

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2012

International GCSE Gujarati (4GU0)
Paper 01

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General Introduction

This summer saw the second sitting of the International GCSE Gujarati 4GU0/01. The paper was considered suitable and appropriate for a whole range of abilities. The overall performance of candidates was of a good standard. Candidates demonstrated a secure knowledge of the language and an enjoyment of the subject. Many candidates demonstrated their knowledge and understanding of grammatical rules with accuracy with an appropriate formal style of Gujarati.

The majority of candidates managed to demonstrate their translation skills for both English to Gujarati and Gujarati to English. They showed their flexibility in communication in writing essays and letters in Gujarati. Candidates were successful in manipulating the language accurately to organise facts and ideas, presenting explanations, opinions and information in writing.

More able candidates demonstrated extensive vocabulary, idioms and structure, a secure grasp of tense concept/ time reference, use of more complex structures and a clear ability to manipulate language to suit the task.

Other candidates acquitted themselves well and were accurate, however their range was fairly limited. Therefore, they lost the opportunity to demonstrate a wider range of the language, which could have improved their overall mark for quality. Candidates misunderstood some points and some major omissions with a degree of irrelevance and repetition. There was some evidence of correct time sequences however, the majority showed a degree of inconsistency. Marks for Quality of Language were fairly accurate but there were a few inconsistencies in the application of grammar, syntax and morphology when attempting more complex language. Less able candidates often made basic errors for style and grammar. Centres must ensure that candidates are familiar with the requirements of the exam in order for candidates to score marks in these areas.

Question 1

The majority of candidates performed very well. Some candidates used the English vocabulary for certain words eg 'Thursday', 'aunt', 'three weeks' and a few candidates misinterpreted 'grandpa' as 'grandma'. There was some evidence of the use of correct grammar for translation.

Question 2

Transmission: many showed a clear grasp of detail and excellent transfer of inference, nuance and idiom.

The majority of candidates enjoyed translating in Gujarati and showed their transmission skill by providing a full translation of the original text with a grasp of most detail, nuance and idiom.

However, some candidates failed to transmit successfully as some straightforward sections were often misunderstood.

Quality of Language: some candidates showed high levels of accuracy overall with occasional basic errors, usually in more complex language. They used a wide range of lexis and structures appropriate to the task with an appropriate tone, concept and time sequence. On the other hand, other responses showed inaccuracies in basic grammar, these usually were short and straightforward; lexis and structures appropriate to the task tended to be adequate with several items unknown. Some candidates misunderstood large sections. There seemed to be little awareness of tense concept/ time sequence and there were many basic errors in all aspects of grammar. There were a few candidates who did not attempt the question.

There were some very interesting Gujarati vocabularies used by candidates such as for the 'newly wed bride', various Gujarati vocabulary were used – 'લાડી, નવપરિણિત, વહુ, કન્યા, દુલ્હન, વગેરે.' For the goddess of wealth – 'પૈસાની દેવી, ધનની ભગવાન, પૈસાની ભગવતી, દાનના દેવી, દોલતની દેવી, સમૃદ્ધિની દેવી, રૂપિયાની દેવી, વગેરે.' All of the vocabulary related to wealth. For 'head of the household' candidates used – 'મુખ્યા, મકાનમાલિક.'

Question 3

Most of the candidates performed very well in this section. There was some misinterpreting for some words such as 'માતૃદિન' . This was translated as 'National Day' or 'Independence Day'. 'Mothers Day' was translated instead of Mother's Birthday.

Some candidates rather than simply translating the task added their own ideas and explained as they were writing essays. They showed the flavour of their own experiences of celebrating Diwali or their birthdays. The extra material added such as the shirt was misunderstood as trousers or suit, the

word 'Reshmi sari' (silk sari) had been misunderstood as a different colour sari such as orange, brown, cream etc.

On the whole candidate performance was higher on Question 3 than Question 2, although there were similar errors for Transmission and Quality of Language.

Question 4

In this question there are four options for candidates to choose from.

1. Is planting trees important for the environment? Give your viewpoints and reasons.

Most of the candidates understood the task and managed to demonstrate their knowledge. However the most able candidates performed very well. They expressed their ideas as they really cared for the environment and were concerned about the future generation. The candidates expressed their views and opinions on how much tree planting is important and beneficial for human beings.

2. What do you think about influence of 'Bollywood Films' on young people today?

Candidates shared their thoughts about the good and bad effects of Bollywood films on young people. Many seemed to be angry about violence, modern clothing and adoption of bad habits such as smoking, alcohol and drugs shown in the films. On the other hand, they explained the advantages of Bollywood films such as gaining of Indian culture awareness, exhibiting Indian arts, adaptation of good and positive things, learn to become a good human being, learn to respect parents and use of modern technology.

3. What are your views on the Olympic Games London 2012? Give your opinions and reasons.

The candidates showed their interest in sports and taking part in the Olympics for the benefit of their country. Most wrote about their favourite sports personality and the life style of London. They felt it was the right place to hold the Olympics.

4. You have organised a party to celebrate the end of examinations. Write a letter to your friend inviting him/her, and giving details of the party.

This was the most popular of all four questions. Candidates showed their excitement for a party, concern about school colleagues and their organisational skill for arranging the party.

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