

Examiners' Report /
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2012

GCSE Urdu (5UR01) Paper 1H

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Examiner Report

Much like the foundation paper, the performance on the higher paper was very promising. This paper contains cross-over questions from the foundation paper, along with other questions of a similar style. There is requirement in the higher paper (in Question 10) to deliver short verbal responses most likely in the form of a sentence. This differs from verbal answers in the foundation, where candidates are only required to write one or two words in English. There is no requirement for candidates to write any text in Urdu. Any Urdu text will not be considered and cannot be credited, especially where the rubric states that answers should be in English.

Question 1

This was a crossover question from the foundation paper. Candidates are required to listen to statements and identify who says what about going to restaurants. Again, there was generally excellent performance on this question. Some candidates may have lost marks in situations where they chose an incorrect option, thus possibly having an effect on their approach to the rest of the question. The vast majority of candidates scored a mark on each question part.

Question 2

This was a crossover question from the foundation paper. Candidates were required to listen to a conversation between two friends about a day out, and identify which item each person mentioned. This was handled very well by the cohort, the majority of which scored 3 or 4 marks.

Question 3

Candidates were required to listen to the problem that each person has faced with an order they have placed. The majority of candidates scored a mark on each part.

Question 4

Candidates were required to listen to a report about health and lifestyle and choose the correct option for each question part. Performance on this question was very good, with the majority of candidates scoring a mark for each part.

Question 5

This question was handled very well by candidates, and candidates were able to successfully connect what each person said with the ideas about friendship on the paper. There were situations where candidates lost marks as they had initially chosen the wrong answer – this then impacted on their approach to the rest of the question.

Question 6

This was a crossover question from the foundation paper, and proved accessible given excellent candidate performance.

Question 7

This was another crossover question from the foundation paper, and was handled very well. The majority of candidates scored one mark on each part. There was some evidence of candidates not being familiar with some of the adjectives used in Question 7(iv), so it is encouraged that the minimum core vocabulary is revised.

Question 8

Candidates were required to listen to a radio advertisement, targeted towards young applicants, and were required to choose four correct statements out of a possible eight. Most candidates were able to gain 3 or 4 marks. However, candidates are to be advised that, in questions where you must pick a number of correct statements, it is not worthwhile to choose more statements than necessary. The number of extra incorrect options will be deducted from the total number of correctly selected options.

Question 9

In this question, candidates were required to complete the sentences using one English word. The objective here is for candidates to understand the Urdu clearly and to relay the information using correct English. Candidates are required to make sure that the English sentence flows correctly. There was some evidence of candidates writing several words in the gap, which did not fit appropriately with the sentence, and this could not be credited. It is advised that candidates read the English sentences carefully and do not immediately write down a translation of the Urdu.

Question 10

Candidate responses showed mixed performance on this question. Candidates were required to listen to Aamena talking about her favourite sport and answer questions by providing short sentences in English. Again, it must be stressed that

answers in Urdu cannot be credited, as the rubric clearly states the answers should be in English. In general, however, candidates performed well on this question. There are a few points to note.

The key words in Urdu for answering question 10(a) were 'not enough practice/no time for training' or similar responses. Quite a few candidates either misunderstood or used wrong or vague vocabulary like 'can't play in a team/won't be able to do it/no chance to play properly in a team' and therefore lost a mark. In question 10(b), the answer was quite clear. She wants to win a 'bara inaam' meaning a 'big prize'. Surprisingly, a few candidate responses were totally irrelevant with phrases like 'to be famous/win a competition/win money/become professional'. In question 10(c), the two-part answer was 'parents want her to complete her education and then play tennis'. Some candidates reversed the given priorities and lost marks while others got it partially wrong and used the words 'complete her work' rather than 'complete her education' and lost a mark.

Much like the foundation paper, candidates should be encouraged to:

- have more practice regarding listening for specific information
- practice selecting keywords only for the questions requiring writing responses
- read and follow instructions carefully before attempting to answer questions
- familiarise themselves with the English vocabulary relating to the minimum core vocabulary in Urdu.

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