

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2015

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in
Pakistan Studies (4PA0/02)

Paper 2: The Land, People and
Resources of Pakistan

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General Introduction

The majority of candidates appeared to be well prepared for this paper, and were able to apply their knowledge of the land and people of Pakistan to answer the specific points required by the questions. A large number of candidates demonstrated both impressive knowledge and the ability to use a wide range of geographical terms.

The following general points were observed;-

A number of candidates wrote generic answers to questions that required specific references to Pakistan and therefore could not be awarded the higher mark band. This was most frequently seen in the longer sections at the end of each question.

Too many candidates provided lists of points which in some cases affected the coherency of the answer and prevented the development of a full answer.

A lot of candidates used writing space rewriting the question in their first sentence, consequently limiting their time. Candidates should be encouraged to avoid this in the future.

A few candidates who wrote much more than was necessary for the shorter answer sections but then failed to provide detail for the longer questions, particularly towards the end of the paper.

However, as stated the knowledge displayed by many candidates was often good. Mark variations in the application of this knowledge between and within questions, is discussed below.

Question 1

The expectation is that most candidates will perform well with this question and be able to show a sound general knowledge of the geography of Pakistan. The majority of candidates were able to gain between seven to nine marks, with only a few achieving all twelve marks. The most common errors tended to be answers to the multiple-choice questions.

Question 2

This was a popular question and produced some confident answers;

Q2a(iii) Most candidates provided excellent responses which focused on people receiving help, either from armed forces or from other people in Pakistan. Occasionally, international aid was mentioned. Usually there were well developed points explaining how these organisations or groups of people provided such help.

Q2b) Many candidates displayed a good understanding of the importance of the Indus Plain to the economy of Pakistan, focusing on its contribution to the production of agricultural goods which could then be used for export and therefore help the balance of payments. Cotton and rice were frequently mentioned. Some candidates however did not link their answers directly enough to the economy of Pakistan to receive full marks, and tended to give more generic answers about the extent of agricultural activity in the area.

The following full mark answer shows a detailed knowledge of the use of the Indus Plain and the contribution this area makes to Pakistan's economy.

'The Indus Plain is perhaps the most important natural area for the economy of Pakistan as it has suitable relief features for agriculture which is the largest industry in Pakistan. The area is well irrigated and so encourages the growth of agriculture. Cash crops, especially cotton and rice constitute about 33% of the exports of Pakistan and so, are the biggest foreign exchange earners in the country. The flat land of the Indus Plain serves as a perfect location for the construction of industries which is important as Pakistan needs to develop its industrial base to improve its economy.'

2c) The majority of answers to this question focused on the use of irrigation more generally rather than concentrating on the development of multi-purpose irrigation schemes. Where specific examples of dams were used there tended to be a lack of specific detail about particular dams, which again tended to be generically described. Many candidates wrote answers which did not link to Pakistan, and therefore could not be awarded the top mark band. The following extract focuses on Pakistan, extends beyond irrigation schemes and uses details from a named dam.

'Multipurpose irrigation schemes like the Mangla and Tarbela Dam also play the role for providing hydroelectric power and water storage in dams. As dams, they ensure the storage of water during heavy rainfall for use during the long dry spells in Pakistan. The Mangla Dam has a capacity of producing 1,000 MW of energy that is consumed by the industries and the people nearby. These schemes also help the fishing industries growth, like the Rawal dam, to increase the output of the primary sector...as irrigation schemes, they ensure a steady artificial supply of water to the Indus Plain and desert areas, this has helped to reclaim areas and increase agriculture.'

Question 3

3)aiii) This section was generally answered well, candidates showed a good understanding of various causes of soil salinisation. Answers that achieved full marks tended to include a sequence of events leading to soil salinisation.

3b) Most candidates were able to provide examples of Pakistan's natural resources, often with commentary about why these should be conserved. A large proportion of answers focused on the increasing population, and the limited supply of named resources. Some of the best answers, as the following extract illustrates, considered the importance of natural resources for economic development.

'If these resources are finished, Pakistan would have to import them from other countries which would mean that foreign exchange would move out of Pakistan and would drastically decline the economy...it is essential to save them so that future generations can use the main resources such as water, fuels and metals.'

3c) This question provided a range of answers. Many responses were excellent, including more than enough developed points for full marks. Answers commonly referred to increases life expectancy and reduced mortality rates, early marriage leading to higher fertility, the cultural importance of large families, as well as religious beliefs. Some answers also referred to the lack of awareness of family planning. Where candidates mentioned migration, the example of migrants from Afghanistan was most commonly used.

The following extract is from an answer which is very focused on Pakistan and which provides clear explanations as well as descriptions of the main factors.

'The major cause of over-population in Pakistan is education, between 45 and 65% of the country's population (depending on rural/urban areas) is illiterate and therefore are not educated about family planning and the problems caused by large families. Early marriages, especially in rural areas, also increase the span of reproductively. Pakistan is an agricultural country, and every farmer wants to have 5-6 children so that they can help work the farm...the population is also affected by the large number of Afghan refugees who have moved to Pakistan, especially the areas bordering Afghanistan... Planning clinics should be set up by the government and NGOs working with the government to convince people to limit the size of their families. The decline in the death rate due to medical advances is also a cause for the increase in population, particularly among children and the older people...'

Question 4

4a)iii) This section provided the most incorrect answers in the paper as a number of candidates misunderstood the term 'drainage' and focused on sewers in cities, rather than on drainage of land surfaces and how this might affect the population. The following is an excellent answer covering both relief and drainage with detailed references to regions of Pakistan.

Relief-

The Northern and North western mountains of Pakistan consist of rugged mountains and landscapes, these do not support a high population density. Balochistan consists of hot desert zones and rugged hills that have a very low population density as transport is very difficult. Sindh and the Punjab are flat alluvial areas and plains and support a high population density due to the extensive agriculture and industry here.

Drainage -

Northern and North western mountains have a high precipitation, the Indus River is fed by the Hindu Kush and in summer there is some migration to these areas. The Upper Indus plain is the most populated area in Pakistan due to the rivers and braided channels which provided water for agriculture. Balochistan only has drainage water in times of flood and has a low population. Sindh is located in the Indus delta and has drainage for rice farming supporting a large population.'

4b) This section was generally well answered, nearly all candidates were able to identify a suitable city and provide some detail, even if this was just the province in which the city is located. In some cases, candidates slightly misunderstood the question and instead provided a description of the city and what could be found there. Examples selected included Karachi, Islamabad, Lahore, Rawalpindi as well as Hyderabad and Quetta.

4c) There were a number of answers to this question where candidates had not read the question properly as they explained the types of places people from Pakistan might migrate to and why they were migrating, rather than the effects migration would have on Pakistan. This question illustrates the importance of ensuring that candidates are taught essential examination skills and focus on the question asked in their answer. There were also a number of outstanding answers where candidates discussed factors such as locations, usually the USA or UAE, the importance of remittances, the development of cultural ties, the transfer of ideas and technology, as well as problems such as the 'brain drain' from Pakistan of talented young people.

Question 5

5a)iii) This was a well answered section. Many candidates provided a variety of reasons with supporting detail for problems relating to the large number of languages, often referring to what seemed like personal experiences such as visiting another part of the country and having communication issues.

5b) Answers to this section were encouraging. In previous years when questions have focused on this issue answers tended to concentrate on the contribution of women to the household, whereas this year there were many answers which discussed the plethora of professions in which women are now becoming visible, in addition to the cottage industries and household roles. Rather than taking an angle which argued that women only make a small contribution to the economy, many took a more positive approach acknowledging a growing role for women to the economic life of Pakistan.

5c) Whilst there were some very detailed and relevant answers which explored the various reasons why international agencies provide aid, there was some confusion about what might be considered aid. A significant proportion of answers discussed trade relations rather than aid. The two main reasons cited for why aid is received by Pakistan were the developing status of the country and the frequent occurrence of natural hazards, particularly earthquakes and floods.

Question 6

6aiii) This section was well answered by most candidates with detailed accounts about different ways the Green Revolution increased production. Where candidates did not obtain full marks it was usually because answers were not developed, usually because the response was given as a list of points.

6b) Similarly, this section was well answered the majority of candidates with many stating the trade deficit and explaining that it results from a low value of exports compared to imports. However, few provided quantitative data to support their observations. The following answer relates clearly to Pakistan and shows an impressive knowledge of the economic situation.

'The characteristics of Pakistan's international trade are;-

The nature and size of imports- about 86% of imports are capital goods and raw materials for industry (which accounts for about 59% of all imports) while consumer goods account for the remainder. Virtually all of the imports are increasing in value, especially fuel oils and other essentials for industry.

The nature of exports- more than half of Pakistan's exports are from five categories, textiles, rice, leather production, fish etc and are therefore lower value goods, usually primary goods.

Overall – there is a large deficit in the Pakistan's trade figures, with the value of imports more than twice that of export.'

6c) In examples where candidates provided a named example of a seaport facility at the outset then answers tended to be more detailed and reached higher levels. This question produces a significant proportion of generic answers about problems related to funding and technical ability to develop sea port facilities. Many answers described the existing sea ports in Pakistan and did not develop their answers to consider the problems of additional development. In general, this topic was not well known or understood.

Question 7

This was the least popular question on the paper.

7a)iii) Very few answers seen received full marks for this question. The different types of plate boundaries were often confused, most frequently conservative margins were described as destructive margins. This was somewhat surprising, considering Pakistan's tectonic location.

7b) Overall, candidates displayed a good knowledge of the different mineral resources of Pakistan and how these are important for Pakistan's economy as demonstrated by the following answer.

'Mineral resources have helped Pakistan's economy a lot whether they are metallic or non- metallic.

Metallic resources- used in infrastructure developments for bridges etc

Exported to earn money which helps the GDP of Pakistan

Examples include copper and gold

Non- metallic resources- used in many industries like the important cement industry (limestone)

Help with the refining of metallic minerals and then exported to make money, for example limestone and coke are used to manufacture iron.'

7c) This was probably the best answered of all the (c) sections. Most candidates provided detailed reasons for rapid urbanisation often with named examples and relating directly to Pakistan. Most answers focused on the reasons for rural to urban migration and often addressed why this has become a rapid process and why a number of people no longer want to live in the more remote rural areas

Question 8

8aiii) This section was well answered by many candidates, again this was answered by many as if they had experiences that were relevant to this question. Candidates referred to the growing industrial need for energy, not only in the cities but in other parts of the country.

'Knowing that energy is available, businesses will be encouraged to invest in Pakistan, especially multi-national organisations. This might help the development of less advanced areas such as Balochistan where there are large areas of land for industrial development. This will promote a more equal population distribution in the provinces.

Encourages people to settle in other regions than in the Punjab and Sindh reducing the stress and over-population, and unemployment problems in cities such as Lahore and Karachi.'

8b) This section was well answered by many candidates providing many examples of products that can be obtained from forests in Pakistan, both the natural goods and how they are developed into other goods. Examples include construction materials, named fruits and plants used for medicinal purposes.

8c) Whilst in general there were some very detailed answers to this section showing a good understanding of factors affecting manufacturing many answers tended to be generic and not linked specifically to Pakistan. A significant proportion of the answers focused on energy which the question indicated should not be included; showing that candidates would benefit from improves examination techniques. Answers typically included: the supply of labour and raw materials, as well as transport networks to distribute the goods produced. The better answers used named industries to illustrate the points made.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

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