

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2010

GCSE

GCSE Urdu (5UR03) 3H

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Publications Code UG024787

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Unit 3 (Higher): 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 each question is worth four marks 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:

Question 1 (overlap)

This question was about a friend's character and his normal behaviour. The candidates scored good marks but some lost marks which was unexpected as the higher ability candidates should have achieved better marks overall for this question.

Question 2 (overlap)

This question was also an overlap question and all candidates scored full marks for it as expected.

Question 3

This question was based on changing eating trends in today's world. The candidates were required to read a passage about this trend and complete a gap filling exercise with the help of vocabulary provided. Not a single candidate scored full marks for this question as each one got one or two parts wrong.

Question 4

A very simple question based on five sentences about the internet where candidates were required to match the sentences to the English descriptions in two to three words. Most candidates' performance was almost excellent but some lost a mark or two for this question.

Question 5 (overlap)

This was an overlap question requiring candidates to match sentence halves without the short text that was normally given in the legacy specification. As expected, the performance of candidates was much better in the higher tier paper than those for

the foundation. Some candidates lost a mark here and there but on the whole the marks were good for this question.

Question 6 (overlap)

This was also an overlap question where candidates' performance was very good. Only one candidate lost a mark in 6i, five candidates lost a mark in 6iii and three lost a mark in 6iv giving an overall good result for this question.

Question 7

This question was about Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan. The candidates were required to read a short text and answer questions in English. Most candidates performed well in this question but some answered incorrectly for some parts losing a mark here and there. This being the higher level paper, candidates should have scored full marks for it as the text was in very simple language.

Question 8

This question is an A* question and was based on a text about a student who is telling the reader about her plans for the future. The language is simple and the text quite interesting. Candidates had to read the text and tick the correct answer out of the three for eight parts of the question. It was rather disappointing to see that 34 candidates answered incorrectly for 8i and sixty-one for 8ii. There were other wrong answers too but these were far fewer in numbers compared with the first two which was rather disappointing.

Grade Boundaries

Raw Mark boundaries

Max Mark	A*	A	B	C	D
40	37	34	28	22	15

Uniform Mark Scale boundaries

Max Mark	A*	A	B	C	D
60	54	48	42	36	30

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