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Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2018

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In Bengali (4BE0) Paper 01

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General comments

About 2555 students were entered for the IGCSE Bengali in June 2018. A good proportion of students performed well and scored high marks in the paper.

Question 1

Able candidates generally performed well in translating all 5 sentences without any difficulty and scored good marks. However, less able candidates struggled due to the lack of appropriate syntactical and grammatical knowledge in transmitting ideas, which was evidenced in 1(a), 1(c) and 1(e) in particular. In 1(a), some candidates ignored the exclamation mark and the phrase associated with it i.e., '**how heavy**' and so lost marks there. In 1(c) quite a few students had difficulties in translating '**at the outset**' and '**project**'. Similarly, in 1(e), the word '**tourist**' as well as '**attract**' was not translated appropriately by average candidates.

Question 2

This question was about the information Science and Technology museum situated in the capital city of Bangladesh. Generally, the transmission of this passage by the majority of candidates was well responded to, except that a number of average students found the passage challenging and struggled to translate 'preserves', '**innovative**', 'exhibits', '**advancement**', 'amateur', '**static**', '**water hyacinth**' and 'shrubs'. So, they used either inappropriate meaning or transliterations. Nevertheless, stronger candidates performed well and achieved good marks.

Question 3

This question was about a student of Dhaka University who struggled from his childhood and finally reached to his ultimate goal. Most students transformed the key ideas fairly well on this question and transmitting the passage successfully. In cases where the candidates were unable to put the correct meanings of Bengali words and phrases such as '**khoborer kaagoj bili**', '**nirokkhar**', '**aarthik shonkot**', '**shuprotishthitow**, and '**niojitow**', they used either their transliterations or inappropriate words.

Question 4

The essay option **4a was very popular** well responded by most students. However, **4b** and **4c** were well responded by the stronger students. The able students put their view points, feelings, and thoughts coherently and sequentially giving their justifications followed by displaying facts and information, hence scored good marks. Only a very small number of the students had written essay less than the required number of words, the quality and the required relevant information being taken into account; it resulted in them scoring lower marks.

There was a requirement of an anticipation of facts, good flow, analysis of points of view and opinion(s). Unfortunately, it was not evident amongst average students in general. There were quite a few occasions when responses were mainly descriptive. Also, not very many students used high level vocabulary, idiomatic phrases or expressions. The manipulation of languages was often very basic. The use of syntax and wrong use of verb forms, mismatching of verb endings gave the amount of common spelling errors highlighted as if it was the second language for a number of students, so they scored less than expected. On the other hand, students who fulfilled these criteria and displayed a coherent piece of writing displaying a variety of structures, a range of vocabulary, obviously scored the top range marks.

Conclusion

The overall performances of able students showed that the standard of literacy including the transmission skills to and from the target language has improved on several occasions. This may be due to centres have embedded appropriate exam techniques required for this examination.

However, less able students' performances on average were not as good as expected. It was due to their lack of good grasp of the grammatical knowledge in both English and in the target language, inabilities to display a range of structures and phrases, manipulation of tense concepts / time frames and common spelling errors. Also, a wide display of transliterated words / phrases was evident in the students' performances across the board.

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