
GCSE

URDU

Unit 1 Listening
Report on the Examination

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General Comments

This year the students performed well across the papers as a whole. Both Foundation and Higher Tier papers offered students an opportunity to show their ability and gain credit. The students scored high marks in the Higher Tier, however they didn't perform quite as well as last year. Most of the students were able to handle the demands of the paper. Similar to last year, fewer students were entered for the Foundation Tier and most were entered for the Higher Tier.

It was good to see that many of the students handled most of the questions well, however there were some questions where many of the students did not answer correctly in order to gain maximum marks. Both Foundation and Higher Tier students found Foundation Question 18(c)/Higher Question 2(c) challenging. Similarly students found Questions 19(a) 21(a), and 21(c) on the Foundation Tier paper very challenging. In the Higher Tier paper, Questions 7(a) and 11(a & b), students struggled to understand the key words.

Students need to learn to:

- read the questions properly to understand what to do
- look at the marks available for each question and to give the required detail or reasons
- look at the language of the questions to work out the answer (when, where, what, why etc.)
- be aware of different distracters
- listen for the key words.

Foundation Tier

This year's paper was quite accessible for most of the students entered for this tier.

Question 1

This question was reasonably well answered by the students. There were some students who did not understand the word "birthday" in Urdu and failed to score a mark.

Question 2

This was also well answered by most students. A few students struggled to understand the Urdu word for "grandmother".

Question 3

Most students struggled with the Urdu word for "pink" and only half the students were able to score a mark.

Question 4

This question was very well attempted by the majority of students. Some students wrote 25 or 40 instead of 50.

Question 5

The overall performance of students answering this question was very good. Some students chose "16" and "18" instead of "14".

Question 6

This was a very straightforward question which was well attempted by the majority of students but a few chose "sister" instead of "sister-in-law".

Question 7

The overall performance of students answering this question was very good. Almost everyone gave the correct answer which was “teacher/teaches in school”.

Question 8

This question about school subjects was well attempted by many students. However some went for the choice of “Geography” and “History” instead of “Maths”.

Questions 9

This question was well attempted by the majority of students.

Question 10

This question caused some problems for most students who failed to understand the phrases “drawing pictures” and “writing stories”. About half of the students scored 2 marks.

Question 11

This question proved to be accessible for the majority of students. Those with a good understanding of Urdu were able to write the correct answer “a newspaper”.

Question 12

This question caused some problems for some less able students who failed to understand the term for “window”. Most of the students managed to score 1 mark.

Question 13

No problems encountered. Almost everyone managed to write the correct response.

Question 14

This question proved to be accessible for the majority of students. Those with a good understanding of Urdu were able to write the correct word “gardens” and acquired 1 mark.

Question 15

Question 15(a) was a multiple choice question and it was very well attempted by the majority of students. The overall performance of the students answering this question was excellent.

Question 15(b) proved to be more demanding for many students. The Urdu term for “museum” caused problems. This question attracted some unusual and unexpected responses: for instance, some students chose the pictures of a person working on the computer or a person working in a hotel.

In Question 15(c), almost everyone managed to write the correct response.

Question 15(d) was a multiple choice question and it was very well attempted by the majority of students. Some students chose the pictures of museum, hotel and car mechanic instead of office.

Question 16

Question 16(a) was reasonably well answered by the students. There were some students who did not understand the word “post office” in Urdu and failed to score a mark.

In Question 16(b), the majority of students managed to choose the correct answer.

Question 17

Question 17(a) was very badly attempted by students as it proved quite demanding for most of them. It differentiated well between the more able and less able students. Only a few of the able students who listened carefully to the recording managed to attain 2 marks. Many students secured just 1 mark. The answers required were “raincoat” and “heavy rain” but the majority of students wrote “coat” and just “rain” without the qualifying adjective of “heavy”. Some students also wrote ‘umbrella’ which was a distracter.

Question 17(b) was handled very well by many students and the majority of students managed to secure 1 or 2 marks. Some students struggled to understand the phrase “driving test” in Urdu.

Question 18(a, b & c)

This was a multiple choice question and it was very well attempted by the majority of students. However, most students struggled with Question 18(c) because picture F (about travelling) proved to be a challenging distracter and students chose it instead of picture E (about booking accommodation).

Question 19

Question 19(a) was very badly attempted by students. It proved quite demanding for most students as they struggled to understand the word “competition” in Urdu.

Question 19(b) was generally well answered.

Question 20

This question proved to be accessible for the majority of students.

Question 21

Questions 21(b) and (d) were very well attempted by the majority of the students. For Questions 21(a) and (c), students struggled to understand the words “travelling” and “just/fair” in Urdu.

Higher Tier**Question 1**

In Question 1(a), the overall performance of the students answering this part was reasonably good. Many students managed to score two marks and some students scored 1 mark. Some students failed to score a mark by not writing the required answers “raincoat and heavy rain” but instead just mentioned a “coat” or “umbrella” and “rain”.

Question 1(b) was well attempted and the majority of students were able to score 2 marks and some students scored 1 mark. A small number of students failed to score any marks because they did not understand the key vocabulary and wrote answers like “A wedding card” or “birthday card”. Overall, a well attempted question.

Question 2

Questions 2(a) & (b) were very well attempted by the majority of students. Almost everyone chose the correct answers. Like the Foundation Tier candidates (equivalent Question 18(c) at Foundation Tier), most students struggled with Question 2(c) because picture F (about travelling) proved to be a challenging distracter and students chose it instead of picture E (about booking accommodation).

Question 3

This question proved to be more demanding for most of the students. The Urdu term for “competition” caused problems. Some students wrote responses like “play a game or match” and failed to score any marks.

Question 4

This was a very accessible question and was well attempted by the majority of students who managed to secure a mark for this question.

Question 5

Questions 5(b) and (d) were attempted very well by the majority of students and Questions 5(a) and (c) were also attempted well by the majority of students. Many students struggled to understand the words “travelling” and “just/fair” in Urdu and wrote “cooking” or “walking” for travelling and “kind/honest/good” instead of “fair/just”. Therefore they failed to score any marks.

Question 6

This multiple choice question was well attempted by the majority of students. Only a small number of students failed to score any marks because they struggled to understand the term for “sunrise” in Urdu.

Question 7

Question 7(a) proved quite demanding for most of the students. It differentiated well between the more able and less able students. Only some able students who listened carefully to the recording managed to attain 2 marks and the majority of students were able to achieve 1 mark out of 2 marks. Many students struggled to understand the terms for “Eastern and “Western” in Urdu and some students’ responses were irrelevant to the question asked. There were some interesting responses like “Western or Northern side films” instead of “Eastern and Western films”.

Questions 7(b) and 7(c) were very well attempted by the majority of students. Some students failed to score marks because they did not understand the opinion about changing with the times. There were some interesting responses like “haram clothes” instead of “inappropriate clothes”.

Question 8

Although, the majority of students managed to choose the correct answer for an attitude, negative or positive, a small number of students struggled to give both negative and positive attitudes for physical exercise and a positive attitude for healthy eating.

Question 9

The majority of students found this question very accessible and scored 4 marks out of four. A small number of students struggled to understand the terms “accident” and “politics” in Urdu.

Question 10

Although most students managed to give the correct answer for two advantages of work experience and gained 2 marks out of 2 for Question 10(a), some students gave only one advantage and scored 1 mark.

Question 10(b) proved to be accessible for the majority of students who managed to score two marks.

Question 11

Questions 11(a) and 11(b) proved to be quite demanding for most students. It differentiated well between the more able and less able students. Only a few of the able students who listened carefully to the recording managed to attain two marks. The majority of students failed to score 2

marks because they struggled to understand the word “tourist” in Urdu. They also struggled to understand the words “sympathetic” and “sincere” in Urdu.

Question 11(c) was handled reasonably well by the majority of students, and a proportion of them with a good understanding of the language encountered no problems and achieved the full two marks.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.

Converting Marks into UMS marks

Convert raw or scaled marks into marks on the Uniform Mark Scale (UMS) by using the link below.

UMS conversion calculator www.aqa.org.uk/umsconversion