

# **Mark Scheme with Examiners' Report**

## **GCE O Level Bengali (7606)**

January 2005

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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

## General Comments

About 1100 candidates were entered for the GCE O Level Bengali examination in January 2005, mostly from the existing centres. The largest entry was from centre 90320, the British Council, Dhaka.

The majority of candidates found the paper accessible it according to their abilities. A Good proportion of the candidates performed well and scored high marks in the paper. The demands of the paper were similar to those from previous years, with differentiated text materials and relevant vocabulary. The performance by the candidates overall showed that the standard of literacy in both languages was very high. A criteria-referenced mark scheme was used to assess candidates' work. As a matter of principle, the marking was done globally without making any prescriptive demands, especially of weaker candidates.

### Question 1

A good proportion of candidates were able to translate the Bengali passage into English using the correct grammatical structures and making only a few spelling mistakes. Most candidates scored high marks on this question due to good 'communication'. The weaker candidates scored low marks due to weak usage of appropriate 'language' as detailed in the marking criteria. It was pleasing to see that medium-level candidates grasped the overall concept of the whole text, which helped them translate it. It was evident from scripts that a number of Bengali words and phrases were unfamiliar to some candidates. For example:

টালির ছাদ, অভিবাদন, ভদ্রমহিলা and ক্বান্তিতে ভেসে পড়ছিলাম

It was also clear, that a good number of the candidates enjoyed the text, especially the relationship between Rowshan and the writer. Candidates seemed to have understood the meanings of the difficult vocabulary and the variety of sentence structures in the text. The average score recorded for this question was 17/18.

### Question 2

A large proportion of candidates translated the passage from English into Bengali fairly successfully. Almost all candidates translated in standard Bengali. However, a number of dialectical errors were noticeable in some candidates' writing. Although most candidates could follow the English passage about travelling to Mahmud's village, some candidates found a sentence by sentence translation into Bengali difficult, and left out a number of phrases and words. Some candidates struggled to translate such words and phrases as 'cool breeze', 'bullock-cart', 'wonder', 'no bridges', 'broad and swift', 'underpants' and 'beneath the surface'. The average mark recorded for this question was approximately 16. Overall, candidates translated the English passage into Bengali quite successfully, displaying good literacy skills in both languages.

### Question 3

(a) A majority of candidates were unable to score full marks for this part in the Bengali translation as they misunderstood the sentence. These candidates scored two marks for the following translation:

'আমি বলি কিছুই তোমাকে থামাবে না

(b) Most candidates translated this sentence correctly into Bengali. A variety of Bengali words were used to translate 'in common'.

- (c) Only the stronger candidates translated this sentence well. For 'silent movie' some candidates wrote:

'চুপচুপ ছবি' , 'শান্ত সিনেমা'

- (d) Although a good proportion of candidates translated this sentence well, the Bengali word for 'mules' was not known by them.
- (e) Only the strongest candidates were able to translate this sentence into Bengali successfully and score full marks. Many candidates did not know the Bengali word for 'strange' or how to use it in the translation.

#### Question 4

The essay option was popular, particularly amongst the stronger candidates. Generally three essays were attempted, but the essay about 'the rainy season' was the most popular choice. The essays were interesting to read, and a majority of the candidates scored high marks.

The essay about 'An old toy' was also well attempted by candidates from a range of abilities. The essays illustrated good and bad memories from childhood associated with an old toy. Some of the essays were very well written, displaying use of appropriate words and phrases to describe personal sadness or joy.

Some of the most able candidates attempted the essay about 'literacy', in which they took the opportunity to discuss the issue within the context of education in Bangladesh.

The majority of candidates paid close attention to the stated word limit when writing their essays.

As an alternative to the essays, a number of the candidates chose the letter-writing option. However, many of the candidates overlooked the main focus in this exercise and instead described the story of the film they watched. In this exercise candidates should have written a review of the film and the anticipation of facts and opinions about it.

Overall, candidates performed well in this examination. The quality of work produced by some candidates was admirable. Standards of literacy in both English and Bengali were impressive. Evidently, candidates had been taught both languages well at this level and were well prepared for the assessment tasks of the syllabus.

### BENGALI 7606, GRADE BOUNDARIES

Grade	A	B	C	D	E
Lowest mark for award of grade	68	58	49	44	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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