General Feedback to Examinees

MAY2019

Namaste,

We have received a few inquires from students requesting information on how they could score better on the DLP exams. First of all, we really appreciate all of your efforts and congratulate you on this journey of Samskritam learning. We know all of you are here for learning and enrichment. You will find below some important tips and points that will not only help you improve your skill, but also help you score better in the DLP exams. We also want to remind you of preparation & practice versus actual assessment (exam/test). During preparation and practice you can utilize all material available in addition to the textbooks, and may also contact any local teachers for feedback (based on availability). You can certainly request help from the DLP team to help identify other such sources (such as recommendation of books, audio material, tutorial classes etc.). However, an assessment (exam/test), on the other hand is different. Once you take the assessment (test/exam), you will be measured in a formal exam setting and the materials of the test will not be returned (including question papers, corrected answer papers).

We have compiled some of the feedback and recommendations from the evaluators, who have made observations over several cycles. Please go through the following and let us know if you have any questions.

Observation: The overall trend is that students pay a lot of attention to Vyakarana-topics, (example in kovida) samAsa, chandas, etc., but not to their actual संस्कृतप्रयोगाः. Often, students make mistakes in "basic" usage of बिभक्ति: – appropriateness of द्वितीया / सत्तमी and such (Pravesha level material, but applicable at all times). Similarly, mistakes are made with respect to conformity of तिथिग-चन्द-विभक्ति: (Parichaya material –विशेषण-विशेष्य-भाव:, applicable at all times). Clearer understanding of the various aspects of अन्वय-analysis is needed – पदविभाग: (break down of words), पदपरिचयाः (identifying the attributes of the words), अन्वय: (rearranging the words for Samskrita prose order), अन्वयार्थाः (word by word meaning using the अन्वयक्रमः (Samskrita word order)), प्रतिपार्थः (word by word meaning, using English word order), अन्वयचरणः (arriving at the अन्वयः following a succession of questions to address all the words in the श्लोकः), and तात्पर्यमः (gist or the purport of the श्लोकः). And the answer needs to carry the material required for the marks allocated.
Recommendations:

- Practice composing simple independent sentences. Build upon this to make sentences that are connected in idea. (Pravesha onwards). Periodically review them yourselves to correct mistakes.
- Ensure the accuracy across पठनम्, विधनम्, and उच्चारणम् (Pravesha onwards).
- Focus on "भाषाशुद्धता" – accuracy - including but not limited to: Proper usage of विभक्तिः, ensuring that the वचनम् of क्रियापदम् matches वचनम् of कालपदम्, विशेषण-विशेष्य-सम्बन्धः, etc. **Good reference materials for this topic are भाषाप्रयोगः and शुभद्वश्विनिधी (Kovida level)**
- Practice good essay-writing style - Division into appropriate paragraphs, with all sentences in a paragraph coherently related to a single topic. There should be an appropriate introduction and conclusion that summarizes the main points of the essay.
- Rewrite the संस्कृतकर्ाः from each level using grammar learnt at each level – eg, while studying for Shiksha, rewrite Pravesha and Parichaya कर्ाः using शत्रुः शान्तः क च ज्ञातः and other भ्रमणः learnt. And, changing the voice – कर्तिक्रियायुः and कर्मणिप्रयोगः: or भावप्रयोगः.
- The same applies to सस्त्राणविभृत्त – "with reference to context". This is intended to evaluate the संस्कृतम्भाग्यप्रयोगः: of the student and not just quiz the knowledge of where the quote is from. (This exercise starts at the Pravesha level). The answer should be a coherent paragraph of sentences that describes the context of the quote, and not just "दमयन्ती उतिती निं प्रवतः आस्रः ने।" or "सचिवः बदन्ति। राजा शृणुक्तः। राज्यात्व बहः। निश्चायशः।"
- Strive to get minor details correct as much as possible. Examples include:
  - Proper use of अनुस्सारः: vs मकः in writing (all levels)
  - Using the correct विङ्गम् and ending of words, e.g. "प्रत्ययः / तत्पुरुः / तत्पुरुःसमासः" and not "प्रत्ययः / तत्पुरुः / तत्पुरुःसमासः"
  - If a word is a समस्तपदम्, it should not contain any spaces, or hyphenate if necessary. E.g. समानाधिकरण-बहुव्रीर्थः, and not समानाधिकरण बहुव्रीर्थः. Alternatively, use अस्तप्रयोगः, e.g. समानाधिकरण-बहुव्रीर्थः (see point above).
  - Similarly in a समस्तपदम्, if सवन्धः is applicable it should be made E.g. पठनस्य अनन्तिम्म पठन-अनन्तिम्म, and not पठन अनन्तिम्म. Alternatively, use the correct विभवताः to write as separate words, e.g. फलस्य अनन्तिम्म.

Desirable (for future, even if not for the exams):

- Stylistically, try to avoid translating English constructions into Samskritam, or at least reduce it over time. The best way to achieve this is to read (a lot of) good quality literature/articles in Samskritam to get into the mode of "thinking in संस्कृतम्". E.g. Read सम्भाषणसंदेशः and try to follow the sentence structure in your constructions, listen to excellent lectures available on Youtube and other sources.
- Over time, try to improve the क्रियाप्रयोगः: slowly, if possible. This is often easier in writing than सम्भाषणम्. E.g. use different क्रियापदनि when appropriate, सोपसारणि क्रियापदनि (विभिन्न वेय-वकारपुणाणि - e.g. निरगच्छः, स्थवरों), समन्तानि रूपाणि, etc.
Typically we don't deduct too many marks for the points mentioned in the minor details, unless it is too egregious to ignore.

DLP Evaluation Team