



Pearson
Edexcel

Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2023

Pearson Edexcel GCE

In Persian (9PN0)

Paper 2: Translation into Persian and written
response to works

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Examiners' Report on Paper 9PN0/02 June 2023

General comments

This report relates to paper **9PN0/02**, which tests candidates' ability to translate from English into Persian and to demonstrate their ability to respond analytically to literature or film in Persian.

The evidence from marking in this session was much higher than the previous series and in fact the first year of the actual exam of the paper, therefore it would be possible to provide a summary on how the paper performed. Overall, the paper performed well and the majority of the students did well in the Translation section, as well as in sections on response to literature and films.

The published mark scheme provides extensive guidance regarding the overarching approach to marking, as well as the range of correct, acceptable and rejected responses as they relate to Section A, as well as indicative contents for all optional questions in Sections B and C.

Teachers should note, however, that the Mark Scheme for Section A is not designed in such a way that every possible answer is included. Examiners look at each answer on merit to allocate marks. The approach to marking is positive, so examiners always seek to reward what candidates produce.

In marking Sections B and C, examiners use a levels-based mark scheme and apply a 'best-fit' approach, first placing the candidate's response in the correct box in the mark scheme and then deciding which mark in that box is applicable to that candidate.

In this paper AO3 is assessed in Section A, and AO3 and AO4, are assessed in Sections B and C. The Mark Grid AO4 assesses students' ability to analyse and respond to the aspects of the literary work or film outlined in the question.

Regarding section B and C of the paper, again most students responded quite well in this series of exam and the questions worked well as they were intended and anticipated, though some questions were more popular and perhaps more accessible compared to others.

Comments on each question

Section A

Q01 Translation into Persian

This year the translation related to the theme of 'Arts and crafts', the subtheme 'developments in modern architecture'.

The Translation section is Points-based – one mark is awarded for each correctly translated segment up to a maximum of 20 marks. The majority of the candidates did relatively well in the translation. The translation and equivalent of word for taxes, and the correct equivalent of the proper name of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art in Persian, were a little challenging for some candidates. However, this question overall performed well and worked as it was intended, as over 35% of the candidates achieved full mark and over 27% got 95% of the mark.

Section B

Q02ax Written Response to works (Books) AO4, AO3 & AO3

As this paper has 12 questions for sections B and C, which are 'Written Response to Literary texts and Films' and the candidates have to respond to only 2 questions out of 12, there are always some questions, which more candidates answer to and some less. Around 9% of the candidates responded to this question and the question performed well in the analytical essays written by the candidates.

Q02bx Written Response to works (Books) AO4, AO3 & AO3

Around 16% of the candidates selected this optional question and the essays showed that the question worked quite well and performed the way it was intended.

Q03ax Written Response to works (Books) AO4, AO3 & AO3

This question was one of the popular questions in this series and almost 34% of the candidates answered this optional question quite well. It was from the satirical play written by Pezeshkzad, the late Persian popular author.

Q03bx Written Response to works (Books) AO4, AO3 & AO3

Over 12% of the candidates wrote their essays on this question and the question performed well, though this question was about a theme and a symbol in the play. Generally, the candidates answer more and better to the questions about characters and the relationships. Q04ax Written Response to works (Books) AO4, AO3 & AO3

Almost 16% of the candidates chose this question from the book Cart Postal (Postcard as it says on the first page of the book republished by Amazon). Although, the book is really good and suitable for the age group, it is a little more complex than the other two books. It has several layers and a lot of flash backs and going back and forth in the time. However, it is a very popular book amongst Persian readers, both inside and outside Iran and it is about the challenges the immigrant families face with, in bringing up their children in a different country and within different culture. The question worked quite well and as it was intended.

Q04bx Written Response to works (Books) AO4, AO3 & AO3

Only around 6% of the students chose to answer this question from the same book above, and from the responses one can say the question worked as it was intended, however as it was about a theme, which was an old car, few candidates were a bit confused the 'Old car' with the Caravan in the story, and this shows that we need to be clearer in writing the questions to avoid any kind of such confusion. I should add that there is only a very brief reference about the replacing the 'Old car' with the Caravan in the book and this is perhaps another reason for confusion regarding this question.

Section C

Q05a Written Response to works (Films) AO4, AO3 & AO3

Over 7% of the candidates answered to this question about the film directed by Panahi and most answers were good analytical essays, and shows the question was accessible and performed as it was intended to.

Q05b Written Response to works (Films) AO4, AO3 & AO3

Only 2.6% of the candidates answered to this question, perhaps because it was about a specific theme in the film and not characterisation.

Q06a Written Response to works (Films) AO4, AO3 & AO3

This question seems to be the most popular question out of 12, as over 51% of the candidates, i.e., the highest number of candidates responded to Q06a question. The majority of the essays were well written, which shows that overall, the question worked well and as it was intended. This was a question about a film called 'A Separation' which won Oscar, the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film in 2012.

Q06b Written Response to works (Films) AO4, AO3 & AO3

Over 22.5% of the candidates selected this question and mostly answered well, though it was to some extent challenging and the candidates replied and analysed the question from different angles and expressed different points of view about the character and the question.

Q07a Written Response to works (Films) AO4, AO3 & AO3

Only 4.6% of the candidates chose to write their analytical essays on this question and it showed that students are mostly more comfortable to respond to the questions about characterisation and relationship.

Q07b Written Response to works (Films) AO4, AO3 & AO3

Around 6% of the candidates selected this question, again a question on the theme rather than characterisation.

Guidance for teachers for future sessions

The points below need to be mentioned in the sight of this series as the guidance for teachers:

1. In section A, Translation into Persian, there will be difference in word order, clause structure or other linguistic features between the two languages. The resulting Persian passage should be natural, correct and unambiguous.
2. For sections B & C, look carefully at the indicative contents, this can provide useful insights into the approach to writing a response, although the Indicative Contents are not exhaustive and do not include all possible answers and analysis.
3. The teachers need to teach the candidates not to tell the story but focus on the question and to critically analyse different aspects of the question, giving relevant evidence and examples from the book or the film. They need to write about different aspects of the question in separate paragraphs and in each paragraphs gives a point, an example to support the point and also what the author of the book or the director of the film tried to say or to show.
4. In Section B & C, which are responses to the books and films, it is important to learn the name of the characters, as there are questions in which the candidates are asked to analyse a character or the relationship between two characters, and the question refers to the names. Therefore, if the candidates don't know the characters by their names, sometimes they may confuse two characters and analyse the wrong one and lose marks. This happened in this series and some candidates had written about a different character, as they hadn't learned the name of all characters, though their analytic essays were good but they didn't answer to the question.
5. Also, the teachers need to emphasise on the fact that the responses to questions on the books and the films must be written in Persian and not in English. There have been candidates who wrote these sections in English and lost their marks, although this year were fewer candidates.

