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Examiners' Report Principal Examiner Feedback

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Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Gujarati (1GU0)

Paper 1F: Listening and Understanding in Gujarati

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Overview:

The paper was worth 50 marks and had 14 questions covering grades 1-5. This paper draws on vocabulary and structures across all the themes and topics; candidates are assessed on their understanding of standard spoken Gujarati in a range of public and social settings.

The paper was divided into two sections, A and B, based on five themes: (1) Identity and culture (2) Local area, holiday, travel (3) School (4) Future aspirations, study and work (5) International and global dimension. Section A consists of 12 questions, all set in English, two of which are crossover questions from the Higher Paper. Section B consists of two crossover questions from the Higher Paper, with instructions and texts set in Gujarati. Candidates had 30 minutes in which to complete their answers and 5 minutes of general reading time at the start of the test. They had to respond to multiple-response and short-answer open-response questions based on a recording featuring of one or more male and female Gujarati speakers.

The Foundation examination differentiated well between candidates of different abilities. It was encouraging to see that for the most part candidates coped well with all topics featured on the paper. Centres are reminded that the targeted vocabulary on the Foundation paper is drawn from the minimum core vocabulary list. Less successful candidates were able to identify key words and messages from topics with which they were familiar. Most questions which required recognition of single lexical items or short phrases were well performed, although some individual items of vocabulary caused problems. Stronger performances showed the ability to make simple conclusions and differentiate between different time frames.

Rubric infringement was observed where few candidates either failed to follow the instructions, for example ticked more than the required number of boxes in the objective tasks

SECTION A

Question 1

Candidates were asked to identify three correct statements about the 'Learning music' from a given list of seven. This question assessed candidates' understanding of key vocabulary items.

Successful candidates provided the correct answers. The most common correct answers were A – learning to play the Indian and F finds learning music enjoyable. The common incorrect answers were (B) – 'enjoys learning music at home', (D) – 'likes to play the Indian flute' or (G) – 'learns singing online'. Less successful candidates jumped to a false conclusion.

Question 2

Candidates were asked to identify key points about 'Street market shopping'. There were three multiple choice questions and candidates were asked to select the correct answer from four possible ones.

This question was performed well by almost all candidates. The correct answers were 2(i) A – 'shopping', 2(ii) D – 'Clothes' and 2(iii) B – 'snacks'.

Question 3

Candidates were asked to listen to three people talking about 'My favourite school day' and identify one key fact for each person from a list of seven statements. This question required them not only to choose a correct statement but also to select the correct speaker.

Candidates performed well in this question. It was evident that successful candidates were able to identify the key fact for the correct speaker. B, E, G were the correct answers.

Incorrect answers provided were (C) – 'attends chess lessons on Wednesday', (D) – 'Tuesday is the best school day' and (F) – 'likes to do gardening on Monday'. Some candidates did not match the correct statement to the right person. Rubrics were not followed by a few candidates which led them to ticking more than or less than the required boxes.

Question 4

Candidates were asked to listen to three people talking about 'Celebration of student success' and identify one fact for each person from a list of seven statements. Successful candidates were able to choose the correct statements relating to the correct speakers. The correct answers were B, D and F.

The most frequent incorrect answers were (A) – 'science project winner acknowledged' and (E) – 'certificate presented to winner'. Some candidates chose the correct answers but matched them to the incorrect speakers. Rubrics not followed by a few candidates led them to ticking more than or less than the required boxes.

Question 5

Candidates were asked to answer three questions in English about 'Further study abroad'. This open response question targeted specific items of basic vocabulary. All three parts of the question required very brief answers in English. Successful candidates provided the correct answers.

Incorrect answers provided for 5(a) were 'New future', 'For your future', 'Wants good education'. 5(b) required two details, however only one detail was provided by some candidates. Few candidates provided incomplete answers for 5(c) such as 'Beautiful place', 'Good place', 'Beautiful monument' or 'Beautiful architecture'. The correct answer was – 'Visit sightseeing places. Questions unanswered by some candidates was observed.

Question 6

Candidates were asked to identify some key information about 'An international dance event'. They had to complete simple sentences choosing the correct word from a selection of given words.

This question worked well. Answers were provided in the correct order. 6(a) was well answered by most candidates. For 6(b), the less successful candidates chose 'family' or 'festivals' instead of 'socialises'. Few candidates provided random answers.

Question 7

This question required candidates to identify three correct statements in English from a list of seven after listening to a recording about 'Working as a tourist entertainer'. Careful listening, note-taking and analysing information is essential to ascertain the correct answers. Successful candidates were able to make sensible deductions from the information given.

Most candidates were unable to provide the correct answer for E – 'has a sense of humour'. The most frequent incorrect answers provided were B – 'was inspired by an entertainer', C – 'trained as a tourist guide' and D – 'works in a hotel abroad'.

Question 8

Candidates were required to answer open response questions in English about the 'Gir jungle'. Successful candidates were able to attain an understanding of the text and provide appropriate answers. Lack of comprehension skills was observed especially for 8(a) and 8(b). The correct answer for 8(a) was – 'They are seen in their natural habitat'. Incorrect answers provided were – 'You can see lions closely, 'Lions look good.' People from abroad come to see lions', 'Can only see lions'. For 8(b) the correct was – 'A guide'. Random incorrect answers were provided which included – 'Flowers,' 'Monkeys,' 'People.' Few candidates left questions unanswered. Strong listening skills, understanding key vocabulary, processing of information and comprehension skills are vital in answering open response questions.

Question 9

Candidates listened to a podcast about the 'Mobile phone' and were required to complete a multiple-choice exercise. This question was performed well by most candidates. Less successful candidates chose random answers.

Question 10

Candidates were asked to identify key points after listening to conversations about 'Finding a job' and then answer four open response questions. This question worked well with successful candidates, and they were able to provide the correct answers. Although the vocabulary was fairly straightforward, few candidates were unable to identify the correct information. Lack of comprehension skills was observed.

The most frequent incorrect answers were 10(b), The correct answer was 'Young children' and incorrect answers written were 'Young people', 'Students and children's club' and for 10(c), the correct answer was 'Teaching children's songs. Incorrect answers provided related to playing games and activities or language skills. Few candidates provided random answers or left questions unanswered.

Question 11

Candidates were asked to identify the key points after listening about 'Farmhouse stay' and they had to select three correct statements from a given list of seven. The candidates clearly enjoyed this question. They were able to extract the correct information from the text.

Two of the three correct answers E and F were very well sign posted.

The most frequent incorrect answer provided was D – ‘had fun in the indoor swimming pool’. A few candidates left questions unanswered.

Question 12

Candidates were asked to identify key points and information about a ‘School cricket trip’ and answer three open response questions in English.

Successful candidates were able to extract material relevant to the individual questions. The most frequent correct answers were 12(a) and 12(c). Some candidates struggled with Q12(a) – ‘Gujarati school’ and 12(c) – ‘Camera and Phone’. The most frequent incorrect answer was 12(b). The correct answer for 12(b) was – ‘Learn the best method to play cricket or ‘Learn about the care of cricket equipment’. Random answers provided were – ‘They know how to play cricket, ‘The skills how to play’ ‘By training’, ‘Learn how to improve’.

Strong listening skills, understanding the questions, processing of key information and comprehension skills are vital in answering open response questions.

SECTION B

The two questions in Section B were set in the target language.

Question 13

Candidates listened to a recording about ‘Natural resources – water’ and were required to fill in gaps in the target language sentences. Answers were chosen from a list of 12 words. This style of target language question poses significant challenges for students at Foundation level where they have to understand the possible answers in the box. Successful candidates chose the correct words. Questions 13(a) 13(b) and 13(e) proved accessible to them. The less successful picked up words completely at random.

Lack of comprehension skills and understanding the vocabulary was possibly the reason. Careful listening, ability to remember specific facts and identifying key points is essential to ascertain the correct answers.

Question 14

Candidates listened to a recording about an ‘Ideal student’. The question required Candidates to fill gaps in target language sentences by choosing the correct answer from a list of four possibilities given in the target language. One of the four possible answers was used twice.

This question was well answered. The most frequent correct answers provided by the successful candidates were 14(a) (b) (c) and (e).

Less successful candidates were unable to understand the questions or correctly identify the key information from the text and fit the correct word to the paraphrased sentences. Answers were chosen at random.

The skills required are active listening, taking concise notes, identifying the key points and analysing the context to deduce the implied meanings.

SUMMARY AND ADVICE TO CENTRES

The questions tested student understanding of vocabulary items listed in the specification for Foundation level. Students should be trained on the themes chosen for the exam.

Tips

Centres should advise candidates to:

- have a sound knowledge of core vocabulary for Foundation level.
- use the reading time available to think about the question title, read the rubrics, questions asked and the keywords they are likely to hear. The question title often provides an important clue.
- focus on understanding whole sentences rather than just individual words in order to eliminate distractors more readily.
- check the number of marks available for each question. These are noted at the bottom of each question set.
- be attentive in recognising the speaker relevant to which sentence or text.
- recognise the use of negation, time indicators and tenses, qualifiers, the use of the comparative, positive and negative opinions.
- recognise familiar language in unfamiliar texts.
- check the number of boxes that need to be ticked.
- pay attention to detail and give short but full rather than partial answers. Too much information can sometimes negate the given response.
- listen to the whole sentence and not individual words.
- express themselves clearly and unambiguously when writing in English and relate their answers to what is heard in the extract.
- understand the questions in Gujarati and look for linguistic clues to work out the meaning of the individual statements.
- apply logic.
- read over and correct their answers.

