Pearson Edexcel

# Examiners' Report
# Principal Examiner Feedback

## January 2020

### Pearson Edexcel International GCSE
### In Bangla (4BA0) Paper 01: Reading, Writing and Translation

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**General comments**

This is the first January setting of the new International GCSE Bangla qualification. A good proportion of candidates performed very well and scored high marks in the paper. A variety of question styles were displayed to comply with the different levels of demand. The paper comprises three main sections: Section A is mainly reading and responding to a variety of tasks. Section B comprises the guided writing tasks to a variety of topics. The last section C is a short translation task from English into Bangla.

Candidates had every opportunity to respond to these variety of tasks in each section. Some key words and phrases helped to discriminate between good and adequate performance of the candidates. Also, several outstanding pieces of translations including examples of continuous pieces of writings were evident from a good number of responses.

**Section A: Reading and responding (Q1 – Q4)**

**Question 1**

**Question type: Multiple choice word drop question.**

This text was about *a boy Sohel who encountered difficulties during his recent visit to Dhaka**.***
Candidates were provided with 12 words in a box plus one example. They were asked to drop the correct letter from that box into the answer grid below to indicate which word would fit in the gap in the statement. Distractor were provided to fit more than one option. A majority of candidates answered successfully all 6 gaps to a greater extent. The average score for this question was 6.

**Question 2**

**Question type: Multiple choice matching question**.

The text was about *the family relationships of three youngsters*: Candidates were asked to match the statements to the correct named person(s) by matching the appropriate statements to the correct named person(s) by marking the appropriate boxes with an [X].
Some successful candidates struggled to differentiate *I don't see my mother often* in F with *I tend to have more affection from my father than mother* and so scored less marks. The average score for this question was 7.

**Question 3**

**Question type: Note taking question**.

The text was about *a young woman's story who made her dream come true in Bangladesh.* The candidates are required to complete the sentences 3 (a-i) with correct words or phrases. Many candidates achieved maximum marks in these questions. However, a number of candidates failed to answer Q03 (b) as they struggled to distinguish between the t*ypes of exams and the subjects* and so provided wrong answers which resulted them in scoring 0 mark in both parts of 3(b). Some candidates also struggled to grasp the idea of *the source of the main character's inspiration to realise her dreams* in 3(i) and so scored 0 mark there. The average score for this question was **11.**

**Question 4(a)**

**Question type: Open response questions.**

**Text: Literary text**

The text was about the extract from the story, 'The City of My Childhood**'** followed by a set questionnaire

4(a)(i-v). A majority of candidates achieved good marks for this question although some candidates did not answer Q04a(ii) as they struggled to differentiate the two part question '*What amazed him when he visited the shop in the big market and what did the writer aspire to be? Therefore, these candidates scored fewer marks.* A majority of candidates succeeded to scoring well on the rest of the questions. The average score recorded for this question was 8.

**Question 4(b)**

**Question type: Summary question**

The text was a follow up of the content of the text in 4(a). The text comprises a discussion between two friends about the city life with reference to the literary text and a way forward. The candidates were asked to read, understand the outcomes of the discussion and summarise the main points of the discussion. The most frequently correct inferential answers given in response to 1st part of 4(b)(i). In Q04b(ii), some candidates did not score full marks because of summarising very generic comments about the positive impact of technology on the lifestyle and how this generation can deal with the traffic situation. In fact, they copied literally the answer from the text and so scored 0 on that point. The average score recoded on Q4b was **3**.

**Section B: Writing**

**Question 5**

**Question type: Shorter writing task – open response**

The question was about writing a paragraph on *spare time activities*. A majority of candidates performed well and were able to use the 4 words or phrases given in the task and scored good marks both in the *communication* as well as in the *quality of language*. However, some candidates struggled to produce a continuous piece of writing due to lack of skills to display grammatically appropriate structures and coherence in context; some candidates even struggled to grasp the idea of *favourite hobby* and failed to address this part in their writing, therefore scoring few marks. The average score recorded on this question was 12.

Some candidates misinterpreted the term 'favourite hobby' in Bangla and therefore failed to address this part. Candidates need to be aware that it is mandatory to refer all four key points with at least two-time frames to secure marks in the top band. For Q05, a majority of the candidates achieved 6 in Communication and Content and 5 in Linguistic knowledge and Accuracy.

**Question 6(a, b, c)**

**Question type: Longer writing task – open response**

The candidates had a choice of one response from three for this question. Although the tasks were longer narratives followed by certain guided points provided, Q6b was a narrative in response to an email stimulus. These narrative writing were on different contents and topics. Q6a was to write a magazine article on describing one's future dream house. Q6b was on *studies and the future plans* and Q6c was on the healthy eating and lifestyle. The candidates successfully narrated their chosen task with a range of vocabularies and structures. A good number of candidates used straightforward language with extended well-linked sentences, referencing to past, present and future events. Some candidates made good efforts to combine facts with opinion/s and so scored high marks. However, there were instances, when some candidates struggled to display these criteria in their written pieces and so scored few marks.
Amongst the three options, Q6b was the most popular and responded by many candidates which was evident in the statistics. However, some candidates attempted Q6a and Q6c. Other candidates struggled to grasp the concept of 'ways of making the house *environmentally friendly*, on Q6(a), *favourite subjects* in Q6(b) and the *challenges in maintaining a healthy lifestyle in Q(6c)* These have resulted them in scoring few marks.

For Q6a, the average score recorded was **20** for Q6b, the average score was also **21**. However, for Q6c, the average score recorded was **20**.

**Section C: Translation**

**Question 7**

This question was to translate a short English passage into Bangla. Most of the candidates achieved good marks in this question, although, a good number of candidates failed to achieve higher marks due to their unfamiliarity of the Bangla vocabulary of the English terminologies used in the text. For example, *'recently formed', 'young men and women', 'employment', 'interview techniques' etc.* A number of candidates found some of the phrases such as *'competitive job market', 'aspirations to move away', 'traditional manual labour jobs' and 'highly skilled jobs' challenging*. It was due to the fact that they are lacking appropriate knowledge and skills in transmitting these words/phrases in Bangla. The spelling errors also often hindered their transmission. However, the average marks scored were 13.

Overall, candidates had found this paper accessible without much difficulty.

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