

HINDI LITERATURE

Paper 8675/04
Texts

Key messages

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

- focus on the specific question asked rather than on re-telling the story
- analyse the question and plan their answer
- consider the author's language and style, as appropriate.

General comments

Overall, an improvement in the quality of performance was seen in relation to last year. A large number of candidates demonstrated a reasonably good understanding of the texts.

A number of candidates did not answer the range of questions required according to the rubric: candidates are reminded to answer one question from *Section 1*, one question from *Section 2*, and a third question from either *Section 1* or *Section 2*. Candidates should not answer both **Questions (k)** and **(kh)** of any question.

As in previous years, some candidates seemed to be using pre-prepared answers which lacked relevance to the specific questions set in this year's paper.

Comments on specific questions

Part 1

Question 1

- (k) Many candidates chose to answer this question. There were some very good answers which were well balanced and covered a wide range of Kabir's poetry. In a number of less strong answers, candidates did not draw on Kabir's religious philosophy of a formless Supreme Being.
- (kh) Most of the candidates focused on Kaikeyi who was blinded by her maternal feelings for her son Bharat. Very few candidates described Kaushalya in her manifold roles.

Question 2

- (k) This was a popular choice of question. Stronger candidates were able to bring out the humanistic philosophy of Pant.
- (kh) Responses to this question tended to be satisfactory. Very strong answers were less often found. Some candidates struggled to analyse the relationship between 'free verse' and 'free ideas'.

Question 3

- (K) This was a fairly popular choice of question and most of the responses demonstrated a very good understanding of the extract.

- (kh) There were a large number of responses to this question. The portrayal of Yashodhara's dilemma and Siddharth's apology was handled quite well by candidates.

Question 4

- (k) Answers to this question were generally good.
- (kh) This was a very popular choice of question. There was a tendency for candidates to focus on re-telling the story without bringing out the psychological dilemma of Dhruvswamini as a female in a male dominated society.

Part 2

Question 5

- (k) Many candidates chose to answer this question. Most seemed to find it straightforward and answers were often very heartfelt. Candidates showed a good understanding of Premchand's underlying message about the problems of the poor and weak in society.
- (kh) Fewer candidates attempted this question. In a number of responses, candidates seemed to find it difficult to describe the symbolism underlying the story.

Question 6(k) and (kh)

There were a small number of responses to the questions on these stories. Answers tended to be satisfactory.