

Edexcel International
London Examinations
GCE Ordinary Level

Mark Scheme with Examiners' Report

London Examinations Ordinary Level GCE in Bengali (7606)

January 2004

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March 2004

Order Code UO014790

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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

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, the translation from Bengali to English (question 1) contained some vocabulary which seemed unfamiliar to some candidates. Some candidates with poor literacy were unable to perform satisfactorily in the paper.

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. 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. Although most candidates had a good understanding of the Bengali passage, the more average candidates struggled with a number of Bengali words and phrases, for example,

বাগিচায়, মর্মর ধ্বনি, নিশুতি, অলিন্দে, কক্ষে, চারদিকে নিঝুম, রাত-চরা পাখি,
মখমল, নিশ্চিন্তা

Question 2

A large proportion of candidates translated the passage from English into Bengali fairly successfully. Almost all candidates performed the translation task in standard Bengali. However, a number of dialectical errors were noticeable in some cases. It was also apparent that although most candidates could follow the English passage on Buddhism a good number of candidates had difficulty putting together a sentence by sentence translation into Bengali. These candidates missed out a number of phrases and words. However, some candidates were able to blend 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 "reaction to Brahmanic orthodoxy", "organised religion", "Hindi mainstream", "enlightened", "resisting demons and temptresses" and "enlightenment of Nirvana".

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 significant number of candidates were unable to score full marks in the Bengali translation of this sentence. Some candidates translated the word "exactly" incorrectly.
- (b) About 50% of candidates translated this sentence correctly and scored four marks. A good proportion of candidates did not know the Bengali word for "foggy" and mistranslated "I am told".
- (c) A good number of candidates scored full marks in this sentence. "Spicy food" was incorrectly translated as 'বাল খাবার' by the more average candidates.

- (d) The word “wrong” was translated in a variety of ways, producing different meanings of the sentence in Bengali.
- (e) Only the most able candidates were able to translate this sentence successfully. A good number of candidates did not know the Bengali word for “seldom” and incorrectly translated the word “often” in the context of the sentence.

Question 4

The essay option was a popular choice. All three essays were attempted across the range of ability, but it seemed that the essay on “Your country” was the most popular choice amongst candidates. The essays displayed the candidates’ knowledge about their country and depicted their convictions, duties and attitudes to their motherland. The essay on “a dark alley” was very well written by some candidates, showing good imagination and control of language. Some of the essays were very 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, the letter writing task was quite popular among average candidates and answered very well by those who attempted it.

The stronger candidates coherently linked and sequenced their points of view using a variety of vocabulary, idioms and structures while commenting and reviewing the film, plots, characters and the scene setting. However, some candidates did not fully justify their points of view, and so scored less marks for “communication”

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 found to be impressive.

BENGALI 7606, GRADE BOUNDARIES

Grade	A	B	C	D	E
Lowest mark for award of grade	68	56	44	39	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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