Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

November 2020

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Persian (1PN0) Paper 3H: Reading and Understanding

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Introduction

This year none of the candidates chose to answer paper 1PN0_3F, therefore this report relates to paper 1PN0_3H, which tests candidates' ability to read and comprehend Persian extracts and translate from Persian into English.

The evidence from marking indicates that the paper was effective in differentiating between candidates of different abilities and that all the questions tested their abilities as anticipated.

The published mark scheme provides extensive guidance with regard to the overarching approach to marking. The mark scheme has been trialed before and after exam in different stages and at the end with sample candidates' answers to ensure candidates are rewarded fairly. As the approach to marking is positive, examiners always seek to reward what candidates produce.

It is helpful for teachers to distinguish clearly between the assessments objectives stated in the specification.

There was varied evidence of how well candidates were prepared for this assessment, but there was little evidence of where candidates did not follow the instructions, for instance, leaving parts of questions unanswered.

Question 1
The majority of the candidates responded well to questions 1(a) and 1(b), but there were a significant number of candidates who provided a wrong answer to 1(b). This question tests candidates' inference ability and how they can synthesize information from the text.

Question 2
The extract provided for this question was inspired by an ancient literary text. For this question, as explained above, examiners applied a positive approach while marking candidates' responses. Questions 2(a), (c) and (d) were mainly tackled well by the candidates and their responses for 2(b) were awarded whether they have used comparative or superlative adjectives in their responses.

Question 3
The theme of this question is family and household. Candidates were asked to read and interview and provided responses for four questions, one of which needed two points to make the total mark five. Most of the candidates responded correctly to all these questions.

Question 4
This is a multiple answer question and it was marked by the computer.

Question 5
This question has two parts- both based on the information candidates need to infer and process from the extract. The theme is travel and leisure and the extract contains information about different hotels in Isfahan. The candidates mainly have done well in section (a) but the responses for section (b) provided evidence that students need to pay close attention to the details and identify the key words of the question before providing any responses.

Question 6
The theme of this question is education and the extract is about student exchange program. This question has two parts; in the first part candidates are asked to identify

three correct statements and in the second part they should provide short responses to two comprehension questions. Students did quite well in this question, but the only issue was that some got confused about the "computer certificate" in Persian and just written "a computer" for the response.

Question 7
This is a multiple answer question and was marked by the computer.

Question 8

The theme of this question is work experience and candidates are asked to match 5 phrases with the correct person in the extract. Questions a-d were mainly tackled well by the majority of the candidates and it is quite evident that they found the information accessible. Responses for question e varied as some students did not distinguish between 'parent's friend' and 'parents' in Persian.

Question 9
This question has a longer and more complicated extract. Students responded well to the recall and process questions (question 9b and 9c) but the questions which required inference (question a and d) proved to be more challenging. Some candidates ran out of time and left this section unanswered, but practicing past papers under exam timing and condition can help them to improve.

Question 10
This is the only translation question in the reading paper. Candidates are required to translate a short passage from Persian to English. Most of the translations were accurate with some which were either not clear in English or the tense of the verbs were not used correctly.

Advice for the centres
- Practicing past papers under exam conditions will help the students to improve their time management skills. Question 9 was left unanswered in many cases.
- Covering grammar sections such as comparative/superlative adjectives in Persian or the essential vocabulary list will help the students to understand the extracts better. Some students were unable to distinguish between north and east in Persian, for instance.
- Advise the candidates to read the rubrics carefully; if the question is asking for responses in Persian, a response in English will not be accepted.