Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2022

Pearson Edexcel GCE
In Persian (9PN0)

Paper 2: Translation into Persian and written
response to works

General comments

This report relates to paper 9PN0 02, which tests candidates' ability to translate from English into Persian and to demonstrate their ability to respond analytically to literature or film in Persian.

The evidence from marking in this session was much higher than last Autumn series and therefore it is possible to provide a summary of how the paper performed. The paper overall performed well and the majority of the students did well in the Translation section.

Teachers should note, however, that the mark scheme for Section A is not designed in such a way that every possible answer is included. Examiners look at each answer on merit to allocate marks. The approach to marking is positive, so examiners always seek to reward what candidates produce.

In marking Sections B and C, examiners use a levels-based mark scheme and apply a 'best-fit' approach, first placing the candidate's response in the correct box in the mark scheme and then deciding which mark in that box is applicable to that candidate.

In this paper AO3 is assessed in Section A, and AO3 and AO4, are assessed in Sections B and C. The Mark Grid AO4 assesses students' ability to respond critically to the aspects of the literary work or film outlined in the question.

Regarding section B and C of the paper, again most students responded quite well in this series of exam and the questions worked more or less as they were intended and anticipated, though some questions were more popular and perhaps more accessible compared to others.

The questions for Sections B & C could not and have not been referred in the Advance Information, due to the nature of the questions.

Comments on each question
Section A
Q01   Translation into Persian
        The Translation section is Points-based – 1 mark given for each correct individual section of language – Advance Information guided and helped the candidates to revise and learn more the vocabularies of the topic. Perhaps this is one of the reasons which the majority of the candidates did relatively well in the translation. The translation and equivalent of two words, harvest, and feast in the meaning that was meant in the English text, was a little challenging for some candidates. However, this question overall performed well and worked as it was intended.
Section B

Q02ax Written Response to works (Books) AO4, AO3 & AO3
        This question was one of the two, which was responded by highest number of the students in this series; almost 40% of the candidates choose this optional question out of 12. One reason is perhaps it was the first question and also because it was an accessible question and the book has also been found the most popular one amongst the three books. The question performed quite well in the analytical essays written by the candidates.
Q02bx   Written Response to works (Books) AO4, AO3 & AO3

Around 19% of the candidates selected this optional question and the essays showed that the question worked quite well and performed the way it was intended.

Q03ax   Written Response to works (Books) AO4, AO3 & AO3

Only 7% of the candidates answered to this optional question and as there were the names of two characters in the story, i.e. Farhad and Farzad, which sounded a bit similar, but totally different personalities, some candidates analysed Farhad's character instead of Farzad's, which was the question. There was a question on Farhad in the previous years and candidates should have checked and worked on the past papers. This shows that the teachers who teach this paper need to emphasise on the fact that learning the names of the characters are very important, as it comes in the questions which are about the analysis of characters and their relationship with another character or the rest.

Q03bx   Written Response to works (Books) AO4, AO3 & AO3

Around 19% of the candidates wrote their essays on this question and the question performed well. Generally, the candidates answer more and better to the questions about characters and the relationships.

Q04ax   Written Response to works (Books) AO4, AO3 & AO3

Around 6% of the candidates chose this question from the book Cart Postal (Postcard as it says on the first page of the book published by Amazon). Although the book is really good and suitable for this age group, it is a little more difficult than the other two books. It has several layers a lot of flash backs and going back and forth in the time. However, it is a very popular book amongst Persian readers, both inside and outside Iran and it is about the challenges the immigrant families face with in bringing up their children in a different country and different culture.

Q04bx   Written Response to works (Books) AO4, AO3 & AO3

Around 4% of the students chose to answer this question from the same book above and from the responses, one can say the question worked as it was intended.

Section C

Q05a   Written Response to works (Films) AO4, AO3 & AO3

Less than 4% of the candidates answered to this question, perhaps as the question was about using techniques in the film.

Q05b   Written Response to works (Films) AO4, AO3 & AO3

4.5% of the candidates answered to this question, though it was about a character.

Q06a   Written Response to works (Films) AO4, AO3 & AO3

This question seemed to be the most popular questions as around 41.5% of the students chose to respond to this question and majority of the essays were well written which shows that overall, the question worked as it was intended.

Q06b   Written Response to works (Films)   AO4, AO3 & AO3
            Around 19% of the students selected this question and mostly answered well, however the question was to some extent challenging and the candidates replied and analysed the question from different angles.

Q07a   Written Response to works (Films)   AO4, AO3 & AO3
            22.5% of the candidates chose to write and rely to this question and again shows that students are mostly more comfortable to select the questions about characters.

Q07b   Written Response to works (Films)   AO4, AO3 & AO3
            Less than 2% selected this question, perhaps as the character in the question was not a popular and central one.

Guidance for teachers for future sessions

The points below need to be mentioned in the sight of this series as the guidance for teachers:

1. In section A, Translation into Persian, there will be difference in word order, clause structure or other linguistic features between the two languages. The resulting Persian passage should be natural, correct and unambiguous.

2. For sections B & C, look carefully at the indicative content, this can provide useful insights into the approach to writing a response, although the Indicative Contents are not exhaustive and do not include all possible answers and analysis.
3. The teachers need to teach the candidates not to tell the story but focus on the question and critically analyse different aspects of the question, giving relevant evidence and examples from the book or the film. They need to write about different themes and aspects of the question in separate paragraphs and in each paragraphs gives a point, an example to support the point and also what the author of the book or the director of the film tried to say or to show.
4. In Section B & C, which are responses to the books and films, it is important to learn the name of the characters, as there are questions in which the candidates are asked to analyse a character or the relationship between two characters, and the question refers to the names. Therefore, if the candidates don't know the characters by their names, sometimes they may confuse two characters and analyse the wrong one and lose marks. This happened in this series and some candidates had written about a different character, as they hadn't learned the name of all characters, though their analytic essays were good but they didn't answer to the question.

Also, the teachers need to emphasise on the fact that the responses to questions on the books and the films must be written in Persian and not in English. There have been several candidates who wrote these sections in English and lost their marks