

Edexcel International
London Examinations
GCE Ordinary Level

Mark Scheme with Examiners' Report

London Examinations Ordinary Level GCE in Bengali (7606)

January 2003

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Mark Scheme and Chief Examiner's Report
January 2003

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

- 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 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

The detailed breakdown of marks is the same as used in Question 1.

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

The detailed breakdown of marks is the same as used for Communication in Question 1.

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

The majority of candidates found the paper fairly accessible and a good proportion performed quite well and scored good marks in the paper. Although the demands of the paper were similar to that of the previous year, with differentiated text materials and relevant vocabulary, the task of translation from Bengali to English (question 1) was slightly more demanding because the Bengali passage contained some vocabulary which seemed unfamiliar to some candidates. However, the overall performance showed that the standard of literacy in both languages was very high. A criteria referenced mark scheme was used and answers were placed into 'bands' of marks under each heading.

Question 1

A good proportion of candidates were able to translate the Bengali passage into English with only a few spelling mistakes and with the use of correct grammatical structures. The weaker candidates often scored low marks because of weak usage of appropriate 'language' as detailed in the marking criteria. It was evident from scripts that although most candidates understood the Bengali passage on Noorjahan's identity a number of Bengali words and phrases, for example, **রেষ্ট, পদবুজে, দুর্গম, মরুপান্তর, খর্জুর বীথি, পুসব বেদনা, অবহেলিত, পরিত্যক্ত** and **ভারত-সম্রাজ্ঞী** were unfamiliar to many candidates.

Question 2

A large proportion of candidates were able to translate the Bengali passage into English fairly successfully. Almost all candidates performed the translation task in standard Bengali. However, a number of dialectical errors were noticeable in some candidates' writing. It was noticeable that although most candidates could follow the English passage on the plight of a woman encountering a pigeon, a good number of candidates found putting together a sentence by sentence translation into Bengali difficult. They missed out a number of phrases and words in the actual translation task. However, some candidates were able to blend the sentences in such a way that these mistakes were almost unnoticeable in the translation. A fair proportion of candidates struggled to translate words and phrases such as: **survey, generation, clattering, banging, lounge, stunned-looking, unholy mess, splattered, droppings** etc. A small number of candidates did not know the Bengali word for '**pigeon**'. 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 number of candidates were unable to score full marks in the Bengali translation of this sentence. Surprisingly, some candidates did not know the Bengali word for '**hatred**'.
- (b) Most candidates translated this sentence correctly into Bengali. Varieties of Bengali words were use for '**blessed**'.
- (c) Most candidates scored full marks in this sentence.
- (d) Although a good proportion of candidates found this sentence easy to translate, the Bengali words for '**fantastic**' and '**offer**' seemed unknown to some candidates.
- (e) Only the most able candidates were able to translate this sentence into Bengali successfully and scored full marks. A good number of candidates did not know the Bengali word for 'bank' in relation to the sentence. Some candidates thought 'bank' as a 'bank' where people put money.

Question 4

The essay option was a popular alternative. Mostly the stronger candidates attempted to write one of the three essays. All three essays were attempted across the range, but it seemed that the essay on '**Religion**' was the most popular choice among candidates. The essays mostly depicted the candidates' religious convictions and attitudes to religion. A good number of candidates tried to make a comparative study on different religions in their essays on the subject. The essay on '**Your grandmother**' was very well written by some candidates. Most of them described their grandmothers as a very affectionate person and the head of the family. Some very able candidates attempted the essay '**A moonlit night**' where they took the opportunity to display their imagination and poetic ability in their writing. Some of the essays were really interesting to read. Almost all candidates followed the guidance on the 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. The stronger candidates were able to produce a vivid description of a bus journey and link their points of views coherently using a variety of vocabulary, idioms and structures.

General Points

Overall, the whole cohort performed quite well in this examination. The quality of work produced by some candidates was admirable. Generally, the standards of literacy skills in both English and Bengali were impressive. Evidently, the candidates were taught both the languages quite well at this level by their teachers, and they were obviously trained for the assessment tasks according to the syllabus.

BENGALI 7606, GRADE BOUNDARIES

Grade	A	B	C	D	E
Lowest mark for award of grade	69	57	45	40	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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