

HINDI LITERATURE

Paper 8675/04

Texts

Key messages

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

- answer the required number of questions, in accordance with the instructions provided on the front cover of the examination paper
- plan their work carefully
- focus on the specific question asked rather than on re-telling the story.

General comments

Some improvement was seen in the overall quality of performance in relation to last year. In particular, candidates' examination technique and their ability to express themselves in Hindi seemed to have improved.

A reasonably high proportion of candidates demonstrated a good understanding of most of the texts and of the related questions. As in previous years, however, there were some instances of candidates including pre-prepared material which was not relevant to the questions attempted.

A few 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.

Comments on specific questions

Part 1

Question 1

- (k) A few candidates produced some interesting analysis in response to this question. In general, however, candidates seemed to find this question relatively challenging in terms of the language used by the poet. Many candidates struggled to grasp Kabir's imagery, and the majority of candidates did not demonstrate full comprehension of the given passage.
- (kh) There were a few strong responses to this question in which candidates maintained their focus on Bharat. Quite a number of candidates focused instead on the character of Kaikeyi and, in some cases, Rama. As a result, many of the responses to the question included relatively little relevant material.

Question 2

- (k) Only a handful of candidates attempted this question. In general, those who attempted it found it very difficult to interpret the symbols and images of Mahadevi.
- (kh) There were very many responses to this question. Overall, performance was satisfactory. There were fewer very strong answers. Some candidates had difficulty interpreting and developing Pant's conceptualisation of 'ideal humanity'.

Question 3

- (K) Candidates who attempted this question were generally able to identify the context with success. In general, candidates limited their answer to the surface meaning of the passage; only a few probed more deeply.
- (kh) Many candidates wrote about Yashodhara rather than Rahul, which limited the relevance of their responses. There were a few good answers in which candidates concentrated on the character of Rahul.

Part 2

Question 4

- (k) Quite a number of candidates attempted this question, and the level of performance was generally good. There were some very passionate and heartfelt responses.
- (kh) There were fewer answers to this question. In general, responses did not fully address the requirements of the question. To answer this question successfully, candidates needed to consider the relevance of the historical nature of the novel to the contemporary social situation.

Question 5 (k) and (kh)

Many candidates attempted these questions. In general, candidates seemed to find the questions straightforward. Many answered with passion.

Question 6(k) and (kh)

As in previous years, there were only a very few responses to the questions on this selection of stories. Answers to **6(kh)** were generally satisfactory. In answers to **6(k)**, candidates struggled to comment on the appropriateness of the title.