

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

June 2011

GCE Urdu (6UR03) Paper 1A

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Understanding & Spoken Response

This is the second time the exam has been conducted under the new specification, with the main difference being the new assessment criteria in which the categories 'Reading and research' and 'Comprehension and development' have been introduced. The timing requirements have also changed.

The assessment begins with candidates outlining and defending their position on their initial issue. Then candidates are asked to discuss two further unpredictable areas initiated by the teacher. Some candidates failed to discuss two further areas losing valuable marks.

The majority of candidates performed well in this test, following the requirements properly. Unfortunately, some good candidates lost marks, due to the unsatisfactory fulfilment of assessment requirements by the centre. Centres are advised to follow instructions precisely. Most timing related penalties were given for tests being too long. Centres are advised to remind candidates that any recording past 13 minutes is not counted. The performance of candidates in this assessment is heavily dependent on the proficiency of the teacher-examiner, who must take due caution in following their own instructions as good candidates can suffer as a result. It was pleasing to see that most of the international centres closely followed instructions with their candidates performing well.

The centres showed fewer problems this year although attention needs to be given to the following:

- Some centres did not submit Oral chosen issue form
- Time too long/too short
- Chosen issue inadequately/not outlined
- Definite stance inadequately/not adopted
- Unpredictable areas of discussion inadequately/not explored

Conclusion

The new GCE Urdu examination seems to be well established and is well received.

Grade Boundaries

The modern foreign languages specifications share a common design, but the assessments in different languages are not identical. Grade boundaries at unit level reflect these differences in assessments, ensuring that candidate outcomes across these specifications are comparable at specification level.

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link: <http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>

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