

# Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

## Summer 2010

O Level

## O Level Urdu (7648) Paper 1

Edexcel is one of the leading examining and awarding bodies in the UK and throughout the world. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers.

Through a network of UK and overseas offices, Edexcel's centres receive the support they need to help them deliver their education and training programmes to learners.

For further information please call our Customer Services on + 44 1204 770 696, or visit our website at [www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com).

If you have any subject specific questions about the content of this Examiners' Report that require the help of a subject specialist, you may find our Ask The Expert email service helpful.

Ask The Expert can be accessed online at the following link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/Aboutus/contact-us/>

Alternatively, you can speak directly to a subject specialist at Edexcel on our dedicated Modern Foreign Languages telephone line: 0844 576 0035

(If you are calling from outside the UK please dial + 44 1204 770 696 and state that you would like to speak to the Modern Foreign Languages subject specialist).

Summer 2010

All the material in this publication is copyright  
© Edexcel Ltd 2010

# Paper 1

## General Comments

The overall demand, difficulty and standard of this paper was similar to previous years. The majority of candidates produced good responses and scored good marks. In questions 1 and 2, the two unconnected passages for translation were interesting and well within the level of this examination. English to Urdu translations did not show any significant improvement at all, however, some good pieces of Urdu to English translations were seen from large centres. For tasks such as letter writing, candidates were expected to use fairly accurate language relevant to the task giving good reasons for their suitability to be on the T.V. Show. Responses with accurate and fluent language, use of appropriate vocabulary and connectives, adherence to the topic providing realistic looking reasons scored good marks.

The translation passages in questions 1(a) and 2(a) appeared to be little more demanding when compared to questions 1(b) and 2(b). This provided an overall balance in the paper for differentiation. There were some key words embedded in the passages to allow further differentiation. The majority of candidates produced good pieces of translations, while some candidates continued to lose marks for poor spellings and for writing numbers and dates in wrong order.

A tendency to use phonetic or Roman English was evident in some cases, indicating that the candidates understood the text and knew how to translate it into Urdu, but struggled to write in Urdu correctly.

The best translations were those where proper translation was completed for complete sentences within the context of the passage.

## Question 1 Translation from Urdu to English:

(a) This passage was about the *'Tots better in a nursery'* and carried 15 marks.

The majority of the text was well translated by most candidates. Only a few candidates struggled to produce a good translation. Many candidates continued to misinterpret certain keyword and phrases within the text, for example *'paternal or maternal grandparents'*; *'names of more items or objects'*; *'playgroup or nursery staff'*; *'psychology'*; *'educated or trained'*; while some candidates decided to use alternative translations for many of the above words and phrases and ended up with entirely different translation for parts of the passage.

(b) This was a short passage about *'Biometric ID cards'* and carried 10 marks. The passage was a little bit more demanding than average. Some words which proved challenging for candidates were: *'foreigners'*; *'application for visa extension'*; *'complete details or history'*. The writing of numbers and dates were used as a way of differentiation during marking and most candidates managed to write *'25 November 2008'* accurately.

## Question 2 Translation from Urdu to English:

(a) This passage was about *'Cost of bringing up children'* and carried 15 marks. It described on how parents are coping with their children's upbringing and education. This passage proved to be accessible by most candidates who managed to produce a good quality piece of translation. The words which caused difficulty in translating were *'astonishing'*; *'bringing up a child'*; *'£200,000'* *'over a third'*; *'sleepless'*

*nights*; *£50,000*; *fashionable gadgets*; *common feeling* proved rather challenging for some candidates.

There was also evidence of shallow reading before translating and glossing over certain words and phrases.

(b) This short passage was about *Stone tools found* and carried 10 marks. It was slightly more demanding and candidates needed to be a little more careful in translation. In many instances, candidates struggled to translate phrases like *stone knives*; *9,000 years*; *unearthed*, *stone-age man*; *relics*; *Evidence of the period*; *extremely rare*; *world looked like*. Many candidates made basic errors in the spelling of simple Urdu words.

### Question 3 Translating grammatical sentences:

This section was well attempted by majority of the candidates who scored above average marks.

(a) This sentence was usually well attempted by most candidates. Some candidates struggled with *for a long time* and *sore eyes*.

(b) In this sentence, a few candidates made a variety of guesses about the phrase *see me off at the airport*.

(c) Some students found the phrase *pretty difficult to understand* a little tricky.

(d) This was usually well attempted by most candidates. A few candidates struggled with *go to your school in the morning?*

(e) Mostly well done but some candidates struggled with phrases *little waterfall* and *the mountains look cool*.

### Question 4 Essay or Letter:

In this question, there was a choice of three essays and one letter based on a given stimulus. Candidates were expected to justify their opinion or choice.

The first most popular topic was (c), writing an essay on *The most beautiful place in the world*. There was a variety of choices but for some lacked sufficiently convincing arguments to justify for declaring their place of choice to be the most beautiful place in the world.

A few candidates lacked the flavour of a good and realistic argument and reasoning in their writing and appeared to be fulfilling more or less a formality.

The second most popular question was (d), *You want to participate in a T.V. Talent Show. Write a letter introducing yourself, say what you want to perform and give reasons why you think you deserve to be on the show*. This provided some good reading but many candidates described themselves for doing things which were not practically sound for a T.V. Show.

The third most popular topic was (b) *What can I do to improve my city?* provided some good and interesting reading. The candidates seemed to enjoy writing on this topic.

The least popular question was (a) '*How sport can bring people together*'. This topic brought some good pieces of composition strongly supporting that sports are important for bringing people together.

Many candidates lost marks due to too many grammatical mistakes in their written work, poor quality of language or lack of fluency in written language.

The ability to plan and present a balanced essay, with an introduction, argument/reasoning and a conclusion or opinion, as well as demonstrating a good command of Urdu language and a coherent approach, was evident in the majority of cases.

It always helps to maintain a realistic, natural and systematic approach in writing an essay or a letter by avoiding confusion and loss of focus within a specified topic.

## Grade Boundaries

Raw Mark boundaries

Max Mark	A	B	C	D	E
100	71	62	54	49	41

Further copies of this publication are available from  
International Regional Offices at [www.edexcel.com/international](http://www.edexcel.com/international)

For more information on Edexcel qualifications, please visit [www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com)  
Alternatively, you can contact Customer Services at [www.edexcel.com/ask](http://www.edexcel.com/ask) or on + 44 1204 770 696

Edexcel Limited. Registered in England and Wales no.4496750  
Registered Office: One90 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7BH