

# Examiners' Report January 2009

GCE

GCE O Pakistan (7535)

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# 7535 Pakistan Studies Paper 1

## General comments

The standard of work presented this year was broadly in line with that of the previous year, with a pleasing increased entry figure compared to 2008. All candidates answered the required three questions with few rubric errors. Many candidates had been well prepared for the examination this year with the highest scoring ones answering questions 2, 3 and 5. These candidates displayed a high level of accurate, relevant and appropriate explanation in their answers. Indeed many candidates produced focused answers with few irrelevancies and some genuine attempts to answer the questions as set.

However, as in previous years, there were again those candidates who were unprepared for the demands of the paper, producing often brief and sometimes irrelevant answers to the questions with the usual listing of points rather than writing explanations or even descriptions. As is continually stated in these reports such listing means that these candidates will not score as highly as those who write explanations in full and continuous prose.

## Comments on individual questions

### Question 1

This was a less popular question 1 than in previous years and candidates often struggled to score highly. The question asked for the contribution of Sufis, Sufism and Timur to the spread of Islam. Answers on the role of the Sufis and Sufism had more focused responses than that of Timur, who was not well known by most candidates, but as in previous years many answers strayed too far in dealing with the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

### Question 2

In this question on the reasons why the British were able to conquer India, answers were usually well-constructed and dealt with the main issues at this time. With regard to the battles of Plassey and Buxar answers were mixed. Many candidates who had been prepared for such a question scored well although there was inevitably confusion amongst candidates over the detail of the two battles. Few candidates were able to explain why the British were successful tending in the main to describe the two battles.

### Question 3

In this question on the achievements of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, candidates knew a considerable amount of information. For those who were able to explain his achievements marks were usually high. However for other candidates they found some difficulty in organising their answers and often these concentrated on a description of his career rather than focussing on his achievements. Nevertheless, this was one of the best and most popular questions answered.

#### Question 4

This was also a very popular question but for many candidates this was not as well answered as others, especially in the first part on the reasons for the partition of Bengal in 1905. Many candidates wrote about events in Bengal at the time with little specific and related facts regarding the reasons for partition. Answers to the second part on the reversal of partition were better and resulted in some high scoring answers. However in a few cases candidates ignored the question and wrote in generalised terms about events between 1905 and 1911.

#### Question 5

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 aims were sometimes lacking. Many candidates merely offered a narrative account of its origin and the main events between 1914 and 1924. Answers were more focused on the final part of the question relating to the Movement's failure although some candidates replicated answers already given in part (b) on the events of the Movement.

#### Question 6

Surprisingly this question on the career of Muhammad Ali Jinnah was badly attempted by the majority of candidates who answered it. Candidates appeared to have little knowledge of this topic and those that did often wrote brief and vague responses. As a result answers tended to be low scoring and demonstrated a lack of knowledge and understanding of the topic.

#### Question 7

This question on Ayub Khan was also popular and most candidates were able to write at length about his reforms which led to the term 'decade of progress' being given to his period of office. However some candidates wrote at length about all the events of his government including foreign policy which wasn't strictly relevant to the question. Again it is essential for candidates to recognise what is required in each question before commencing their answer.

#### Question 8

This was surprisingly not a popular topic and there were very few answers to the question. However those candidates who addressed the question were able to bring the situation up to date regarding the changing relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan. However there were few high scoring answers.

## 7535 Pakistan Studies Paper 2

### General comments

Most candidates were able to complete four questions on the paper with some considerable confidence. Many had a sound knowledge of the topics being examined and were able to express their views in an articulate way. Once again, there were two significant shortcomings on an appreciable number of scripts.

(i) There was often a lack of preparation and planning of answers which led to somewhat laboured, repetitive and time consuming responses. There is almost always merit in taking a little time to reflect before putting pen to paper.

(ii) The precise requirements of questions were not always fully appreciated which sometimes meant that candidates' considerable knowledge was not employed to its best advantage.

Nonetheless, some scripts showed ample insight into some of the issues raised in questions and presented mature and thoughtful answers.

### Comments on individual questions

#### Question 1

In some instances this question was apparently completed with very considerable haste and consequently insufficient attention being given to detail. Some answers were very untidily presented. However, most candidates secured more than half marks on this question, though very few scored maximum marks.

Part (a) was generally well answered as were (i) and (ii) at (b). Relatively few identified J as having the lowest annual range of temperature owing to its maritime location. Poor presentation cost some candidates marks in (c) where frequently the instruction 'mark and name' was ignored. For example, in some instances candidates named the River Sutlej on the map, without marking its course.

#### Question 2

Part (a) seemed to cause difficulty for the relatively small number of candidates who attempted this question, where apparent random selections were made. Distributional features such as areas growing maize are found in the north of the country and areas producing rice occupy the Indus Delta, seemingly, were rarely considered.

Otherwise, most candidates were well informed about the growing conditions and cultivation of rice and wheat; they also had a good insight into the merits of the 'Green Revolution'. The best answers in (c) gave consideration 'to what extent' these changes had proved to be an advantage for both individual farmers and the national economy.

### Question 3

By far the most popular question on the paper, where passion showed through in some answers. Parts (a) and (b) produced many sound answers. Occasionally there was a failure to address differences in (a) and sometimes very lengthy answers were offered, in spite of there being only two marks available.

There was no lack measures forthcoming in part (c) though those offered were not always practical and not always in the gift of even the most able government. Some answers ventured into positive discrimination for women. While possibly a contentious area such proposals fitted the question and due credit was given. Part (ii) was competently tackled with many answers dwelling on the perceived shortcomings of government alongside tradition and cultural constraints.

### Question 4

In the main candidates had ample knowledge to tackle this question but sometimes became confused while writing the answer. There were many errors in part (a). Surprisingly, in some cases, having correctly identified stage 2 as having the steep fall in death rate, stage 1 was offered as that most closely representing Pakistan in 2009. It was equally surprising on occasions to see stage 4 named (low, fluctuating) for 2009.

Part (b)(ii) produced many very sound answers. Sometimes marks were lost here as candidates did not follow through with their arguments. For example, simply stating that progress in education has assisted the fall in the birth rate was really insufficient unless its impact was pointed out. In part (ii) candidates almost invariably failed to address 'the levelling off of death rate' and opted simply for fall in death rate. What was fundamental to this question was that relatively basic measures can bring about significant falls in the death rate in the early stages of the model; there afterwards, progress is more challenging. Credit was given to answers offering such suggestions that funding had been reduced.

### Question 5

There were some competent answers to this question, particularly where attention was given to detail in (b). Here some very long answers consumed appreciable time for candidates when it was not necessary. Crucially, 'trends' were sought. For example in (i), imports continued to rise; exports did not rise nearly as much; there was a negative balance of trade throughout the period. In (ii) differences between Pakistan and the European Union were required; this was often overlooked. For example, it was only in 2005 that Pakistan acquired a negative balance of trade with the European Union, whereas such had been the case throughout the entire period shown with the World.

In (c) some candidates overlooked the fact that manufacturing here was only a vehicle assembly process but nonetheless answers were generally sound. There were some excellent responses to part (d) where particular observations were appropriately made on the poor quality of infrastructure and facilities.



### Question 7

This was a well answered question, particularly in parts (a) and (b). Many candidates were well informed on developments in energy and their allied problems. Occasionally in (b)(i) there was an oversight to recognise that this question addressed the issue on a worldwide basis. This gave greater scope to the question, permitting a wider reference to the pressure of public opinion and the drive of some governments outside Pakistan. Indeed, in (ii) a common theme was to point out the lack of political will in Pakistan.

Answers to (c) were sometimes disappointing given the apparent knowledge possessed by candidates and essentially comprised a list of organisations/companies which had contributed to the measures. Knowledge was not sufficiently employed to answer the question. The best answers gave attention to the distinction between exploration and exploitation.

### Question 8

A popular question, which in a small number of cases, produced some very high calibre responses at part (c). The first three parts of the question prompted many sound answers; candidates had a good working knowledge of both traditional and modern systems of irrigation. Candidates were very aware of the problems of the long-term use of such, and wrote confidently about waterlogging and salination.

In (c) good quality answers were offered by candidates who appreciated that water in Pakistan is a scarce commodity and that there is merit in ensuring its efficient use. However, candidates appropriately pointed out that privatisation could price some small farmers out of the 'water market' with far-reaching adverse consequences. Overall, there was little support for privatisation, many candidates viewing this arrangement as a blatant search for profit.

## 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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