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Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2017

Pearson Edexcel GCE
In Urdu (6UR03) Paper 1A

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Publications Code 6UR03_1A_1706_ER

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This year the performance of the students in 6UR03 paper was much better than the last year. It shows a gradual improvement in the performance of the students in this paper ever since the new syllabus was introduced. The reason for the progress was that more and more teacher examiners got trained and experienced.

On the other hand, some of the inexperienced teacher examiners still committed mistakes in conducting the test. It is anticipated that the distinction between 6UR01 and 6UR03 test was not very clear to them. They were unaware of the fact that in the 6UR03 test, the students must choose issue type topics where there should have been debate or argument between the teachers and the students. The teacher examiner should advise to students that they must take a stance and they need to defend it and the teacher examiners should disagree with their stance.

It was observed that in a few centres the students were allowed to talk freely for a long time and no intervention was made by the teacher examiner. The conversation ended without any questioning by the teacher examiner. On the other hand, in some cases, teacher examiner's input was far too long. Where no two unpredictable areas were covered, the students suffered because of the teacher examiner's fault.

It is worth mentioning that in some large centres, the teacher examiners and the students were both well prepared, they performed extremely well.

It was observed that this year very few teacher examiners had performed the test in less than 10 minutes. In other words, the teacher examiners observed timing. As a result, students did not lose marks because the test was too short. This indicates further improvement towards conducting the test.

This year the oral form was designed to remind the students that they should choose issue type topics. It was clearly written: students must indicate their stance/standpoint on the issue (i.e. I am in support or I disagree with). In spite of this effort in a few centres the students chose the topics such as education, unemployment, pollution and drugs etc. No debate was possible until the teacher examiners could make them debatable.

ADMINISTRATION MATTERS:

A few centres had sent old oral forms. New oral forms were completed and attached with the old ones. Examiners received a few oral forms in which neither the students nor the teacher examiners had signed. A few very small centres had sent only the CD. In that case oral forms were completed by the examiners and marks were recorded.

Overall the performance of the students in this paper was very good indeed. Majority of the students had obtained very high marks in this paper where the teacher examiners had worked hard to prepare the students.

