

# Examiners' Report Summer 2010

GCE

## O Level Pakistan Studies 7535 01

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August 2010

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## Principal Examiner's Report

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### General Comments:

The standard of work presented this year by candidates was broadly in line with that of last year with a similar entry figure to May 2008. The fall in the entry last summer was made up this year.

All candidates answered the required three questions with again very few rubric errors. It is pleasing to note that the majority of candidates had been once again very well prepared for the examination. The highest scoring candidates were the ones who answered questions 1, 3 and 4. They produced a good level of accurate, relevant and appropriate explanation in their answers. Many candidates also produced answers with few irrelevancies this year and there were some genuine attempts to answer the questions as set. However it was noticeable with many candidates that they tended to concentrate too heavily on the first two questions with the result that they failed to devote sufficient time to their third and final answer. Centres should encourage candidates to spend a roughly equal amount of time on each question.

### Comments on individual questions:

#### Q1

This is always a popular question but candidates often struggle to score highly. The Mughal Emperors is a popular topic and candidates enjoy writing about them. However the focus of the question was on their achievements and an over emphasis on art, architecture and painting missed the point when it should have had more about the political, social and religious aspects of their reigns. Also a description of their lifestyle was often irrelevant to the question set.

#### Q2

This question on the reasons for the British involvement in the Indian sub-continent brought some answers and many candidates scored well in the first part. However the second part on the importance of Bengal to the British brought some irrelevant answers in the majority of cases. Most candidates knew little about this aspect of the syllabus and very often some candidates wrote about the partition of Bengal in the twentieth century which was clearly irrelevant.

#### Q3

This question was probably the most popular and highest scoring one. Most candidates knew much about the four individuals stated and were able to articulate well their various achievements. However this was the question that candidates wrote too much, if there is such a thing. Although many candidates scored heavily, not all answers were to the point and sufficiently concise. As a result candidates spent far too long on the question and left themselves with little time to do justice to the second or third question. A shorter and pithier response on this question would have brought much the same mark for these candidates. However marks were generally high for most candidates showing that they knew their facts on these individuals.

#### Q4

This was also a popular question that dealt with the Khilafat Movement. Again most candidates knew their facts on this topic and also wrote extensively on it and generally scored very highly. However too many candidates ignored the question structure, saw the topic and proceeded to write out learned responses on the Khilafat Movement. As a result by writing all they knew on the topic candidates went from beginning to the end of the

Movement in part (a) on the 'events' and then often had to repeat in part (b) the reasons for its failure which had been described in part (a). Thus once again many candidates wrote too much, often repeating themselves and as such ran out of time on their third answer. Again Centres must ensure that candidates are appropriately prepared for the examination and learn to answer the question set as focussed and concisely as possible in order to avoid the above problem.

#### **Q5**

This was also a popular question that required candidates to explain the importance of Iqbal and Rehmat Ali. Most candidates knew their facts on these two individuals but some spent too much time describing their early careers, however interesting, instead of concentrating on their importance to the Muslim cause. Once again, there were many irrelevant answers on their early careers that failed to score many, if any marks until later in their answers.

#### **Q6**

This was quite a popular question that required candidates describe and explain the conflict between Pakistan and India regarding Kashmir. This has been a problematic topic in earlier years with many candidates merely describing all they knew about Kashmir up to the present day with scant regard to the question. This year there were many fewer such answers which demonstrates that Centres are listening to the advice that is given to them in these reports and it was pleasing to note that many answers were well focussed and for those who answered the question they generally fared well.

#### **Q7**

There were very few attempts to answer this question on the attempts to form a constitution between 1949 and 1973 and as such few candidates scored many marks. Those who attempted it generally fared badly.

#### **Q8**

Again few candidates answered the final question on the Bhutto years in the 1980s and 1990s. There were a few good answers but in the main those who did attempt this question knew little about the topic and so scored badly.

## Grade Boundaries

7535 01	Max. Mark	A	C	E
	060	31	22	13

7535 02	Max. Mark	A	C	E
	060	41	29	21

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