

Edexcel International
London Examinations
GCE Ordinary Level

Mark Scheme with Examiners' Report

**London Examinations Ordinary Level GCE in
Bengali (7606)**

January 2002

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October 2002

Order Code UO012798

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Mark Scheme and Chief Examiner's Report
January 2002

BENGALI 7606

Mark Scheme

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Grade Boundaries

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BENGALI 7606, MARK SCHEME

1. Translation from Bengali into English.

Communication in English

(15)

Quality of Language

(10)

Total 25 marks

Communication – 15 marks

- 0 No language worthy of credit.
- 1-3 Very limited language. Use of inappropriate vocabulary and structures that greatly restricts 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 for 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 the 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.
- 5-6 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 adjectives and/or adverbial phrases with some success. About half of what is written should be free of major errors.
- 7-8 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 tense 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.
- 9-10 Free of all but minor errors. Variety of vocabulary, idiom and structure 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.

2. Translation from English into Bengali.

Communication in Bengali

(10)

Quality of Language

(15)

Total 25 marks

Communication – 10 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 for meaning 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.
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Quality of Language – 15 marks

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- 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.

3. Translation of short sentences from English into Bengali.

Five sentences, each worth 4 marks.

Communication in Bengali

(2)

Quality of Language

(2)

Total 20 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 numbers of words used in the sentence are correctly spelt.
- 2 Use of correct tense and vocabulary in the sentence.

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

Content and Communication

(15)

Quality of Language

(15)

Total 30 marks

Communication – 15 marks

- 0 No language worthy of credit.
- 1-3 Very limited language. Use of inappropriate vocabulary and structures that greatly restricts 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 for 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.
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- 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

More than 700 candidates were entered for the GCE O Level Bengali examination in January 2002, mostly from the existing centres. Overall, entries went up by about 2% from the January 2001 figures. The cumulative percentage of candidates for A–C grades was almost the same as that for the January 2001 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 in the whole ability range. Marking was done globally without making any prescriptive demands, especially on weaker candidates. As usual, the candidates with good proficiency in both Bengali and English were at the top of the distribution, and the candidates who were proficient in Bengali but less proficient in English could only achieve grades C and below.

Question 1

The translation of the passage from Bengali into English was, generally, answered well by the majority of candidates who were able to communicate the theme of the passage in simple English.

A good number of candidates displayed proficiency in English with only a few spelling mistakes and with the use of correct grammatical structures. However, some Bengali words, for example, অভিজাত, অভিজ্ঞান্ত, চূড়ামণি, যৌবন, শিবিরে শিবিরে, ইন্তফা, জমকালো, কীর্তিমান, উত্তরাধিকারী, ষোড়শোপচারে, পদানত, পৈতৃক, সপরিষদ and বিলাসব্যাসনে etc. and phrases like অশান্তির উদ্ভব হয়েছে and সংগৃহীত সর্বোত্তম খাদ্যসম্ভার seemed difficult for some candidates. A large majority of candidates scored good marks in this question.

Question 2

The translation of the passage from English into Bengali was answered by most candidates with reasonable success. There were hardly any dialectical errors in candidates' writing. Although a large proportion of candidates could perform the translation task quite well and produced a continuous piece of Bengali writing they missed out a number of phrases and words in the translation task. However the Bengali sentences were blended in such a way that these mistakes were almost unnoticeable. The weaker candidates struggled to translate words and phrases such as; "at home", "fixed abode", "flickering candles", "endlessly wandering", "limp", "stepsister", "principal realisation", "ceaselessly", "harsher" and "addictive". Overall, the candidates coped well with the English passage and translated it into Bengali with good literacy skills in both the languages.

Question 3

Most of the candidates translated this sentence into Bengali successfully. However, some candidates translated the phrase "would you mind" as 'তুমি কি রাগ করবে'। Only the good candidates coped well with this sentence and translated it into Bengali successfully. A majority of the candidates found the use of the word "hard" difficult within the meaning of the sentence.

- c) The term "flight" was incorrectly translated by most candidates.
- d) Most candidates translated this sentence into English correctly.

- e) Although most candidates translated this sentence satisfactorily the weaker candidates answered badly as they struggled to translate "popular political party".

Question 4

All three essay titles were equally popular. The range of topics on offer allowed candidates of all abilities to write strong and well structured essays. The essay on "Your headteacher" was very well written by those who attempted it. The candidates mostly used descriptive writing, but in some instances emotions of individual candidates were clearly reflected in their writing. The other two essay titles were written mostly in a descriptive fashion and at times these could be quite bland and monotonous. Almost all candidates followed the guidance on number of words to be written on these essay titles.

The letter was answered comparatively very well by those who attempted it. The stronger candidates coherently linked and justified their points of view using a variety of vocabulary, idioms, structures and made comparison with other cultures. However, most candidates simply described the three best things without providing any comments on why the three things, they described, were the best in their opinion. Overall the whole cohort performed very well in this examination. Generally, the standards of literacy skills in both English and Bengali were found to be very good in candidates' work. Evidently, the candidates were taught both the languages quite well at this level by their teachers, and they were also 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.

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