

Examiners' Report Summer 2010

GCE

O Level Pakistan Studies 7535 02

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Principal Examiner's Report

General Comments:

Most candidates were able to successfully complete four questions on this paper; there were very few rubric offences. A very small number of candidates attempted all eight questions.

The examiners reported that many candidates wrote with confidence and authority though, yet again, shortcomings in performance often resulted from a lack of planning and preparation of answers. All too infrequently was there evidence that candidates took the desired time to think and reflect before putting pen to paper.

There were also instances where candidates seemed not sufficiently guided by mark allocations for question parts. If part of a question is allotted, say, only two marks, it is unlikely to merit a lot of time and attention. It remains the case that many candidates do not give enough attention to time management which is a fundamental skill when answering examination papers. In many instances the fourth answer was rushed. Had such candidates given more consideration to the overall deployment of time, it is likely they would have gained more marks.

Q1

Many candidates scored highly on this basic question, as was to be expected. On occasions it seemed that candidates gave it very little time which sometimes led to inaccurate and untidy responses. This question is rightly demanding of care and accuracy.

The most common errors concerned parts (b), (c) and (d). Distances quoted were sometimes massively outside the range of 775-825 km allowed; directions were sometimes offered from city B to city A and latitude and longitude were frequently confused.

Q2

This was a popular question which was generally well answered. Some candidates missed the reference to 'total population' in part (b). Marks were sometimes lost in (c)(i) as attention was given to the presence of Peshawar and Quetta rather than the absence of large cities to the west of the River Indus. The best answers offered specific details about physical factors rather than just quoting the likes of 'extreme climate'. An indication of, say, the prevailing temperatures or annual rainfall would have made all the difference here.

The knowledge held by candidates about Karachi in part (ii) was appreciable, (especially its international connections), but all too often Lahore barely featured in the answers. Equally, often no reference was made to the fact that Karachi is no longer the capital. This answer required careful planning in order to do justice to its very precise demands.

Q3

A significant number of answers offered inaccurate responses at (a)(i). A was nuclear, B thermal and C hydroelectric. It was surprising to learn that so many candidates regarded nuclear energy as already being so prevalent in Pakistan

Parts (b) and (c) were well answered, though (b) sometimes received prodigious attention (for 2 marks) and some candidates got sidetracked into rural migration in part (c). In both of these instances it shows how important it is to take note of exactly what the question is asking and how the marks are allocated.

There were some thoughtful answers to (d). Many candidates were well informed about nuclear energy and had strong views about it. However, potentially good answers failed to address the issue of the extent to which Pakistan will need to rely even more on nuclear energy. Consequently, marks were forfeited.

Q4

Many candidates were well equipped to answer this question but failed to do justice to themselves owing to deviation from the question.

In general, part (a) was not a problem, most candidates being able to read and understand figure 3. At (b) answers too often described containers instead of outlining why they increased the level of efficiency of the port. For example, the best answers made mention of the likes of uniformity of size of containers and the fact that they can be more easily/quickly moved.

Very rarely was the critical term 'location' given any attention in part (c). Where a genuine attempt was made to focus on this, irrespective of scale, examiners gave credit. All too often answers dwelt on irrelevant details of the named airport like size of runway, passenger accommodation and even shopping facilities.

Answers to (d) were very mixed but the most competent responses made reference to named commodities and speed of movement in the case of both water transport and other types.

Q5

In the main, this proved a challenging question but nonetheless was popular as it enabled candidates to express their views about issues of which they felt strongly.

In (a) a number of well founded answers were offered not least being the fact that women comprise around 50% of the population.

Education was suggested as a key reason in (b) as was positive discrimination which was a perfectly valid observation here although this concept featured later in the question. Many candidates failed to address the actual question in (c) rather addressing the issue of why elders are so influential. Marks were awarded here but equally some marks were lost.

It was at part (d) where most candidates forfeited marks owing to their failing to completely understand the concept of positive discrimination. Most answers simply dwelt on the arguments for and against women serving on local councils or acquiring employment. Interestingly, where candidates adequately grasped the concept, positive discrimination was not widely approved. It was sometimes considered unjust although advantageous to women.

Q6

This question was well answered. Candidates had a good understanding of cottage industries and why their percentage contribution to GDP is so small. Particular attention was given to the limitations in the marketing of these goods.

In part (b) candidates gave appropriate attention to the fact that Karachi is a major port and is therefore able to handle the raw materials for the steel making industry. Some candidates turned the question round preferring to answer what advantages the steel mills bring to Karachi.

Provided candidates gave attention to the 'further development of manufacturing industry' answers to (c) were generally sound with attention being given to shortcomings in energy supplies, infrastructure, capital and training. Some answers dwelt on the present situation; others deviated to embrace primary and tertiary industries.

Q7

Most candidates who attempted this question knew the distinction between 'rabi' and kharif crops; on occasions candidates confused the two.

At (b) many answers offered particularly vague notions like 'climate' (whereas more specific details pertaining to the Punjab were sought) or drifted into human inputs, of which irrigation was the most frequently mentioned.

Answers to (c)(i) were often comprehensive with particular attention being paid to mechanisation and the results of the Green Revolution. On occasions governmental complacency was also included insofar that it was pointed out that the authorities had put measures in place and just assumed that production would be progressively increased.

Too frequently (ii) was viewed as an extension of (i) with reasons disappointing yields being amplified whereas the question sought a description of the consequences. Relatively few answers dwelt on the impact on Pakistan international trade and commodity prices.

Q8

This was the least popular question on the paper but candidates who attempted it were generally well informed about the issues.

Parts (a) and (b) were almost invariably well answered. The most common shortcoming was for candidates to ignore the structure of (b) and therefore make no distinction between economic and environmental benefits. However, knowledge and understanding were good.

Some candidates simply failed to answer the question in part (c) and preferred to discuss the reasons for deforestation and measures taken to reduce it. They did not address to what extent such a high rate of deforestation might be justified. The best answers here were very good, suggesting that the rate could be justified in the context of the economy of Pakistan provided remedial measures were both in place and enforced. In the main, there was a low level of conviction about the latter.

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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