

Examiners' Report January 2008

GCE O Level

GCE O Level Bengali(7606)

Edexcel is one of the leading examining and awarding bodies in the UK and throughout the world. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers.

Through a network of UK and overseas offices, Edexcel's centres receive the support they need to help them deliver their education and training programmes to learners.

For further information please call our Customer Services on + 44 1204 770 696, or visit our website at www.edexcel-international.org.uk.

January 2008

All the material in this publication is copyright

© Edexcel Ltd 2008

Content

Examiner's Report	01
Statistics	03

O'Level Bengali 7606

General comments

About 1130 candidates were entered for the GCE O Level Bengali examination in January 2008 mostly from existing centres. The majority of candidates found the paper accessible with a good proportion performing well and scoring high marks.

The overall performance of candidates showed that the standard of literacy, including the transmission skills to and from the target language, has improved. On the odd occasion candidates' performances were not as good as expected due to their lack of tense concepts, grammar and also weak 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. It was pleasing to see that the majority of the candidates transmitted the passage fairly accurately using simple language with appropriate use of tense. However, the weaker candidates often struggled to translate some words and structures such as ধার-কর্জ নেওয়া, বাড়তি হারে সুদ, ঋণদাতাদের, আর্থিক সংস্থালো, ক্ষুদ্র-ঋণ প্রকল্প, নির্দিষ্ট কিস্তিতে, ধান ভাঙার মেশিন, বাস্তবায়িত and স্বনির্ভর. Therefore, the correct transfer of these words were often unsuccessful and quite a few candidates used the transliteration of these words instead. In addition, they had difficulty in transmitting structures such as 'গ্রামীণ ব্যাঙ্কেরস্বনির্ভর হয়েছে আর দারিদ্রকে হয়েছে' 'women's education' or similar. The average score recorded for this question was 17/18.

Question 2

Like Q1, this passage was accessible to most candidates and the majority succeeded in transmitting the content of the passage fairly well, with the stronger candidates showing good flow in their Bengali writing. However, there was on occasion the odd error where the time sequence and the tense concept was not transmitted appropriately. Weaker candidates often struggled to transmit words such as, nerve-racking, cousin, nevertheless, bedridden, traditional, thorough, tranquil lives and city folk. This could be due to their lack of knowledge or unfamiliarity regarding the corresponding Bengali meaning of these words. However, on the whole, candidates performed quite successfully, displaying good literacy skills in both languages. The average score recorded for this question was 18/19.

Question 3

This question tests candidates on specific grammar points. It is quite pleasing to see that almost all candidates were able to translate the five sentences accurately. There was only the odd occasion where candidates were not accurate in their transmission of 'certainly' in Q3(a). The average score recorded for this question was 14.

Question 4

Q4b and Q4c were comparatively well attempted and most candidates performed well. Letter option was better responded by the majority of the candidates than the essay option. The stronger candidates used a variety of vocabulary, idioms and phrases. The points of views of their tasks were generally well expressed and coherent and so they scored good marks. Again, there was a requirement of an anticipation of facts, good flow, analysis and opinion. The weaker responses were mainly descriptive and not very many candidates used high level vocabulary or idiomatic phrases. The manipulation of language was very basic on occasion with the incorrect use of syntax and tenses. On the other hand, candidates who fulfilled these criteria and displayed a coherent piece of writing obviously scored the top range marks. Amongst the essay options, Q4c and the letter option Q4d were well responded by the majority of the candidates. The letter option was the most popular one and the Q4a was the least popular. But those who attempted this scored very good marks. The average score recorded for this item was 23/24.

Statistics

Bengali 7606

Grade	A	B	C	D	E
Lowest mark for award of grade	72	64	56	51	41

Further copies of this publication are available from
Edexcel UK Regional Offices at www.edexcel.org.uk/sfc/feschools/regional/
or International Regional Offices at www.edexcel-international.org/sfc/academic/regional/

For more information on Edexcel qualifications, please visit www.edexcel-international.org/quals
Alternatively, you can contact Customer Services at www.edexcel.org.uk/ask or on + 44 1204 770 696

Edexcel Limited. Registered in England and Wales no.4496750
Registered Office: One90 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7BH