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Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2018

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE
In Hindi (4HNO) Paper 01

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General Introduction

The International GCSE Hindi paper tested the candidate's ability and competence in use of Hindi language in a range of contexts. The paper was well within the reach of the candidates and it appeared to be slightly challenging than the previous year's paper. The questions set in the paper required the level of understanding of the candidate acquiring knowledge of the Hindi language which they need to apply in a range of given situations, whether it be formal or informal. This involved the use of formal grammar, style and vocabulary of the Hindi language writing on the particular topics given.

There were four questions (compulsory) but with a choice of one from four topics in the essay question (question 4). All candidates were expected to write a piece of composition at question 4.

Question 1

There were five sentences set at this question to be translated into Hindi and each sentence was assessing different aspects of grammatical structure of the Hindi language. Almost all candidates found this question accessible and the majority of them translated very well. A few candidates at the lower end understood the content but could not apply the required grammatical structure to make an appropriate sentence. The common mistakes were as follows:

Q1 (a) Candidates were required to write "मनुष्य प्रकृति की सर्वश्रेष्ठ रचना है।" but some candidates at the middle and lower end mixed up the information and wrote "मनुष्य की प्रकृति सर्वश्रेष्ठ रचना करता है।" these candidates were awarded according to the information they provided.

Q1 (b) required candidates to write "इस समस्या का समाधान क्या है?" and the majority of the candidates did very well providing alternative words for 'solution' in Hindi. They demonstrated good understanding of the content but as this was an interrogative sentence some candidates didn't use the appropriate punctuation mark to make it a question.

Q1(c) A majority of candidates did very well at this question. Some candidates made mistakes. This sentence appeared to be challenging than other sentences at this question as candidates miss interpreted the word 'writing' in this context. They were required to write सूरदास की कविताओं में सूरसागर सर्वश्रेष्ठ है

Q1 (d) was a conditional sentence and the majority of candidates did this well using appropriate conjunction and punctuation mark. Some candidates at the lower end did not translate the word 'unsuccessful' correctly and some did not translate the word college. The question required them to write "यदि सुमन अपनी परीक्षा में असफल हो जाती है, तो वह महाविद्यालय नहीं जा सकती।"

Q1 (e) was attempted well by the majority of candidates but some of the candidates translated the word business incorrectly. They were required to write "जब से रोहित ने नया व्यापार शुरू किया है, वह बहुत पैसे कमा रहा है।"

Overall this question was equally challenging in comparison with previous years' paper.

All candidates were awarded marks for their knowledge of grammar in accordance with the quality of their work using the mark scheme rigorously.

Questions 2 and 3

These two questions were translations – from English to Hindi and Hindi to English.

Question 2 was set on the topic of young people choosing to live independently after completing their education. Almost all candidates did well in relating to the topic while some at the upper end produced a very good quality translations and scored very good marks.

There were grammatical mistakes in candidates' work as some of the candidates at the lower end did not have a thorough knowledge of the Hindi language. They could not form the sentences correctly particular at complex sentences but their communication was clear.

Question 3 was set on the topic of eating habits. The text was accessible to candidates of all abilities. All candidates produced reasonably good work according to their ability. Many candidates at the lower end of the ability range appeared to be making a common mistakes using inappropriate subject-verb agreement in their sentences.

The majority of candidates did very well on this question but there were a few who could not translate the text in an appropriate manner. They were awarded according to the quality of their work and the mark scheme was applied rigorously.

Question 4

At this question candidates were required to write a composition in Hindi using between 200-250 words, and they had a choice of four topics. The majority of candidates chose to write an essay on 'छात्रों को घर के कार्य में कितनी मदद करनी चाहिए?'.

Their essays were very interesting to read with logical examples based on their own experiences. However some candidates at the lower end did not relate to the title appropriately and wrote their views which were not based on what they were asked to do. The second favourite choice was to write an essay on "कल्पना कीजिए कि आप अपने स्थानीय समुदाय के नेता हैं, आप अपने क्षेत्र में क्या परिवर्तन करेंगे ?

Some candidates at the upper end justified their role as a leader of their community very well while a few at the lower end of ability range could not write appropriate actions they will take after becoming a leader.

Third favourite choice made by the candidates was अपने देश में अमीर और गरीब के बीच की खाई का वर्णन करें । A few candidates wrote a good quality essays on this topic while a number of them could not justify what they were writing. This appeared to be most challenging topic at this question.

A number of candidates wrote an essay on आजकल मीडिया ज़िम्मेदारी की भूमिका नहीं निभा रहा है । आप इस विचार से किस हद तक सहमत या असहमत हैं? They portrayed a good picture of the role of the media in these days but could not justify the statement very well. Only a few candidates at the upper end of ability range produced good essays.

Almost all candidates wrote good pieces of composition except a few candidates at the lower end. They demonstrated good knowledge and understanding of the Hindi language and its grammatical structure.

Conclusion

The candidates could not score better marks in comparison with previous year as the paper appeared to be challenging. Although most candidates demonstrated good knowledge of key vocabulary, there was evidence of poor spelling and syntax errors particularly in complex sentences and in the translation of articles. Teachers are advised to train candidates to read and understand a range of texts. Furthermore, it is advised that teachers should discuss how the language works in terms of grammatical structures as this is clearly advised in the IGCSE specification.

Particularly for question 4 candidates should be guided to write their response to the situations portrayed and information required in the question. They should be advised to read the question carefully, understand what they are required to write, how to elaborate on their view points and then accomplish the task. Teaching and learning grammatical structure should be embedded in day to day teaching and learning with thorough details.

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