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Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

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Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Urdu (1UR0) Paper 3H: Reading and Understanding

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Introduction

This paper is worth 50 marks and is divided into 3 sections. Section A is worth 28 marks and required answers in English language using a mix of MCQ or descriptive answers. Section B is worth 15 marks and required answers in Urdu. Section C is worth 7 marks and required the translation of short passage from Urdu into English. Candidates had 1 hour and 5 minutes to complete the paper.

Question 1

Candidates were asked to read a text about someone's daily routine and the use of internet and answer questions in English. All 3 parts a, b and c were answered well by the majority of candidates.

In minority of cases unsuccessful candidates lost the mark by failing to be very precise. While the rubric states that candidates need not write in full sentences, they must write enough to convey a correct answer. For example in 1c) the correct answer was buying books on the internet. Just writing shopping or online shopping is not sufficient.

Question 2

Candidates were asked to read a short literary text and answer questions in English.

- a) Was successfully answered by the majority of candidates.
- B) Again was very well answered, and most of the successful candidates read the question carefully and answered accordingly.
- c) Successful candidates inferred correctly that the principal did not approve their request.
- d) Successful candidates answered 'pen radio' while less successful candidates guessed wildly or just wrote 'a pen or expensive pen' which was not supported by the text. 'The word radio' is necessary for the mark.

Question 3

Candidates were asked to read a text on the tourism in Pakistan and answer questions in English. There was no particularly difficult vocabulary that was tested, as the emphasis of the question was on inferring the correct answer, rather than translating each word. Candidates should be encouraged to read for gist and interpretation of the text, rather than expect to understand every word.

- a) A majority of candidates were successful here.
- b) Candidates generally coped well with this question, answering correctly.
- c) Candidates did not find this question challenging. The most successful candidates understood the concept of 'good quality clothes at right price' in Urdu.
- d) Less successful candidates did not understand that the route to Swat valley is dangerous and mentioned beauty, which was in the text, but not tested.
- e) Candidates were generally successful in giving reason here for not being able to take pictures because it was not allowed.

Question 4

Here candidates were required to read an extract from a literary text, Eid-gah by Munshi Prem Chand and select an answer from the four options available. The majority of candidates were able to score at least 4 points on this question. The most challenging part was part (v) as candidates had to interpret meaning. For part (v), less successful candidates chose C or D instead of A.

Question 5

Candidates were asked to read an article about different people talking about their interests and answer questions in English.

5a- d) required a name from a given list.

5e and f) required more detailed answers in English.

The most successful answers were (a), (b), (c) and (d). Questions (e) and (f) proved slightly more challenging as full answers were needed.

For e) the most successful candidates answered that 'he wants to become a pilot and travel the world to fulfil his dream'

For f) the most successful candidates answered 'she helps her fellow candidates by designing costumes for them or helping them in make-up'. Some less successful candidates guessed 'works with them' which is incomplete and not correct according to the given text.

Question 6

Candidates were asked to read an article on Urdu language spoken in Britain and other European countries and in (i) tick 3 correct statements from a list, In (ii) and (iii) candidates had to answer questions in English.

(i) A majority of candidates achieved high marks crossing BEG correctly. Some candidates also mentioned D. Candidates should be encouraged to only tick/cross only the number of boxes required.

(ii) The most successful candidates answered 'Urdu is taught in Schools in Britain' or 'in Europe Urdu is not taught in schools'.

(iii) Successful candidates answered 'teachers from across Britain' or 'Urdu teachers teaching in British schools'. The most common answer was 'teachers'.

Question 7.

Candidates were asked to read a text from Ali talking about his granddad and answer multiple choice questions by crossing a box. A majority of candidates were successful achieved full marks.

Question 8.

Candidates had to read a text about different people's daily routine and identify who does what on each day of the week, using the names of the days given in the rubric.

a, b, c,d and e were all generally successfully answered.

Question 9

This question required candidates to read a passage in Urdu on the theme of self-employment / personal business and answer questions in Urdu, which the majority of candidates did very successfully, showing good understanding both of the text and the questions. Majority of the candidates scored at least 3 points from the 5 available.

A vast majority of candidates answered part (a) correctly, although a few answered 'mechanic' for this and this was incorrect. Part (b) was also answered correctly by a majority of candidates. In part (c), some candidates lost the mark as their answer was not specific enough. They simply wrote 'because afterall he was his son' but that did not answer the question as the reason was due to 'his hardwork and success'. Parts (d) and (e) were answered correctly by the majority of candidates. In this question, there were few blank responses and candidates are again advised to attempt all questions in order to be able to access the full range of marks.

Question 10

This question required candidates to translate a short passage from Urdu into English. This was well attempted by the majority of candidates, with varying degrees of success. A significant number of candidates managed to fully understand the gist of the text and translated into urdu successfully. A majority of candidates attained between 5 to 7 marks in this task.

Summary

Based on their performance in this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Candidates should read all questions carefully, paying particular attention to the question rubrics.
- Candidates must remember that, in the multiple-choice questions, most alternative incorrect options will contain an element of distraction, such as a word or phrase candidates will have to read. Learning to look for these can be a helpful skill.
- Candidates must ensure that their translation reads naturally in English. It is often not possible to translate word-for-word from the original Urdu text. There will probably be unknown words, or even whole sentences, in the translation. Candidates should translate the words they do know and then make a sensible guess at the unknowns from the context.
- Candidates need to proof-read what they write and run a 'sense-check'.
- Candidates must answer all questions and not leave blank spaces. An educated guess may get some credit but a blank space will not. They should also check that they have not missed out any questions by accident.
- Candidates must remember to be careful with handwriting and to present their work neatly.

