

London Examinations GCE Ordinary Level  
Bangladesh Studies (7038)  
For first examination in May/June 2005

August 2004

delivered locally, recognised globally

Syllabus

London Examinations GCE Ordinary Level

# Bangladesh Studies (7038)

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# Ordinary level Bangladesh Studies 7038

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This subject may be taken at both the May/June and January examinations.

## Introduction

This syllabus has been introduced to provide teachers and trainers in Bangladesh with an up-to-date method of assessing students' understanding of the social, historical, cultural and environmental background of Bangladesh. The development of the syllabus has only been possible with advice and feedback from teachers and others in Bangladesh.

## Key features

- examined twice a year, in May/June and January, from May/June 2005
- clearly defined syllabus content
- sufficient time in the examinations for candidates to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the syllabus content
- an opportunity to focus on contemporary issues in Bangladesh
- a choice of topics to be studied. It is not necessary for students to study all sections of the syllabus
- an accompanying Teacher's Guide, including how to plan the course as a one- or two-year course of study
- a Student Study Guide for class or independent use.

## Aims

The aim of this syllabus is to enable candidates to acquire a sound knowledge and a balanced understanding of the history and culture of Bangladesh, and of the land, people and economy of the country.

## Assessment objectives

Assessment objective	Weighting of assessment objective
recall, select and use knowledge of the syllabus content (AO1)	40%
demonstrate an understanding of this knowledge (AO2)	40%
evaluate differing explanations, interpretations and points of view (AO3)	20%

The above weightings are approximate.

All three assessment objectives are assessed in both Paper 1 and Paper 2.

## Scheme of assessment

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Assessment of this syllabus will be available in English only. All written work for examination must be submitted in English.

There will be **two** written examination papers. Each examination paper will contribute 50% of the total mark.

<b>Paper 1</b> The History and Culture of Bangladesh	1 hour 30 minutes	60 marks
<b>Paper 2</b> The Land, People and Economy of Bangladesh	1 hour 30 minutes	60 marks

### Paper One: The History and Culture of Bangladesh

**1 hour 30 minutes**

#### Summary

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 16 questions set</li><li>• 2 on each section of the syllabus content</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 questions to be answered</li><li>• each on a different section of the syllabus content</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 20 marks per question</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 60 marks total</li></ul>
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The paper will consist of sixteen questions and candidates must answer **three** of these, **each from a different section of the syllabus content**. It is not therefore necessary for students to study all eight sections of the syllabus.

Two questions will be set on each of the eight sections in the syllabus content.

The first question will have bullet points to suggest ideas to candidates and to help them structure their answers.

The second will require candidates to choose two topics or individuals – from those listed in the question.

All questions will be marked out of 20 according to four levels of response.

Teachers should refer to the *Specimen Papers and Mark Schemes* booklet for sample questions and mark schemes. These are available from Edexcel Publications (see page 10).

## Paper Two: The Land, People and Economy of Bangladesh

1 hour 30 minutes

### Summary

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 7 questions set</li><li>• 1 compulsory, and 2 on each of the 3 sections of the syllabus content</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4 questions to be answered</li><li>• 1 compulsory, plus 3 others, each on a different section of the syllabus content</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 15 marks per question</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 60 marks total</li></ul>
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Section A will comprise a compulsory question. It will cover the basic geography of Bangladesh and will usually be based on a map.

Candidates will then be required to answer a further three questions, choosing one from Section B The Land, one from Section C The People, and one from Section D The Economy.

There will be a choice from two questions in Section B, Section C and Section D. Each question will test knowledge and understanding of at least one of the section's four key topics.

All questions will be structured and will involve, in some instances, the interpretation of resource materials.

Teachers should refer to the *Specimen Papers and Mark Schemes* booklet for sample questions and mark schemes. These are available from Edexcel Publications (see page 10).

# Syllabus content

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## Paper 1: The History and Culture of Bangladesh

The content for Paper 1 is in **eight** sections.

### Section 1 Bengal before the Mughals

Candidates should be able to demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of

- a) Hinduism and Buddhism in Bengal
- b) The Turkish invasion and the spread of Islam
- c) Sufis and Sufism
- d) Bengal under the sultanate
- e) The role of individuals: Bakhtiar Khalji, Iliyas Shah, Hossain Shah

### Section 2 Bengal in the Mughal Empire

Candidates should be able to demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of

- a) The occupation of Bengal
- b) The Mughal administration in Bengal
- c) Problems faced by the Mughals in Bengal
- d) Development of Dhaka and its trade relations
- e) The role of individuals: Islam Khan, Shaista Khan, Murshid Quli Khan

### Section 3 Bengal under British rule

Candidates should be able to demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of

- a) The British conquest of Bengal
- b) The government of Bengal by the East India Company
- c) The development of the Bangla language, Bengali nationalism and the Indian National Congress
- d) The government of Bengal from 1858 to the beginning of the twentieth century
- e) The role of individuals: Robert Clive, Warren Hastings, Lord Cornwallis



#### **Section 4 Bengal from partition to partition: 1905-1947**

Candidates should be able to demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of

- a) The first partition of Bengal, the birth of the All-India Muslim League, the annulment of partition
- b) British attempts to reform the government of India: 1909, 1919 and 1935
- c) The impact of the Lahore Declaration and the Pakistan Movement
- d) The Indian Independence Act and the second partition of Bengal
- e) The role of individuals: M. A Jinnah, Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose

#### **Section 5 Undivided Pakistan**

Candidates should be able to demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of

- a) Constitutional differences between East and West Pakistan
- b) Linguistic and cultural differences between East and West Pakistan
- c) The foundation of the Awami Muslim League
- d) The Lahore Conference and the Six-Point Programme
- e) The role of individuals: M. A. Jinnah, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, President Ayub Khan

#### **Section 6 The struggle for independence and the creation of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

Candidates should be able to demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of

- a) The impact of the 1970 National Assembly elections
- b) The War of Liberation
- c) Immediate problems faced by the Republic of Bangladesh
- d) The Bangladesh Constitution
- e) The role of individuals: Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, President Yahya Khan, Indira Gandhi

## **Section 7     Bangladesh since 1975**

Candidates should be able to demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of

- a) Political changes since 1975
- b) The development and role of political parties
- c) Bangladesh in world affairs
- d) Contemporary issues in Bangladesh e.g. the media, education, popular culture, music, the role of women, the press, agriculture, industry, social and political issues
- e) The role of individuals: Ziaur Rahman, H.M. Ershad, Khaleda Zia, Sheikh Hasina

## **Section 8     The heritage, language and culture of Bangladesh**

Candidates should be able to demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of

- a) The influence of religion on art and culture
- b) The Language Movement, Ekushey February and UN Mother Tongue Day
- c) Folk literature, music and culture in Bangladesh
- d) Tribal culture (Hill Tracts, Garo and Santhal)
- e) The role of individuals: Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrual Islam, Begum Sufia Kamal

### **Notes**

In topics such as tribal culture, candidates would not be expected to display knowledge and understanding of any one tribe, but will be able to comment generally on tribal culture. The question would allow them to comment on any chosen tribe. Candidates would also not be expected to write about all of the individuals mentioned in a section. They would be given a choice from two or more of the individuals.

When planning courses, teachers can choose topics for teaching from the above content. It is not necessary to study all the content, since candidates are required to answer on three sections only. The accompanying *Teacher's Guide* gives advice to teachers on course planning over one or two years (see page 10).

## Paper 2: The Land, People and Economy of Bangladesh

The content for Paper 2 is in 3 sections:

1. The Land
2. The People
3. The Economy.

Each section comprises **four** key topics.

### Section 1 The Land

#### 1.1 *Location, Relief and Drainage*

Candidates should be able to

- demonstrate a knowledge of the location of Bangladesh in the world
- locate and name the main features of relief and drainage of Bangladesh and discuss the influence of physical features and rivers on human activities.

#### 1.2 *Climate*

Candidates should be able to

- describe and explain the main features of the climates of Bangladesh, including the nature and causes of seasonal and regional variations in rainfall
- discuss the causes and possible outcomes of global warming
- analyse and use climatic data.

#### 1.3 *Natural Resources*

Candidates should be able to

- explain the importance to Bangladesh of the following natural resources: soils, vegetation (forests and mangroves), wildlife (including fish), minerals and energy sources
- discuss the reasons why the use of these resources should be carefully managed.

#### 1.4 *Natural Hazards*

Candidates should be able to

- explain the causes, effects and responses to cyclones, tidal waves, floods, droughts and earthquakes.

## **Section 2    The People**

### *2.1    Population Growth and Distribution*

Candidates should be able to

- discuss the problems caused by rapid population growth and the steps taken to reduce it
- analyse and use population data, including birth and death rates, natural growth rate, infant and maternal mortality rates and life expectancy; interpret population pyramids
- describe the distribution of population within Bangladesh; understand the factors causing spatial variations in population density.

### *2.2    Migration*

Candidates should be able to

- explain the reasons for, and effects of, migration within Bangladesh (particularly rural-urban) and migration to other countries.

### *2.3    Settlement*

Candidates should be able to

- describe and explain the reasons for urbanisation, the problems associated with it and the steps taken to tackle those problems
- discuss the advantages and disadvantages of living in rural and urban areas
- locate, with reasonable accuracy, the main cities of Bangladesh and describe the site, situation and internal structure of any **two** major cities.

### *2.4    Society and Welfare*

Candidates should be able to

- describe the homogeneity and diversity of Bangladeshi society, culture and language
- discuss the problems caused by class differences and social inequalities (poverty and illiteracy), and describe the steps being taken to reduce them
- discuss the role of women in social and economic life, the attempts to improve their status and the difficulties encountered.

## Section 3 The Economy

### 3.1 *Agriculture*

Candidates should be able to

- describe the distinctive character of agriculture as compared with other activities in the primary sector and with those of the secondary and tertiary sectors
- describe and understand the inputs, processes and outputs of different agricultural systems (particularly the production of commercial crops and livestock)
- explain why the use of irrigation, fertilisers and pesticides is necessary, and describe the problems associated with them
- describe the attempts and associated problems of increasing agricultural production and assess the contribution of the 'Green Revolution'.

### 3.2 *Manufacturing*

Candidates should be able to

- locate the main manufacturing industries and describe the factors influencing their location
- discuss the problems associated with the growth of manufacturing, including pollution and access to capital, energy, skills and technology
- discuss labour issues, including skills training, unionisation and the use of female and child labour.

### 3.3 *Services*

Candidates should be able to

- describe the range and importance of tertiary sector activities in Bangladesh, paying particular attention to those of the informal sub-sector
- describe the networks of different modes of transport (rail, road, water, air and pipelines) and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each of them
- identify the country's pattern of international trade (its main imports, exports and overall balance).

### 3.4 *Development*

Candidates should be able to

- compare the state of development in Bangladesh today with other countries, particularly in terms of per capita income, literacy, health and education
- explain the nature of economic globalisation and its impacts on Bangladesh
- describe and explain the reasons for, and problems caused by, the differential economic development within Bangladesh, as between regions and between urban and rural areas
- describe the impacts that development has on the environment, particularly pollution and the depletion of natural resources.

## Notes

The accompanying *Teacher's Guide* gives advice to teachers on course planning over one or two years (see page 10).

## Resources

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*London Examinations Student Study Guide for O level Bangladesh Studies* (available in late 2004. Details will be posted on the Edexcel International website).

*Banglapedia: National Encyclopaedia of Bangladesh*; 10 vols.; ed. Sirajul Islam; Asiatic Society of Bangladesh; 2003.

*Of Blood and Fire, The untold story of Bangladesh's War of Independence*; Jahanara Imam; University Press Ltd; Dhaka; 1998.

*1971 and After, Selected Stories*; ed. Niaz Zaman; University Press Ltd; Dhaka; 2001.

**A more detailed list of resources, including websites, is in the accompanying Teacher's Guide.**

## Edexcel Publications

Support materials and further copies of this syllabus can be obtained from:

Edexcel Publications  
Adamsway  
Mansfield  
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Tel: +44 1623 450 781  
Fax: +44 1623 450 481  
E-mail: [intpublications@linneydirect.com](mailto:intpublications@linneydirect.com)

The following materials will be available from 2004 onwards:

- Specimen Papers and Mark Schemes (Publication code: UO014828)
- Teacher's Guide (Publication code: UO015661)

## Contact Details

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