



Examiners' Report Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2022

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Urdu (1UR0)

Paper 3H: Reading and Understanding in Urdu

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Overview

GCSE Urdu paper 1UR0 3H is assessed by means of a sixty five minute examination. During this time, students are assessed on their understanding of written Urdu across a range of different types of texts. The paper draws on vocabulary and structures across all of the themes.

The assessment consists of 10 questions and the total mark for the paper is 50 marks. Section A has six questions set in English, two of which are questions based on literary extracts. Section B contains three questions set in Urdu. Section C contains one translation passage from Urdu into English.

Texts for individual questions within the assessment use high frequency language and vary in length, including both short and longer written passages. Texts include authentic sources that introduce more complex language and unfamiliar materials. Literary texts consist of short extracts from texts that may have been adapted and abridged from authentic sources to be appropriate to this level.

Most students at this level achieved a good measure of success on questions with English prompts which required the recall of familiar vocabulary items from the list provided in the specification and most students were able to gain some marks on the translation into English task. However, some students were less successful on questions which required processing or interpreting meaning. The literary texts and questions with rubrics in Urdu proved accessible to those achieving higher scores on the paper.

Question 1

Students were asked to read a text about voluntary work and answer questions in English. All 3 parts a, b and c were answered well by the majority of students.

In minority of cases unsuccessful students lost the mark by failing to be very precise. While the rubric states that students need not write in full sentences, they must write enough to convey a correct answer. For example in 1b) the correct answer was buy fresh fruits and vegetables for them. Just writing shopping for food is not sufficient.

Question 2

In this question students were required to read an extract from a literary text, by Munshi Prem Chand's story 'Shikwa Shikayat' and answer questions in English. This proved challenging for some students, however two thirds of students scored 3 points or more. Students are reminded of the importance of reading the question carefully before answering. There were occasionally some blank spaces left by students in response to this question. While students may not know a response, they are advised to at least have an educated guess based on the context of the question, as leaving a blank space will never be given any credit.

Question 3

Students were asked to read text about an internet chat forum 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. Students should be encouraged to read for gist and interpretation of the text, rather than expect to understand every word.

Most students generally coped well with this question, answering correctly. Students did not find this question challenging. The most successful students understood the concept of watching tv dramas and peoples' preferences in Urdu. However, less successful students failed to understand that the main benefit of watching dramas on mobile phone is that you don't have to watch the adverts. Some students wrote convenience, which was not in the text.

Question 4

Here students were required to read an extract from a literary text, *Baba Noor*, by Ahmed Nadeem Qasmi and select an answer from the four options available. The majority of students were able to score at least 4 points on this question. The most challenging part was part (ii) as students had to interpret meaning. For part (ii), less successful students chose A or B instead of C.

Question 5

Students were asked to read an article about different people talking about their opinions and experience of voluntary work and answer questions in English.

(a– d) required a name from a given list, whilst (e and f) required more detailed answers in English.

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

For part (e) the most successful students answered that 'they joined in cleaning the park with them'.

For part (f) the most successful students answered 'by helping them we can get to know them better'. Some less successful students guessed 'being with them' which is incomplete and not correct according to the given text.

Question 6

Students were asked to read an article on my first day in school and in part (i) they had to tick 3 correct statements from a list, In part (ii) and part (iii) students had to answer questions in English.

(i) Most students gained high marks crossing CEG correctly. Some students also mentioned D. Students should be encouraged to only tick/cross only the number of boxes required.

(ii) The most successful students answered 'they were eager to befriend her' or 'gathered around her'.

(iii) Successful students answered 'didn't let her feel lonely' or 'helped her to make friends'.

Question 7

Students were asked to read a text from Amina talking about healthy living and answer multiple choice questions by crossing a box. Most students were successful with many gaining full marks.

Question 8

Students had to read a text about different people's preferred mode of transport and identify who prefers which type of transportation for travelling, using the names of the people given in the rubric.

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

Question 9

This question required students to read a passage in Urdu on the theme of new restaurant and answer questions in Urdu, which the majority of students did very successfully, showing good understanding both of the text and the questions. Majority of the students scored at least 3 points from the 5 available.

Almost all students answered part (a) correctly, although a few answered 'bread' for this and this was incorrect. In part (b), some students lost the mark as their answer was not specific enough. They simply wrote 'because the food is prepared according to time' but that did not answer the question as the reason was due to 'the food is prepared in short time'. Part (c) was also answered correctly by most students. Parts (d) and (e) were answered correctly by the majority of students. In this question, there were few blank responses and students are again advised to attempt all questions in order to be able to access the full range of marks.

Question 10

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

Paper Summary

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

- Students should read all questions carefully, paying particular attention to the question rubrics.
- Students must remember that, in the multiple-choice questions, most alternative incorrect options will contain an element of distraction, such as a word or phrase students will have to read. Learning to look for these can be a helpful skill.
- Students 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. Students should translate the words they do know and then make a sensible guess at the unknowns from the context.
- Students need to proof-read what they write and run a 'sense-check'.
- Students 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.
- Students must remember to be careful with handwriting and to present their work neatly.