

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2012

GCE Urdu (6UR03) Paper 1A

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This year's candidates exceeded the performance of last year's candidate, partly due to the increasing experience of the teacher examiners. The role of the teacher examiner is crucial in this test. The more trained and experienced the teacher is, the better results the candidates can achieve in the examination.

The teacher examiner can guide the candidates to choose topics in which discussion and debate can take place, advising candidates to express their opinions and justify their stance. The teacher examiner can also restrict certain topics, such as food and drink, holidays etc. Furthermore, the teacher examiner can change the focus of topics to make them more debatable.

In some centres it was noticed that a few teacher examiners did not cover two unpredictable areas, discussing the main topic until the test ended. Unfortunately this resulted in the loss of candidates' marks.

The other issue that was encountered was timing. Some tests were completed within 7-8 minutes, consequently those candidates were heavily penalised. Teacher examiners should carry out the test for at least 10 minutes, as is required by the specification.

On the other hand some centres showed improvement in carrying out the test within the required time scale and were vigilant to timing.

It was observed that some candidates used Hindi words such as: "*sahmat hoon*" meaning "agree" In Urdu "*muttafiq hoon*" "*Parivar*" means family, in Urdu "*Khandaan*." Such language is caused by popular media. Candidates should be aware that such Hindi interpolations are not acceptable in an Urdu exam.

Overall the performance of the candidates in this paper was very good indeed. The majority of candidates scored highly in this unit. 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
- The timings of the exam were either too long/too short
- The chosen issue was inadequate/not outlined
- The definite stance was inadequately/not adopted
- Unpredictable areas of discussion were inadequate/not explored.

In closing, the new GCE Urdu examination seems to be well established and is well received.

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