

London Examinations GCE Ordinary Level

Mark Scheme and Examiners' Report for Bengali 7606

January 2001

Edexcel is one of the leading examining and awarding bodies in the UK and throughout the world. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers.

Through a network of UK and overseas offices, Edexcel's centres receive the support they need to help them deliver their education and training programmes to learners.

For further information, please contact our International Customer Relations Unit:

Tel + 44 20 7758 5656

Fax + 44 20 7758 5959

International@edexcel.org.uk

www.edexcel.org.uk/international

January 2001

Order Code: UO010900

All the material in this publication is copyright

© Edexcel Foundation 2001

Mark Scheme and Chief Examiner's Report
January 2001

BENGALI 7606

Mark Scheme

Page 2 of 8

Chief Examiner's Report

Page 7 of 8

Grade Boundaries

Page 8 of 8

BENGALI 7606, MARK SCHEME

Question 1: Translation from Bengali into English.

Total marks: 25

Distribution of marks:	Communication in English	- 15 marks.
	Quality of Language	- 10 marks.

Communication - 15 marks

- 0 No language worthy of credit.
- 1-3 Very limited language. Use of inappropriate vocabulary and structures that greatly restrict communication. Substantial degree of incoherence or irrelevance. Time indications, where required by the task, are absent or unreliable. Except for isolated lexical items, would not be generally comprehensible to a reader.
- 4-6 Vocabulary and structures only just adequate, possibly some attempts at meaningful communication. Some time indication where required, but little or no evidence of coherence appropriate to the task. Just about comprehensible overall, with moments of ambiguity. Is not easy reading.
- 7-9 Vocabulary and structures although limited are generally adequate. Some appropriate use of time indication. Beginning to link sentences in order to display some coherence in writing. Comprehensible overall. Ambiguous when more complex structures attempted.
- 10-12 A coherent piece of writing, though with some lapses. Time indications, where needed. Fairly clear, and reasonable attempts at linking the piece into a whole. Vocabulary and structures generally adequate to the task. Evidence of successfully handling and dealing with complex structures appropriate to the task.
- 13-15 Vocabulary and structures are comfortably equal to the task. The time sequence is clear, and most translated sentences are coherently linked. Pleasant to read.

Quality of Language - 10 marks

- 0 No language worthy of credit.
- 1-2 Shows very little understanding of language structures, formation and use of tenses. Gender and spelling extremely weak. There may be the occasional almost-correct phrase or short sentence, but this will usually be pre-learned, stereotyped idiom.
- 3-4 Can cope with simple structures and short sentences. These are syntactically more or less correct. Some evidence of correct formation and use of tenses, though there are frequent lapses. Occasional correct use of standard idiom; possibly some attempt at enhancement of fact with adjectives, and/or adverbial phrases, though these are likely to be only partially successful.

- Question 2: Translation from English into Bengali.**

Distribution of marks:

Communication in Bengali	- 10 marks.
Quality of Language	- 15 marks.

0	No language worthy of credit.
1-2	Very limited language. Use of inappropriate vocabulary and structures greatly restricts communication. Substantial degree of incoherence and irrelevance. Time indications, where required by the task, are absent or unreliable. Except for isolated lexical items, would not be generally comprehensible to a reader.
3-4	Vocabulary and structures only just adequate, possibly some attempts at meaningful communication. Some time indication where required, but little or no evidence of coherence appropriate to the task. Just about comprehensible overall, with moments of ambiguity. Is not easy reading.
5-6	Vocabulary and structures although limited are generally adequate. Some appropriate use of time indication. Beginning to link sentences in order to display some coherence in writing. Comprehensible overall. Ambiguous when more complex structures attempted.
7-8	A coherent piece of writing, though with some lapses. Time indications, where needed. Fairly clear, and reasonable attempts at linking the piece into a whole. Vocabulary and structures generally adequate to the task. Evidence of successfully handling and dealing with complex structures appropriate to the task.
9-10	Vocabulary and structures are comfortably equal to the task. The time sequence is clear and most translated sentences are coherently linked. Pleasant to read.

Quality of Language - 15 marks

- 0 No language worthy of credit.
- 1-3 Shows very little understanding of language structures, formation and use of tenses. Gender and spelling extremely weak. There may be the occasional almost-correct phrase or short sentence, but this will usually be pre-learned, stereotyped idiom.
- 4-6 Can cope with simple structures and short sentences. These are syntactically more or less correct. Some evidence of correct formation and use of tenses, though there are frequent lapses. Occasional correct use of standard idiom; possibly some attempt at enhancement of fact with adjectives, and/or adverbial phrases, though these are likely to be only partially successful.
- 7-9 Correct syntax when using simple, short phrases. For longer sentences syntax not always correct. Fairly correct use of standard idiom. Attempts enhancement of fact with adjective and/or adverbial phrases with some success. About half of what is written should be free of major errors.
- 10-12 Some attempts to vary sentences appropriate to complex structures such as subordinate clauses, pronouns, adverbial or other phrases, and a range of verb forms and tenses though more difficult structures are unlikely to be wholly successful. Evidence of a range of vocabulary and structures appropriate to narrative, description, opinion and logical argument, as the task requires. High level of accuracy; alternatively, wide range of vocabulary, idiom and syntax compensates for slightly lower accuracy level.
- 13-15 Free of all but minor errors. Variety of vocabulary, idiom and structures used appropriately for the given passage and to avoid repetition. Confident use of pronouns, negatives and other elements, where suited to the task. Very pleasant to read, though not necessarily faultless.

Question 3: Translation of short sentences from English into Bengali.

Total marks: 20

Five sentences, each worth 4 marks.

Distribution of marks: Communication in Bengali - 2 marks.
 Quality of Language - 2 marks.

Communication - 2 marks

- 0 No language worthy of credit.
- 1 At least half the sentence is correctly communicated in the target language.
- 2 Fully communicated in the target language with some ambiguity in the expression.

Quality of Language - 2 marks

- 0 No language worthy of credit.
- 1 Inappropriate tenses. About half the number of words used in the sentence are correctly spelt.
- 2 Use of correct tense and vocabulary in the sentence.

Question 4: Short essay/letter writing (250 words).

Total marks: 30

Distribution of marks:	Content and Communication	- 15 marks.
	Quality of Language	- 15 marks.

Communication - 15 marks

- 0 No language worthy of credit.
- 1-3 Very limited language. Use of inappropriate vocabulary and structures that greatly restrict communication. Substantial degree of incoherence or irrelevance. Time indications, where required by the task, are absent or unreliable. Except for isolated lexical items, would not be generally comprehensible to a reader.
- 4-6 Vocabulary and structures only just adequate: possibly some attempts at meaningful communication. Some time indication where required, but little or no evidence of coherence appropriate to the task. Just about comprehensible overall, with moments of ambiguity. Is not easy reading.
- 7-9 Vocabulary and structures although limited are generally adequate. Some appropriate use of time indication. Beginning to link sentences in order to display some coherence in writing. Comprehensible overall. Ambiguous when more complex structures attempted.
- 10-12 A coherent piece of writing, though with some lapses. Time indications, where needed. Fairly clear, and reasonable attempts at linking the piece into a whole. Vocabulary and structures generally adequate to the task. Evidence of successfully handling and dealing with complex structures appropriate to the task.
- 13-15 Vocabulary and structures are comfortably equal to the task. The time sequence is clear, and most translated sentences are coherently linked. Pleasant to read.

Quality of Language - 15 marks

- 0 No language worthy of credit.
- 1-3 Shows very little understanding of language structures, formation and use of tenses. Gender and spelling extremely weak. There may be the occasional

almost-correct phrase or short sentence, but this will usually be pre-learned, stereotyped idiom.

- 4-6 Can cope with simple structures and short sentences. These are syntactically more or less correct. Some evidence of correct formation and use of tenses, though there are frequent lapses. Occasional correct use of standard idiom; possibly some attempt at enhancement of fact with adjectives, and/or adverbial phrases, though these are likely to be only partially successful.
- 7-9 Correct syntax when using simple, short phrases. For longer sentences syntax not always correct. Fairly correct use of standard idiom. Attempts enhancement of fact with adjective and/or adverbial phrases with some success. About half of what is written should be free of major errors.
- 10-12 Some attempts to vary sentences appropriate to complex structures such as subordinate clauses, pronouns, adverbial or other phrases, and a range of verb forms and tenses though more difficult structures are unlikely to be wholly successful. Evidence of a range of vocabulary and structures appropriate to narrative, description, opinion and logical argument, as the task requires. High level of accuracy; alternatively, wide range of vocabulary, idiom and syntax compensates for slightly lower accuracy level.
- 13-15 Free of all but minor errors. Variety of vocabulary, idiom and structures used appropriately for the given passage and to avoid repetition. Confident use of pronouns, negatives and other elements, where suited to the task. Very pleasant to read, though not necessarily faultless.

BENGALI 7606, CHIEF EXAMINER'S REPORT

General comments

About 700 candidates were entered for the GCE 'O' level Bengali examination in January 2001, mostly from existing centres and especially from the British Council in Dhaka. The entry went up by about 15% from the January 2000 figures. The percentage of candidates obtaining grades A – C was about 97% which is almost the same as that for the January 2000 examination.

The paper was accessible to almost all candidates with differentiated text materials and relevant vocabulary. A criteria referenced mark scheme was used to assess the work of candidates across the whole ability range. Each question was assessed as a whole, with no deduction of marks for specific errors.

Question 1

A large proportion of candidates displayed proficiency in English with only a few spelling mistakes and with the use of correct grammatical structures. Almost all candidates were able to communicate the text on the story of the menu-card in English. However a few Bengali words, for example,

অষ্টম, নেমন্তন্ন, পরিষদরা, মারফত, সাজোপাঙ্গরা, পূর্বাভাস আফসোসের

etc. and phrases like:

সোজা কেটে উড়িয়ে দিয়েছিলাম

seemed difficult for some candidates. A large majority of candidates scored good marks in this question.

Question 2

Most candidates were able to translate the Bengali passage into English with reasonable success. There were hardly any dialectical errors in candidates' writing. Although a large proportion of candidates could perform the task quite well and produced a continuous piece of Bengali writing, they missed out a number of phrases and words in the translation. However the Bengali sentences were blended in such a way that these mistakes were almost unnoticeable. Some of the candidates found the following words and phrases difficult to translate into Bengali:

terrible shock, a little bit warmer, work in the theatre, persuade, project Asian culture

Overall, the candidates coped well with the English passage and translated it into Bengali with good literacy skills in both the languages.

Question 3

- (a) A large proportion of candidates found this sentence difficult to translate into Bengali. The Bengali words for 'hardly' and 'spare time' seemed unknown to some candidates.
- (b) Most candidates coped well with this sentence and translated it into Bengali successfully.
- (c) This sentence was correctly translated by most candidates.
- (d) Only the good candidates could translate this sentence with reasonable accuracy. A large proportion of candidates were unfamiliar with the use of 'if' in this context.
- (e) Although most candidates translated this sentence satisfactorily a good number of candidates did not know the Bengali word for 'wrap'.

Question 4

Although all three essay titles were equally popular the essay on 'A rainy day' was very well written by many candidates, probably because rain is the most important aspect of the weather in the region of the Bay of Bengal. In this essay the candidates used descriptive as well as imaginative writing. A good number of candidates also used quotations from poems on the theme of rain. The other two essay titles were written mostly in a descriptive fashion and at times were quite bland and monotonous to read. Almost all candidates followed the guidance on number of words to be written on these essay titles.

As an alternative to one of the essays a good number of candidates attempted the letter on meeting a childhood friend in a busy café. Although the memories of childhood were portrayed well in most of the candidates' letters, the resulting feelings and emotions were not projected well in the majority of the writing.

Overall the whole cohort performed well in this examination. Generally the standards of literacy skills in both English and Bengali were quite impressive. Candidates seem to have been taught both languages quite well at this level and have also been trained effectively for the assessment tasks.

BENGALI 7606, GRADE BOUNDARIES

Grade	A	B	C	D	E
Lowest mark for award of grade	71	58	46	41	30

Note: Grade boundaries may vary from year to year and from subject to subject, depending on the demands of the question paper.

Edexcel Publications, Adamsway, Mansfield, Notts, NG18 4LN, UK

Tel + 44 1623 450 781

Fax + 44 1623 450 481

Order Code: UO010900

For more information on Edexcel qualifications please contact us:

International Customer Relations Unit,
Stewart House, 32 Russell Square, London, WC1B 5DN

Tel + 44 20 7758 5656

Fax + 44 20 7758 5959

International@edexcel.org.uk

www.edexcel.org.uk/international

Edexcel Foundation is a registered charity and a Company Limited
By Guarantee Registered in England No. 1686164

