

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2010

GCSE

GCSE Urdu (5UR03) 3F

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Unit 3 (Foundation): Reading and Understanding

This is the first year of the new GCSE specification. The papers have similarities with the legacy specification as questions are similar but the presentation differs. The significant change in the papers is that they are four mark questions each apart from the question 7 and question 8 in the higher tier which are both eight mark questions. The maximum mark for each paper is 40, compared to 50 marks on the legacy papers.

Paper 3F is designed to test candidates in the G-C ability range and 3H for the C-A* ability.

Generally, the paper was more accessible as candidates were not required to write any target language in either paper. Question 10 was the only question in the foundation paper and question 7 in the higher tier that required a very short written answer in English.

A total of 115 candidates attempted the reading paper with 23 candidates sitting the foundation tier and 92 candidates the higher tier paper.

Detailed consideration of individual questions is provided below:

Questions 1 and 2

These questions required candidates to match the single written Urdu word to a picture. Most candidates scored full marks but there was a minority who either could not read the Urdu word or could not identify the picture hence losing a mark.

Question 3

This question differed to previous years where candidates were not given the option of ticking five out of ten objects but had to match the short English statements to a commonly used place name written in Urdu. Almost all candidates scored full marks in this question.

Question 4 (overlap)

This question required the candidates to carefully read a short passage about a friend's nature and tick the four correct statements out of a given eight. Once again more candidates scored full marks but the odd few could not match the English sentences to the Urdu text hence losing a mark or two.

Question 5 (overlap)

This was a multiple choice question that required the candidates to read a letter of application and tick a correct statement out of three for each part of the question. All candidates scored full marks for the first three sections of the question but three candidates did not score the one mark for the last two parts.

Question 6 (overlap)

This question was very familiar to one in previous years where candidates had to match an activity to a name. The Urdu text was about some friends discussing their holiday accommodation. All candidates scored full marks in this question apart from two who lost a mark in 6ii and 6iv.

Question 7 (overlap)

This question was very similar to one in previous years where candidates read a short paragraph and then matched two sentence halves, only this time they did not have to read the Urdu stimulus and had to match the sentence halves based on a common lifestyle discussed all around us. Some candidates scored the full marks but the majority lost marks as marking one wrong answer automatically resulted in another wrong answer. Candidates must read the sentence halves and match them to give a meaningful answer.

Question 8

This question was very similar to question 3 in the legacy specification and candidates had to choose four items of clothing out of a given eight mixture of items. Some candidates who had poor reading or understanding skills could not gain full marks on this question as they ticked randomly not having understood the one word items.

Question 9

Candidates were required to read a short passage in Urdu about a weather forecast and tick four correct statements in English out of a given eight. They should read and understand these before matching with the information given in Urdu.

Question 10

This stimulus was about work experience where candidates were required to read the statements by some young people as to where they were sent for work experience. This was the only question where they had to write one word answers in English. While most candidates scored marks in parts of the question, not a single candidate scored full marks. The candidates lacked the reading skills for simple vocabulary in everyday use i.e. chemist, office, hospital and restaurant.

Grade Boundaries

Raw Mark boundaries

| Max Mark | C | D | E | F | G |
|----------|----|----|----|----|---|
| 40 | 34 | 27 | 21 | 15 | 9 |

Uniform Mark Scale boundaries

| Max Mark | C | D | E | F | G |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|
| 40 | 36 | 30 | 24 | 18 | 12 |

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