

# Mark Scheme with Examiners' Report GCE O Level Bengali (7606)

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Mark Scheme with Examiners' Report

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## **BENGALI 7606, MARK SCHEME**

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### **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

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### General Comments

The majority of candidates found the paper fairly accessible. A good proportion of candidates performed well and scored good marks in the paper. The task of translation from Bengali to English (question 1) was found to be slightly demanding because the Bengali passage contained some vocabulary which seemed unfamiliar to some candidates. However, the overall performance of the candidates showed that the standard of literacy in both languages is very high. Only a very small minority of candidates with poor literacy were unable to perform satisfactorily in the paper.

### 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. Most of these candidates scored good marks in this question through good 'communication'. The weaker candidates often scored low marks in this question due to weak usage of appropriate 'language'. It was evident that a number of Bengali words and phrases were unfamiliar to some candidates. For example,

বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, তরুনী, সাদামাটা, পৌড়া ,  
অশ্রুবিন্দু, লাবন্যময়ী, প্রত্যক্ষ, নিস্কম্প, আঅজা and পুঁটলি

### 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 candidates' writing. It was noticeable that although most candidates could follow the English passage on Pompeii, a good number of candidates had difficulty putting together a sentence by sentence translation. They missed out a number of phrases and words in the actual translation task. However, some candidates were unable 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: haunting, no breath of air stirs, horizon, rippling waves, breeze, aroma, etc. 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 good number of candidates were unable to score full marks in the Bengali translation of this sentence. Surprisingly, some candidates did not know the Bengali for 'see her off'. A good proportion of candidates wrote *তাকে দেখতে গিয়েছিলামা*
- (b) Most candidates translated this sentence correctly into Bengali. Varieties of Bengali words were used to translate 'makes a difference'.
- (c) Most candidates scored full marks in this sentence. Some candidates wrote *'পোকা'* for mosquitoes instead of *'মশা'*.

- (d) Although a good proportion of candidates found the phrase 'in black' difficult to understand in relation to the sentence, some good candidates translated the sentence correctly scoring full marks.
- (e) Only the most able candidates were able to translate this sentence into Bengali successfully. A good number of candidates did not know the Bengali word for 'Relax' and how to use it in the translation.

#### **Question 4**

The essay option proved popular. More able candidates attempted to write one of the three essays. All three essays were attempted across the range, but it seemed that the essay on 'A stranger at night' was the most popular choice among candidates. These essays mostly depicted the thrills and apprehension of meeting a stranger at night. Some candidates portrayed their experiences as a bad dream. The essays were interesting to read and a good number of candidates scored high marks in this essay.

The essay on 'Modern girls' was mostly attempted by female candidates. The essays depicted emancipation of women and their independence in modern times. Some of the essays were very well written with real passion and thought provoking language.

Some very able candidates attempted the essay 'A forest fire' where they took the opportunity to display their knowledge about causes of forest fires and how these fires help the life cycle in nature. A good number of candidates vividly described a forest fire from their own imagination. Almost all of the 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, describing their experiences of the first flight to a foreign country. More able candidates were able to produce a vivid description of their first plane journey describing their excitement, anticipation, apprehension and experiences of the journey using a variety of vocabulary, idioms and structures. Evidently, it seemed that a good proportion of letters were based on real experiences.

Overall, the entire cohort performed 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.



## **BENGALI 7606, GRADE BOUNDARIES**

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<b>Grade</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
<b>Lowest mark for award of grade</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>29</b>

**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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