinion on using cloth bags instead of plastic/recyclable materials</li> </ul>	1–2
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Changes we need to make at our workplaces any two of</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• makes a comment about the author's opinion on preventing industrial waste from mixing with water in nature</li> <li>• makes a comment about the author's opinion on finding alternative ways to remove emitted gases</li> <li>• makes a comment about the author's opinion on refraining from dumping garbage in watersheds</li> <li>• makes a comment about the author's opinion on avoiding using harmful disinfectants/chemical fertilisers/fishing with explosives</li> </ul>	1–2
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Changes that need to be made in the society any two of</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• makes a comment about the author's opinion on promoting local produce</li> <li>• makes a comment about the author's opinion on avoiding waste incineration</li> <li>• makes a comment about the author's opinion on reducing the use of unnecessary explosives</li> <li>• makes a comment about the author's opinion on speaking out against the destruction of forests for urbanisation and the extraction of natural resources</li> </ul>	1–2
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Linguistic resources – grammar</b>	
Effectively uses a wide range of grammar and sentence structures	3
Uses a range of grammar and sentence structures	2
Relies predominantly on a limited range of sentence structures	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Linguistic resources – vocabulary</b>	
Uses a wide range of relevant vocabulary and expressions	3
Uses a range of vocabulary and expressions	2
Relies predominantly on a limited range of vocabulary and expressions	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3</b>

<b>Accuracy of Tamil</b>	
Uses language with a high level of accuracy and consistency. Inaccuracies do not affect meaning or flow	3
Uses language with a good level of accuracy. Word order is fairly accurate. Words are occasionally written inaccurately or inappropriately chosen. Inaccuracies occasionally affect meaning or flow	2
Makes incorrect use of language, such as word order and word choice, which impedes meaning and flow	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Organisation</b>	
Sequences information cohesively and coherently. Ideas are connected clearly in an appropriate length	2
Some sequencing and paragraphing with simple and straightforward connections	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Conventions of text type</b>	
Uses all conventions of an article (e.g. formal language, with introduction, body and conclusion, a title that indicates the content)	3
Uses most of the conventions of an article	2
Uses some of the conventions of an article	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>

## Section Three: Writing in Tamil

40% (20 Marks)

## Question 8

(20 marks)

Write a reflective speech on the topic 'Our future depends on technology, and people should live in harmony with technology going forward' to deliver at the Perth Tamil Youth Forum. In your speech, include:

- examples of the use of technology
- the importance of technology in the future
- impacts of technology on language education.

Description	Marks
<b>Content and relevance</b>	
Effectively engages the relevant audience and addresses all points in a speech, including well-developed elaboration of ideas and detailed information, and includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• examples of the use of technology</li> <li>• the importance of technology in the future</li> <li>• impacts of technology on language education</li> </ul>	6
Provides relevant content, mostly with elaboration	5
Provides generally relevant content and covers a range of aspects, with some elaboration	4
Provides generally relevant, but superficial content. Some repetitive information	3
Includes some relevant and basic content	2
Response has limited relevance to the topic with minimal detail	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Linguistic resources – grammar</b>	
Effectively uses a wide range of grammar and complex sentence structures	3
Uses a range of grammar and sentence structures	2
Uses some grammar and relies predominantly on a limited range of sentence structures	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Linguistic resources – vocabulary</b>	
Effectively uses a wide range of vocabulary and expressions to engage the audience	3
Uses a range of vocabulary and expressions to engage the audience	2
Uses a limited range of vocabulary, selecting some words appropriate to the task	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Accuracy</b>	
Uses language with a high level of accuracy and consistency. Inaccuracies do not affect meaning or flow	3
Uses language with a good level of accuracy. Word order is fairly accurate. Words are occasionally written inaccurately or inappropriately chosen. Inaccuracies occasionally affect meaning or flow	2
Uses language with some accuracy, sometimes omitting words. Words are often written inaccurately or inappropriately chosen. Inaccuracies affect meaning or flow	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3</b>

<b>Organisation</b>	
Content is well organised and sequenced logically within and between paragraphs and throughout the whole text	3
Content is organised and sequenced throughout the whole text	2
Content is satisfactorily organised and sequenced to some extent	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Conventions of text type and style of writing</b>	
Uses all conventions of a reflective speech to reflect the purpose of writing (e.g. it communicates ideas, information and opinions in a logical sequence of information, use of emotive language, use of personal responses to experiences, events and situations, own beliefs, values and attitudes, a closing remark)	2
Uses some of the conventions of a reflective speech	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>

## Question 9

(20 marks)

Write a reflective speech on the topic 'How an individual's future choices are impacted by an evolving society' to deliver at the Perth Tamil Youth Forum. In your speech, include the impacts of an evolving society on an individual's future choices of:

- personal priorities
- education
- work
- travel.

Description	Marks
<b>Content and relevance</b>	
Effectively engages the relevant audience and addresses all points in a speech, including well-developed elaboration of ideas and detailed information including impacts of an evolving society on an individual's future choices of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• personal priorities</li> <li>• education</li> <li>• work</li> <li>• travel.</li> </ul>	6
Provides relevant content, mostly with elaboration	5
Provides generally relevant content and covers a range of aspects, with some elaboration	4
Provides generally relevant, but superficial content. Some repetitive information	3
Includes some relevant and basic content	2
Response has limited relevance to the topic with minimal detail	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Linguistic resources – grammar</b>	
Effectively uses a wide range of grammar and complex sentence structures	3
Uses a range of grammar and sentence structures	2
Uses some grammar and relies predominantly on a limited range of sentence structures	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Linguistic resources – vocabulary</b>	
Effectively uses a wide range of vocabulary and expressions to engage the audience	3
Uses a range of vocabulary and expressions to engage the audience	2
Uses a limited range of vocabulary, selecting some words appropriate to the task	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Accuracy</b>	
Uses language with a high level of accuracy and consistency. Inaccuracies do not affect meaning or flow	3
Uses language with a good level of accuracy. Word order is fairly accurate. Words are occasionally written inaccurately or inappropriately chosen. Inaccuracies occasionally affect meaning or flow	2
Uses language with some accuracy, sometimes omitting words. Words are often written inaccurately or inappropriately chosen. Inaccuracies affect meaning or flow	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Organisation</b>	
Content is well organised and sequenced logically within and between paragraphs and throughout the whole text	3
Content is organised and sequenced throughout the whole text	2
Content is satisfactorily organised and sequenced to some extent	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>3</b>

Conventions of text type and style of writing	
Uses all conventions of a reflective speech to reflect the purpose of writing (e.g. it communicates ideas, information and opinions in a logical sequence of information, use of emotive language, use of personal responses to experiences, events and situations, own beliefs, values and attitudes, a closing remark)	2
Uses some of the conventions of a reflective speech	1
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### Question 3

Information from: ITSTAMIL. (2013, July). *பாரதிதாசன்*. Retrieved August, 2024, from <https://www.itstamil.com/bharathidasan.html>

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