

Examiners' Report January 2007

GCE O LEVEL

GCE O LEVEL PAKISTAN STUDIES (7535)

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Principal Examiner's Report

January 2007 Paper 1

The History And Heritage Of Pakistan

1 General comments

The standard of work presented this year by candidates was broadly comparable to that of last year with a similar entry figure compared to January 2006. Almost all the candidates answered the required three questions. Few displayed any sign of problems with the requirements of the examination especially relating to time. There were few or no rubric errors. It was clear that many candidates had been well prepared for the examination. There appeared to be a good even spread of questions answered this year throughout the paper. However those candidates who answered questions 3, 4 and 6 in particular generally performed well and displayed a good level of accurate and relevant detail in their answers.

Many candidates produced focused answers to the questions with few irrelevancies and genuine attempts to answer the question as set. However there were a number of candidates who were clearly unprepared for the examination paper, producing often generalised and weak answers to the questions. One disappointing feature of answers this year was that there were many candidates listing points rather than writing explanations or even descriptions, especially in answer to questions 1 and 6. It is important to note that those candidates who continue this practice will not score as highly as those who write explanations in full and continuous prose. It is hoped that centres will bring this to the attention of their candidates.

2 Comments on individual questions

Question 1

This was a popular question on the achievements of the Mughal Emperors. Generally candidates did well, scoring about half marks consistently but there were few very high scoring answers. Perhaps one of the reasons for the lack of high scoring answers was the failure of many candidates to write in detail, focusing on general issues rather than dealing with their achievements. The question did highlight the need to *explain* as well as just describe their achievements.

Question 2

Again this was another popular question and again one which was answered well. Most candidates knew their facts about the topics specified, including the Battle of Buxar, the Regulating Act and the British individuals, Hastings, Bentinck and Clive. Most candidates were able to score well on this question, achieving creditable marks in the main with a good level of detail shown. Answers were generally accurate and the facts were well known with a good attempt to explain their historical importance

Question 3

The question on the creation of the Muslim league, the Morley - Minto and Montague-Chelmsford Reforms was also a popular and indeed one of the strongest answered questions on the paper. Answers were generally accurate and facts were well known with another good attempt to explain their historical importance. As a result many candidates scored highly.

Question 4

This was also a very popular question on the Khilafat Movement and in the main was well answered with many answers gaining well in excess of half marks. Most candidates were able to describe the events of the Movement in chronological order but further marks for answers offering detailed accounts of the origins and aims was sometimes lacking. However in general most candidates were able to describe the events of the Movement, even some of their answers lacked the required depth.

Question 5

Again this was a popular question on the Round Table Conferences with some genuine attempts to address the successful nature of each. As a result many answers on this question scored highly. However there were equally many candidates who only knew a few facts on each of the Conferences and as a result wrote brief descriptions which attracted few marks.

Question 6

In the main this was a popular question which attracted some of the highest scoring answers on the paper. There were good attempts at this question on the problems facing Pakistan in 1947 and the ways in which the government attempted to solve them. There was a good level of detailed knowledge on the topic and most attempts were well rewarded.

Question 7

This question attracted a mixed response of answers. Those candidates who attempted to explain the historical importance of Urdu, the 1973 Constitution and the Islamic Ordinances generally scored more highly than those who wrote about the role of women, higher education and the Pakistan military, mainly because their knowledge of such topics was much greater. Nevertheless those candidates who knew their facts scored well and those who wrote vague and generalised answers scored badly.

Question 8

Although question 8 is normally one which attracts few takers, this one relating to relations between Pakistan and India proved more popular this year. However many candidates tended to concentrate on the Kashmir issue to the sole exclusion of other aspects of the relationship between the two countries. Nevertheless the efforts of many candidates on this question were promising and some high scores were evident in a number of cases.

Principal Examiner's Report

January 2007 Paper 2

The Land, People and Resources of Pakistan

1 General comments

Most candidates were able successfully to attempt the required question 1 and three other questions on this paper. However candidates frequently failed to do total justice to their greater appreciable knowledge of the subject owing to their giving insufficient attention to basic examination techniques. A failure to give consideration to the precise demands of question, minimal planning of answers, copious repetition and poor time management were all evident. Additionally it should be noted that adherence to the structure of questions with due regard to the allocation of marks is an imperative requirement.

2 Comments on individual questions

Question 1

All too often relatively easily acquired marks were forfeited here owing to lack of attention to detail. For example 'mark and name' means precisely that; mere symbols gained no credit. Two particular items in this question seemed to regularly defeat candidates. They were the location of mangrove vegetation and the route of the railway between Karachi and the Iranian frontier.

Question 2

Occasionally the terms 'rural' and 'urban' were confused though in such cases some credit was given where the response was in the spirit of the question. Part (a) required a sharp focus on some people and the best answers dwelt on some of the particular problems of migrants to urban areas who are unable to access basic facilities and services. There were some thoughtful responses to the merits of rural areas and recognition was given to the less stressful lifestyles often experienced. However answers which put forward the notion of bountiful high quality medical facilities and the easy relaxed rural life, lacked conviction. Part (c) answers tended to be weaker. Often little of substance was offered not always related to health. The most commonly quoted urban project was afforestation!

Question 3

The best quality answers to part (a) considered both the demand and supply of electricity, mentioning characteristics such as the growing population and economy and the shortcoming of current modes of provision, together with losses owing to transmission. Some detailed attention was given to environmental pollution; while expressed with passion it was sadly irrelevant. However part (b) invited a response in this vein but sometimes it was overlooked or neglected in this component of the question. The government perhaps needs to note that relatively few candidates are approving of significantly greater use being made of nuclear power. Some

sound arguments were developed notably commenting on the danger dimension and the need to invest to a greater extent in alternative sources.

Question 4

Sound responses to part (a) wisely considered factors such as topographical constraints on railways, the cost of air travel and the perceived general lack of a comprehensive transport policy. Surprisingly perhaps, the impact of the private motor vehicle was infrequently considered. Most candidates were familiar with the route and general impact of the Karakoran Highway which entirely appropriately sometimes featured in part (c). The best answers offered detail on this impact, quoting details such as which commodities were traded, giving examples of named communities which had gained and illustrating how it had enhanced tourism in the area.

Question 5

This was a very popular question and the responses illustrate that candidates are getting to grips with the climate topic. Part (a) sought patterns; for example City B has a lower total rainfall than C; City C has a bigger range of temperature than B. It was not necessary to compare the cities month by month and indeed such an approach failed to detect patterns. Most candidates correctly matched the cities and data in part (b) but the reasons had to be meaningful to score. 'Karachi has higher summer temperatures' contributes nothing of value. Answers to (c) were often good with observations being made on seasonal wind directions and maritime/continental influences.

Question 6

This question produced some of the most disappointing answers often because the question was not thoroughly studied. It was not simply about the problems resulting from irrigation, though that possibly merited inclusion in (a). Sound responses in (b) made mention of the means of tackling losses through evaporation and leakage and mentioned the merits of the sprinkler/spray system. The most common error in (c) was to address the question why tube wells may be used, as opposed to how. Diagrams when they featured were often untidy, rushed and sometimes simply inaccurate.

Question 7

A widely adopted and well answered question. There were some excellent answers to part (a) but only 5 marks available! However candidates left the reader in no doubt about the crucial importance of these craft/cottage industries and their particular appeal to women. The term "characteristics" was not always understood at (b); acceptable answers included the likes of significant capital investment and having economies of scale. Part (c) illustrates a cave where some candidates ignored the structure of the question and simply dwell on the advantages and disadvantages of multi-national companies. These lost marks. It is to be noted that that some candidates sang the praises of these companies but were devastatingly critical afterwards.

Question 8

Many candidates who attempted this question struggled insofar that they dwelled simply on mechanisation, land reform and improvements in education. Indeed there were some high quality analysis of the latter which sometimes scored a single mark. Candidates frequently either failed to appreciate or subsequently drifted away from the essence of the question.

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