

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2016

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE
In Gujarati (4GU0) Paper 01
Written Paper

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Publications Code 4GU0_01_1606_ER

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This year the number of entries was slightly higher than last year. The paper was considered suitable and an appropriate test for the whole range of abilities. The overall performance of candidates was of a very good standard. It demonstrated secure knowledge of language and enjoyment of the subject. Most of the candidates demonstrated their knowledge and understanding of grammatical rules with accuracy and adopted an appropriate formal style of Gujarati language. It also included accuracy in spellings and style with a good range of structures presented.

The majority of candidates managed to demonstrate their translation skills for both English to Gujarati and Gujarati to English.

They showed their flexibility in communication in writing essays and letters in Gujarati. They were successful in manipulating the language accurately to organise facts and ideas, presenting explanations, opinions and information in writing.

Higher ability candidates demonstrated extensive vocabulary, idioms and structure, a secure grasp of tense concept/ time reference, use of more complex structures and a clear ability to manipulate language to suit the task.

The middle ability candidates acquitted themselves well and were accurate, but the range they used was fairly limited. Therefore they lost the opportunity to demonstrate a wider range of the language, which could have improved their overall quality mark. They misunderstood some points and had some major omissions with a degree of irrelevance and repetition. There was some evidence of correct time sequences but mostly candidates were inconsistent and insecure. Quality of Language was fairly accurate and simple but there was inconsistency in application of grammar, syntax and morphology when attempting more complex language.

Some candidates with weak ability were not successful in understanding straightforward sections. Their style was incomprehensible. Many basic errors were noticed in all aspects of grammar.

Question 1. Sentences testing grammatical knowledge:

The majority of candidates performed very well.

Q1 (a) Most of them translated correctly but few candidates translated the word “**slipped**” as a fall (in Gujarati there are different words for to slip means **લપસવું** and to fall means **પડવું**).

Q1 (b) some candidates could not translate the word “international” and transliterate “**ઈન્ટરનેશનલ**” should be translated in Gujarati “**આંતરરાષ્ટ્રીય**”.

Q1 (c) Few could not translate the word “self-confidence”.

Q1 (d) and (e) Almost all the candidates performed very well.

There was some evidence of the use of correct grammar for translation.

Question 2. Translation into Gujarati: Transmission:

Some candidates showed their skill with clear grasp of detail and excellent transfer of inference, nuance and idiom.

The majority of the candidates enjoyed translating into Gujarati and showed their transmission skill by providing competent rendering of original text with grasp of most detail, nuance and idiom.

However some candidates failed to transmit successfully as some very straightforward sections were totally misunderstood.

Quality of language:

Some of the candidates showed a high level of accuracy overall with occasional basic errors, usually in more complex language. They used a wide range of lexis and structure appropriate to task, and the grasp of tone concept/ time sequence was generally secured. On the other hand some candidates showed inaccuracies in basic grammar, although narrative sections, usually short and straightforward are in general correct; lexis and structure appropriate to the task tend to be adequate with several items unknown. Some of the candidates totally misunderstood large sections. There was no awareness of tense concept/ time sequence and could notice basic error in all aspects of grammar.

As this Question was about the life in the town and rural life they enjoyed translating the passage. There were very interesting Gujarati vocabularies used by candidates such as for the word 'luxurious life' Gujarati vocabulary used were – 'શાનદાર જીવન, વૈભવી જીવન, અજબ જીવન, રાજશાહી જીવન, etc.' Some candidates could not translate the words like, rural, urban, stress free, sentimental, etc. Overall most of them enjoyed translating this Question.

Question 3. Translation into English:

This was about Shopping and money matters. Most of the candidates enjoyed translating and performed very well. Some of the candidates found difficult to translate the words "પત્થરયુગ" and "નાણાંનું ચલણ" for the words Stone Age and currency. Most of them misinterpreted 'સભ્ય and સભ્યતા.' which means "civilised." This word was incorrectly translated as "member." because it's a synonym and means member as well so only a few candidates managed to translate correctly.

On the whole Question 3 was performed better than Question 2, although there were similar errors for Transmission and Quality of language as in Q.2.

Question 4. Essay writing in Gujarati

There were four options for candidates to choose from so they chose the ones they found interesting and felt confident. Q. 4a, c and d) were similarly popular so attempted by nearly the same numbers of candidates but Q.4b was the least popular.

(a) “A dream which you would like to fulfil.”

This question was attempted by 45 out of 151 candidates. As this was about fulfilling their dreams, very interesting dreams were described by candidates. Most of them about becoming rich and doing something to help the poor and needy people on the earth.

(b) “Write about your involvement in a celebration of 100 years of your school.”

This was the least popular attempted only by 9 candidates. This may have been because many the school of many of the students may not have been 100 years old so it could have difficult to write about this.

(c) “Express your views on the effects of cutting trees on humans and wildlife.”

This was as popular as question (a). 46 candidates attempted this question and performed very well. As this was about the environment the candidates expressed their emotions, concerns to save the world and environmental friendly feelings. Mostly all of the candidates explained very well about the effects of cutting trees on mankind, animals and birds.

(d) “Who is your favourite member of the family and why?”

This was the most popular question out of all four attempted by 51 candidates. As this was the subject about their own choice of the family member the candidates described it very well. Most popular member of family was their mother and second best was their father. They enjoyed describing their feelings about their mother, about how she brought up them, no matter whatever difficulties she had to face in life and showed their love towards the mother and their desire to do something for their parents in future.

Although this year there was no letter writing a couple of candidates wrote the whole essay in a letter format.

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