

Examiners' Report January 2008

GCE O Level

Pakistan Studies (7535)

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Pakistan Studies Paper 1 History and Heritage

General comments

The standard of work presented this year by candidates was broadly comparable to that of last year with a slightly smaller entry figure compared to January 2007. Almost all the candidates answered the required three questions and few displayed any sign of problems with the requirements of the examination especially relating to time. There were few or no rubric errors. Many candidates had been obviously well prepared for the examination with some good answers to questions 2, 3 and 4 which appeared to be amongst the best answered questions. Those candidates who answered these questions in particular generally performed well and displayed a good level of accurate and relevant detail in their answers.

Many candidates produced focussed answers to the questions with few irrelevancies and some genuine attempts to answer them as set. However there remain a number of candidates who were clearly unprepared for the examination paper, producing often generalised and weak answers to the questions. A disappointing feature of answers again this year was that there were many candidates listing points rather than writing explanations or even descriptions, especially in answer to questions 1, 3 and 4. It is important for Centres to note that those candidates who continue this practice will not score as highly as those who write explanations in full and in continuous prose. It is hoped again this year that Centres will bring this to the attention of their candidates and actively discourage this practice.

Comments on individual questions

Question 1

This was a popular question on the cultural developments of the Mughal Emperors in relation to literature, art and music and architecture. Generally candidates performed satisfactorily, scoring about half marks consistently but there were very few high scoring answers. One of the reasons for the lack of high scoring answers perhaps was the failure of many candidates to write in detail, focusing on general issues rather than dealing with their precise achievements. The question did highlight the need to *explain* as well as just describe their contributions.

Question 2

Again this was another popular question and one that was done well. The question required candidates to explain the importance of the achievements of Sheik Ahmad Khan, Shah Wali Ullah and Syed Ahmad Shaheed Barailvi in the spread of Islam. Most candidates knew their facts about the individuals specified, and were able to competently explain their achievements. Many candidates were able to score highly on this question with a good level of detail and explanation shown. Answers were generally accurate and the facts were well known with a good attempt to explain their individual and relative importance

Question 3

The question on the War of Independence was also popular and was again one of the best-answered questions on the paper. Candidates were required to explain the reasons for the outbreak of war and why it failed. Answers were generally accurate and facts were well known with another good attempt at explanation. As a result many candidates scored highly. As previously indicated however, many candidates spoiled their answers to this question by merely listing bullet-pointed answers which inevitably led to lower marks.

Question 4

This was also a very popular question on the Khilafat Movement and in the main was well answered with some answers gaining high marks. Most candidates had few problems with the facts relating to the events of the Movement in chronological order but answers offering reasons for its foundation were sometimes lacking. Many candidates merely offered a narrative account of its origin and the main events between 1914 and 1924. Answers were more focussed on the second part of the question relating to the Movement's failure although some candidates replicated answers already given in part (a). There were some promising attempts by a few candidates to debate the extent of the Movement's failure which was a pleasing feature of such answers.

Question 5

Again this was a popular question on the events of attempts to provide a political solution to the sub continent during the 1940s with some genuine attempts to address the importance of each. As a result some answers on this question scored highly. Most candidates knew their facts of this period of time and produced some competent answers to the question.

Question 6

There were fewer attempts to this question on the historical development of regional languages than in previous questions, although those candidates who answered it again produced some competent answers. However in the main these were largely descriptive answers that produced few attempts at explanation.

Question 7

This question attracted a mixed response of answers. There were those candidates who knew their facts about the governments of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto but there was little attempt to provide any explanation, relying on a description of the reforms produced. Other candidates knew little of the facts and were mainly attracted to the second part of the question that required candidates to give reasons for his execution. A few of the facts of this event were known but in general these candidates tended to write vague and generalised answers and as a result scored badly.

Question 8

Few or no candidates answered this question on the role of Pakistan in world organisations.

Pakistan Studies Paper 2 Land, People and Resources

General comments

There were some very good scripts where candidates had a sound knowledge and applied it to answer their chosen questions, sometimes demonstrating an admirable insight into the issues under consideration. Such scripts were also generally well written and well presented. However, some candidates failed to do total justice to their ability due to a lack of preparation and planning in their answers. In a significant number of instances candidates simply did not read the questions sufficiently carefully and consequently lost marks.

Comments on individual questions

Question 1

Parts (a) and (b) were soundly answered but some candidates were not familiar with the term 'isotherm' in part (c). The correct answer was Y; both X and Z had lower temperatures in June.

Less care was taken by some candidates in addressing part (d) where items were frequently not 'marked and named'. The simple inclusion of a key would have remedied this. Part (iv) seemed to trouble some candidates, even where they were able to present accurate information for the monsoon in the text to question five.

Question 2

This was a popular question, where passion sometimes took priority over rational thought. However, generally it was well done, especially throughout parts (a), (b) and (c). However, part (d), which had a focus on 'greatly reduced and at a low cost', troubled many who attempted this question. Many candidates simply opted to describe ways in which infant mortality rates might be reduced. The best answers put forward a view that quite a lot could be achieved relatively cheaply by attending to the likes of clean water supplies, sanitation and general hygiene.

Question 3

Some candidates overlooked the critical word 'describe' in part (a) and went on to give reasons for the differences between the two pyramids, only to repeat the exercise in part (b). The best answers offered differences in the general shapes, pointing out the likes of a significant expansion in the age groups between 5-9 and 35-39. This, of course, projects a big increase in the potential working population which perhaps offered a matter to be considered in part (c). Equally, in part (c), the fact that the elderly age groups are likely to expand merits some consideration of planning to cater for them.

Question 4

This question was attempted by relatively few candidates but answers were generally sound. On occasions answers got off to a poor start by features other than physical ones being quoted in (a), where attention to relief, drainage and climate was sought.

There were some high quality answers to part (b) where the potential for the exploitation of the vast mineral resources was pointed out, together with the fact that China has the capital and technology to develop such. In (c) a variety of problems were identified, most notably relating to the weak infrastructure of Baluchistan. Some answers showed insight into the possible problems for Chinese investment resulting from the political instability allegedly found in Pakistan.

Question 5

A popular question which confirms the growing confidence of candidates with an understanding of the climatic features of Pakistan. It was well tackled with appropriate references to the monsoon and western depressions in part (b) and the consequential seasonal differences. Sometimes, precipitation dominated the answer in part (c), where it was perhaps only marginally relevant. The key factors here were maritime/continental climate, latitude and altitude. Occasionally, the latter two were confused.

Question 6

There were sound answers to parts (a) and (b). Most candidates were well informed on the advantages of migrant workers to the economy of Pakistan. Unfortunately, in some instances there was a failure by candidates to detect the fact that part (c) switched to internal rural-to-urban migration.

The answers to (c)(ii) were often disappointing and too often amounted to statements of the obvious. Candidates often failed to expand on the basic statements made and focus on the impact on internal migration.

Question 7

Answers were good. Candidates were generally well equipped to answer this question, having a very sound knowledge of the characteristics of 'informal industry' and why it employs so many people in Pakistan. In part (c) there was a legitimate school of thought among candidates which pressed for positive discrimination to achieve greater employment opportunities for women. A few were even more ambitious in their views, urging a positive weighting of salaries; such responses came exclusively from female candidates.

Question 8

The least popular question on the paper but it produced some sound answers. All candidates who attempted this correctly identified the exports and imports. Most seemed very familiar with reasons for the discrepancies mentioned in part (b) and frequently expressed views about the level of challenge presented in tackling this problem, which was sometimes perceived to be growing. While not invited in the question, views were expressed on ways to remedy this problem. There was little evidence of reference to the photograph in part (c); this could have helped some candidates. However, the advantages and disadvantages of containerisation were generally known, though rarely was any mention made of its merits regarding loading and unloading. Considerable attention was given to its negative impact on employment at the ports. Part (d) was well handled; the physical characteristics of the coastline were frequently mentioned, as were the limited availability of capital and the poor infrastructure serving the coastal area.

O Level Pakistan Studies 7535 Grade Boundaries

Grade	A	B	C	D	E
Lowest mark for award of grade	62	53	45	40	28

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