

# Mark Scheme with Examiners' Report

## GCE O Level Bengali (7606)

January 2006

delivered locally, recognised globally

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## BENGALI 7606 JANUARY 2006, MARK SCHEME

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The table below shows how marks are distributed throughout the paper.

Question	Transmission Communication/Content	Quality of Language	Total for Question
1	15%	10%	25%
2	15%	10%	25%
3	10%	5%	15%
4	20%	15%	35%

### Assessment criteria and mark scheme

Assessment criteria reflect the standard expected at GCE O level. It will therefore not be necessary for candidates to perform 'perfectly' in order to attract the highest marks available in each grid. References to 'standard' should be interpreted in this context.

**Minor errors** include, for example, the occasional omission of accents, incorrect gender, article, slight spelling errors.

**Major errors** include, for example, the consistent mismatching of subject and verb forms, use of inappropriate tenses and/or incorrect vocabulary.

Marks are awarded positively using the following assessment grids. The mark awarded reflects the extent to which the task as a whole has been successfully communicated and completed. To determine if a candidate should gain the upper or lower number of marks in the box it is important to refer to the boxes above and below. If the candidate's performance borders more on the performance of the box below than the box above, then the lower mark is allocated. On certain occasions, a candidate performance may require a 'best fit' mark.

## Question 1 and Question 2: Translation

	Transmission
13-15	Excellent transmission skills with clear grasp of detail. Excellent transfer of inference, nuance and idiom. Pleasant to read.
10-12	A generally very competent rendering of the original text with grasp of most detail, nuance and idiom. Some passages, usually more complex, misinterpreted. Some successful attempts at rephrasing. The style is generally pleasing.
7-9	The main points, usually narrative and concrete, are conveyed successfully for the most part, although problems are encountered with more complex language. Inference, nuance and idiom transmitted successfully on occasions. Some passages misunderstood and attempts at rephrasing only partially successful. The style is not always coherent.
4-6	Only the more straightforward concrete points are transmitted successfully. Very little or no awareness of nuance and/or idiom. Several sections totally misunderstood. The style is incoherent with communication impaired at times.
1-3	Only the very basic points are transmitted successfully with some very straightforward sections totally misunderstood. The style is often incomprehensible. Communication is frequently impaired.
0	No language worthy of credit.

	Quality of Language
9-10	A very high level of accuracy with only minor errors. Confident use of a wide range of lexis and structures appropriate to the task. Excellent grasp of tense use. Very pleasant to read overall, although not necessarily faultless.
7-8	A high level of accuracy overall with however occasional basic errors, usually in more complex language. Uses a wide range of lexis and structures appropriate to the task with occasional lapses. Grasp of tense concept/time sequence generally secure although occasional lapses are evident. Pleasant to read for the most part.
5-6	Largely accurate when using simple, short phrases: incidence of error increases in more complex language. Lexis and structures appropriate to the task tend to be adequate with several items unknown. Problems at times with tense use. Some use of given adjectives and/or adverbial phrases with some degree of success. About half of what is written should be free of major errors. Not always easy to read.
3-4	Some inaccuracies in basic grammar although narrative sections, usually short and straightforward, are in general correct. Lexis and structures appropriate to the task restricted with some often quite basic items unknown. At times some fairly basic problems with tense concept/time sequence. Use of given adjectives, and/or adverbial phrases occasionally evident, though these are likely to be only partially successful. Often quite difficult to follow.
1-2	A very high incidence of basic error in all aspects of grammar, syntax and morphology. Basic lexis and structures appropriate to the task unknown. No awareness of tense concept/time sequence. Large sections totally misunderstood. Communication impaired. Very little of credit.
0	No language worthy of credit.

### Question 3 - Practical application of grammar

Five sentences each worth 2 marks, plus a global mark for Quality of Language.  
Marks are awarded for **Communication** as well as for **Quality of Language**.  
Please refer to the following grids:

Communication	
2	Fully communicated in the target language although with some ambiguity in the expression.
1	At least half the sentence is correctly communicated in the target language.
0	No relevant communication.

The Quality of Language grid is applied **GLOBALLY** to all five sentences.

Quality of language	
5	High level of accuracy with only minor errors.
4	Level of accuracy generally secure but incidence of error increases in more complex language.
3	Accuracy variable with some basic errors.
2	High incidence of error which impedes communication at times. Inconsistent.
1	Frequent basic error with only isolated examples of accurate language.
0	No language worthy of credit.

#### Question 4 - Writing

This question attracts marks for **Communication and content** and **Quality of Language**. Please see the following grids:

	Communication and content
17-20	Responds fully and appropriately to the stimulus with excellent and relevant expansion. Gives detailed descriptions, expresses and justifies opinions as appropriate to the task. The time sequence is clear and unambiguous. A coherent piece of writing which is pleasant to read.
13-16	Responds to nearly all of the task although there may be some omissions. Some relevant expansion at times. Provides evidence of description, narration and opinion as appropriate to the task. Time sequence generally sound with occasional lapses. A generally well structured piece of writing. A sound attempt overall to link the piece into a coherent whole with, however, some lapses. May be a little pedestrian and predictable or somewhat over-ambitious at times.
9-12	Majority of task completed with, however, some significant omissions. There may be some irrelevance. Goes beyond a minimal response with some expansion of ideas and straightforward opinion relevant to the task. Time sequences show a degree of ambiguity at times. Comprehensible overall with some attempt to link the piece into a coherent whole. Ambiguous in places especially in more ambitious language. Tends to be somewhat predictable.
5-8	Main points of the task understood but some points totally misunderstood. Some major omissions with a degree of irrelevance and/or repetition. Level of response fairly limited with little opinion and justification appropriate to the task. Functions predominantly in simple, concrete sentences for the most part. Some evidence of correct time sequences but mostly inconsistent and insecure. Just about comprehensible overall with, however, a marked degree of ambiguity. Not easy to read.
1-4	Task generally misunderstood with little relevant information conveyed. Much ambiguity, confusion and omission. Level of response minimal with only a few relevant phrases. Communication largely impaired. Time sequences rarely correct. Largely incomprehensible with the exception of isolated items. Very difficult to read.
0	No language worthy of credit.

	Quality of Language
13-15	Predominantly accurate: free of all but minor errors in grammar, syntax and morphology. Uses a wide range of vocabulary, idiom and structure appropriate to the task with very little or no repetition. Excellent use of tense concept/time referents. Excellent examples of subordination and appropriate use of more complex structures. Clear ability to manipulate language with a high degree of accuracy to suit the purpose. Very pleasant to read; though not necessarily faultless.
10-12	Generally accurate and secure in grammar, syntax and morphology with some lapses. Accuracy less secure when more complex language is attempted. Uses a good range of vocabulary, idiom and structure, which are for the most part appropriate to the task. Attempts at more ambitious structures not always successful. Generally a secure grasp of tense concept/time referents. Manipulates language to suit the task at hand with, however, some errors. A wide range of vocabulary, idiom and structure may compensate for a lower level of accuracy. Generally easy to read despite the errors.
7-9	Fairly accurate in simple language however tends to be inconsistent in application of grammar, syntax and morphology when attempting more complex language. Range of vocabulary, idiom and structure standard and somewhat predictable. Some inconsistency in use of tense concept/time referents. Some attempts at subordination and sentence linking which are only partially successful. Attempts enhancement of fact with adjectives and/or adverbial phrases with moderate success. About half of what is written should be free of major errors. Despite inaccuracies the basic message is conveyed.
4-6	Accuracy is inconsistent with frequent basic errors in grammar, syntax and morphology. Simple, short sentences are sometimes correct but very little beyond. Range of vocabulary and structure very limited. Use of tense concept/time referents limited and often inappropriate. Limited success in attempts at enhancement of fact with adjectives, and/or adverbial phrases. Not easy to read.
1-3	A high level of inaccuracy with very frequent and basic errors in grammar, syntax and morphology. There may be the occasional correct phrase. No awareness of tense concept/time referents. Vocabulary very basic with little or no evidence of correct use of basic structures. Communication is severely impaired overall. Extremely difficult to read.
0	No language worthy of credit.



## BENGALI 7606, CHIEF EXAMINER'S REPORT

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### General Comments

About 996 candidates were entered for the GCE O Level Bengali examination in January 2006, mostly from the existing centres. The largest entry was from Centre 90320, the British Council in Dhaka.

A substantial proportion of this year's candidates produced very good translations and confident essays. The majority of candidates found the paper accessible and the overall performance of candidates showed that the transmission skills to and from the target language has improved. Having said this, on some occasions candidates' performances were not as good as expected due to their lack of grammatical - and also appropriate transmission - skills.

### Question 1

The stronger candidates were able to translate the Bengali passage into English with only a few spelling mistakes and with the use of correct grammatical structures, and so scored high marks. It was also pleasing to see that the majority of the candidates transmitted the passage accurately using simple language with appropriate use of tense. However, the weaker candidates often struggled to translate 'আন্তঃনগর', 'গা শিউরানো', 'গুটিসুটি মেরে', 'খেজুরে আলাপ', 'ভ্যাচাচ্যাকা খাওয়া মুখ', 'আড়চোখে' and 'স্বভাবসুলভ ভঙ্গিতে' and had difficulty in transmitting complex structures in the passage and applying the appropriate application of grammar. As such, proper transfer of those words were often unsuccessful. The average score recorded for this question was 17.

### Question 2

As compared to Question 1, this passage was more accessible to most candidates therefore the majority of the candidates succeeded to transmit the content of the passage fairly well. Almost all candidates performed the translation task in standard Bengali. The average score recorded for this question was 18/19. On the whole, candidates performed quite successfully, displaying good literacy skills in both languages.

### Question 3

It is quite evident that even stronger candidates were often unable to score full marks in translating single sentences where they are tested on specific grammar points. It is due to the following facts:

- a) Almost all candidates misinterpreted this idiomatic phrase. They rather simply transliterated the sentence i.e., সে তার বাবাব পরে নেয়/খায় etc. and so scored nil. In fact, about 98% scored nil.
- b) Only the stronger candidates coped well with this sentence. Most of the candidates were unable to distinguish between 'খুব' and 'বেশি' which was crucial in this sentence.
- c) The strongest candidates were able to translate this sentence into Bengali with greater confidence and scored full marks. However, the weaker candidates often were misled by part of the phrase 'Why do you have to disagree ...', and so often scored low marks or even 0.

- d) This sentence had also been translated literally by most candidates. Even the stronger candidates often misinterpreted the phrase 'told off' and wrote 'চলে যেতে বললো', so scored low marks. In fact, 98% candidates scored nil.
- e) Most candidates transmitted the sentence correctly, though some failed to use the appropriate tense. The average mark score is 8/9.

#### Question 4

The question 4 (d) was well responded to by the of the majority candidates. Stronger candidates were able to demonstrate a wide range of vocabulary and grammatical structures. However, on occasions, candidates overlooked the main focus of the content i.e. a personal reaction to a place which is special. Candidates, on the contrary, only described the place. In fact, candidates were expected in this exercise to express both facts and opinions followed by their justification of opinions. Failing to do this meant that they scored fewer marks than expected. The same thing applies to the essay option, 4 (a), where candidates were asked to write a review of a book/film. Again, there is a requirement to express facts and opinion. Unfortunately this was not evident amongst average candidates, so the score was less than expected. On the other hand, those who combined these two in their response, obviously scored the top range marks. Amongst the essay options, 4 (c) was the least popular. But those who attempted this scored good marks. It was also pleasing to see that in 4 (b), a number of candidates made a comparative study of issues growing up in a small as well as a big family followed by their personal reactions, and so scored top grade marks.

#### Conclusion

Overall, candidates performed well in this examination. The quality of work produced by a number of candidates was worthy of credit. The standard of literacy and the knowledge of grammar in both English and Bengali were impressive on a number of occasions. Evidently, candidates had been taught both languages well at this level and were also 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	66	57	48	43	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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