

Edexcel International
London Examinations
GCE Ordinary Level

Mark Scheme with Examiners' Report

London Examinations Ordinary Level GCE in Bengali (7606)

June 2003

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July 2003

Order Code UO014225

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BENGALI 7606

Mark Scheme

Page 2 of 8

Chief Examiner's Report

Page 6 of 8

Grade Boundaries

Page 8 of 8

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

General Comments

The majority of candidates found the paper fairly accessible and a good proportion of candidates 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 differential text materials, the passage for the translation task from Bengali to English (question 1) contained some difficult vocabulary. The overall performance of the candidates showed that the standard of literacy in both languages was very high. However, some candidates with poor literacy were unable to perform satisfactorily in the paper. A number of dialectical errors were noticeable in some candidates writing. A criteria referenced mark scheme was used to assess the work of candidates.

Question 1

A large proportion of candidates were able to translate the Bengali passage into English with only a few spelling mistakes and with the use of the correct grammatical structures. Although the Bengali passage contained some difficult words the style of the passage was straightforward and the sentences were mostly simple. Most candidates scored good marks in this question through good 'Communication'. The weaker candidates often scored low marks in this question due to poor usage of appropriate 'Language' as detailed in the marking criteria. It was evident from scripts that candidates understood the theme and enjoyed the content of the passage. However, a good number of candidates struggled with some of the Bengali words and phrases, for example,

শাহী সড়ক, সরাইখানা, পাকদন্ডী, সুমিষ্ট, গাছে ঢাকা, নির্ঝর, তৃণগুন্ডমা,
সরিস্প, বিভৎস, দাক্ষিণাত্য, দক্ষিণী.

Most of these words and phrases were simply transliterated by some candidates. It was surprising to find that a good number of candidates did not know the English word for 'দক্ষিণ'.

Question 2

The translation of the passage from English into Bengali was attempted by most candidates with reasonable success. Almost all candidates performed the translation task in standard Bengali. As the content of the translation task was broken down into a number of short paragraphs the weaker candidates found it more accessible. Although a good number of candidates missed out a number phrase and words in the actual translation task, the Bengali sentences were blended in such a way that these mistakes were not obviously apparent. Some candidates struggled to translate words and phrases such as: 'brilliant violinist', 'performance', 'a citizen of the world', 'monster', 'natural'. A good many candidates interpreted 'piano' as 'harmonium'.

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) Although a majority of candidates scored full marks in the Bengali translation of this sentence some candidates incorrectly translated the term 'female tigers'. Some candidates wrote 'সিংহ' instead of 'বাঘ'
- (b) Only the most able candidates coped well with this sentence. A good number of candidates were unable to translate "you will have seen it" correctly.
- (c) Most candidates scored full marks in this task by constructing an interrogative sentence in Bengali.
- (d) A good number of candidates scored full marks in this sentence. Surprisingly, some candidates did not know the Bengali word for 'pastimes'.
- (e) A large proportion of candidates translated this sentence into Bengali successfully and scored full marks. Some candidates were unable to structure the Bengali sentence correctly in order to convey the full meaning of the English sentence.

Question 4

The essay question was answered very well by those candidates who attempted it. All three essays were attempted by candidates across the range of ability, but the essay on "The sunrise" was the most popular choice among candidates. The essays on this topic showed good imagination and some poetic descriptions. One could almost feel the 'dawn' in some candidates' writing. The essay on 'Physical exercise' was not, in general, written very well and at times some of the essays on the topic were quite monotonous to read. The candidates who attempted the essay on 'An Old City' inevitably wrote about Dhaka, trying to portray Dhaka as a historical city and justify why the old Dhaka was more pleasant than the new Dhaka. A small number of candidates wrote about other cities, for example, Jerusalem. Almost all candidates followed the guidance on the number of words to be written on these essay titles.

A good number of male candidates attempted the letter, probably because the topic was 'football'. Although most of these candidates wrote the letter descriptively their writing was coherent and contained a variety of vocabulary, idioms and structure.

Overall candidates 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 found to be impressive in candidates work. Evidently, the candidates were taught both languages quite well at this level and teachers were clearly knowledgeable about the assessment tasks contained within the specification.

BENGALI 7606, GRADE BOUNDARIES

Grade	A	B	C	D	E
Lowest mark for award of grade	69	57	46	41	33

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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