

FIRST LANGUAGE URDU

Paper 3247/01
Reading and Writing

Key messages

In order to do well in this examination, candidates should:

- in Question 1, answer the question set rather than summarise the two passages
- in Question 2, respond to the task as set
- in Questions 1 and 2, stay within the prescribed word limits.

General comments

The overall performance of the candidates was very good. The candidates showed a good command of language and structure, as well as content. Most candidates demonstrated the ability to write very detailed and comprehensive responses and showed confident use of complex sentences. Their answers were relevant and well illustrated. The majority followed the instructions and attempted both questions from the paper.

Though less so than last year, the length of a few responses was problematical. The rubric states very clearly that answers should be about 250 words. The length of some scripts was well over double that; these will have lost some marks for content. Examiners are instructed to read the whole piece but to penalise overlong essays by reducing the content band down by one band. For example if a candidate was to have been given 8 for content, only 6 would be awarded to an overlong response.

Candidates should take care to present their work clearly and neatly so that everything the candidate has written can be rewarded.

Question 1

In this question the candidates were asked to compare ancient and modern marathons and present the answer including their own ideas. This year the majority of the candidates differentiated effectively between comparison and summary. Candidates generally did very well on this question. They paid attention to both language and structure and to giving their own views. Due to the high standard of the answers, the majority of the candidates scored high marks. There were a few candidates who did not adhere to the word limit and could therefore not score the highest marks.

Question 2

This question was of the same standard as previous years. Most candidates attempted this question very well, giving their own ideas about the popularity of sports. Those who provided a range of ideas to make sports popular scored very good marks. Those who just wrote about the Government responsibility to make sports popular did not score such good marks. Again, most candidates demonstrated very good language as well as structure in their answers.

As in Question 1, there were a few candidates who wrote over the word limit and could therefore not achieve the highest marks.

FIRST LANGUAGE URDU

Paper 3247/02

Texts

Key messages

To do well in this paper, candidates must make sure they understand all the demands of the question. They must produce a response which is entirely relevant to the question set and supported with appropriate examples from the text.

General comments

The overall performance of the candidates was very good. The candidates have shown good command of language as well as the text. Most of them have demonstrated the ability to write very detailed responses and shown confident use of complex sentences. Their answers were relevant and well illustrated. The majority of the candidates have followed the instructions and attempted both questions from both sections of the paper.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1: Poetry

Question 1 (a)

This question was about a Ghazal written by Mirza Ghalib and was designed to test the knowledge of the candidates about the text and its meaning. There were two parts of this question and candidates were required to answer both parts. The Examiners observed that this question was one of the popular questions as a good number of candidates have attempted this question.

Those who attempted this part generally answered very well and comprehensively by explaining the theme of the Ghazal, expressing their opinion about the poet's feelings and emotions about 'love'.

Question 1 (b)

Most candidates scored well in this part of the question. The candidates who scored high marks clearly explained the poet's use of similes and metaphors in the verses and also explained their understanding very well.

Question 2

This question was not a very popular question. Those who attempted this question have shown reasonable understanding of the topic. Most of the candidates have discussed what was required in the question. Others wrote generally on the features of Allama Iqbal's poetry, which meant they scored low marks.

Question 3 (a)

This part of the question was about a statement by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan regarding the importance of Mulana Hali's poem 'Musaddus e Hali'. Most candidates answered this part very well and demonstrated the ability to understand the sentiments expressed by the poet.

Question 3 (b)

The second part of the question was more general and was very well attempted. Most candidates scored high marks in this part of the question. The candidates gave correct quotations from his poetry to justify their answers.

Question 4

This was the most popular question. Most candidates have answered very well and explained how the poet discussed national problems and international matters. Again those who supported their answers with quotations scored high marks.

Section 2: Prose

Question 5 (a)

This question was based on the passage and a good majority of the candidates answered this question very well giving examples from the text. All those who attempted this question scored very good marks.

Question 5 (b)

This part of the question was very well attempted too and candidates gave their answers with reference to the essay. It was based on the feelings of 'Mahrani' and candidates were asked to give the reasons. Those who scored full marks have given the reasons for their answer.

Question 6

A good majority of candidates attempted this question and it was one of the more popular questions in the Paper. The candidates were able to show they understand that it was a great tragedy in the history and they were able to explain their choice with good use of language and reference from the text. Those who have shown the ability to answer this question properly must have studied the text very well.

Question 7 (a)

This question was not so popular compared to other questions in the paper. The candidates who answered this part generally wrote very well. It was a character study. Those included quotations and references from the text scored full marks.

Question 7 (b)

This part of the question was about the negative character of 'Mama Azmat'. The candidates were required to give examples from the text to prove their answer. Those who attempted this question were generally able to successfully describe the negative features of the character.

Question 8

A small number of candidates attempted this question and those who answered with references from the text scored high marks. The demand of the question was to prove that 'Dur Andaish' was a reformer in the novel. Those who attempted this question were able to describe very successfully this character.

Question 9 (a)

This year this question was not very popular. A small number of candidates tried to attempt this question. Those who have attempted this part generally wrote very short responses, without giving reasons. A few candidates, who seemed to have studied this novel thoroughly and prepared fully answered with examples and illustrated the answer with their own opinion.

Question 9 (b)

Part (b) of this question was about how Gati became rebellious because of the harsh treatment of her mother Ammah Begum. Again those who gave their opinion with reference from the text scored good marks.

Question 10

This question was not a very popular one. Those candidates who have attempted it have fulfilled the demand of the question. The candidates generally supported their answers with quotations from the novel.