

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2016

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

Paper 2: The Land, People
and Resources of Pakistan

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General comments

Candidates were well prepared for the majority of the questions asked in this year's paper and most were able to demonstrate a sound knowledge of the land, people and resources of Pakistan.

Relatively few rubric errors were seen, with the majority of candidates correctly answered question one (compulsory) and three other questions for a choice of seven. The highest scoring candidates tended to be those who were able to explain factors, especially in the longer sections of each question.

There was some evidence that candidates had not carefully read the questions and therefore gave answers that were either incorrect or did not develop the information enough to be awarded full marks. There were also a few sections of some questions where the majority of candidates appeared to lack specification knowledge, for details see the individual question comments. These factors lowered the over-all attainment of the candidates concerned.

There was very little evidence that candidates failed to complete the paper in the time allowed.

Question 1

This question was subdivided into two sections. The first section required candidates to identify features and locations shown on a map of Pakistan and was generally well answered, although a number of candidates were unable to correctly identify the mountain range. The second section consisted of more general multiple choice and short answer questions, the majority of which were correctly answered although a surprising number of candidates misread question 1b(v) and incorrectly wrote 'cotton.'

Question 2

This was a popular question but few candidates obtained the mark for 2a (i). This required candidates to name a settlement in one of the major flooding areas shown on a map. The most common correct answers seen were Sukkar and Multan. However, many of candidates failed to name a location, instead stating, for example 'the Indus flood plain' or just 'flood plain'.

Section 2(b) produced some outstanding answers with many answers focusing on Persian wheels, shaduf or tubewells. 2ci) was also generally well answered, with most candidates outlining waterlogging or salinisation. However, there were a number of candidates who failed to notice that the question only asked for one problem, and gave very generic rather than developed answers.

Section 2(d) produced some varied responses. Many of candidates were able to identify arid areas in Pakistan, but could only suggest the lack of rainfall point to explain aridity. The minority developed their answers to focus on the impact of latitude on climate and the influence of the Western Depressions and the monsoon to reach the top level.

Question 3

Section 3b (i) was well answered with most of the candidates referring to changing farming technologies and improved educational facilities. However there were some answers which confused the terms urban and rural, and described changes in urban areas, lowering the marks awarded.

Section 3(c) was the most disappointing section of Paper 2. The candidates appeared to be poorly prepared for this question and either drew a diagram of Pakistan and identified 'urban zones' as cities or wrote everything they knew about cities (in general) in Pakistan, not focusing on their features but often their issues such as overcrowding. This led to generic descriptions of cities in Pakistan which meant there were mostly Level 1 responses. The best answers for this question focused on Islamabad, and explained the grid like structure of the city.

Question 4

Sections 4a (ii) and 4a (iii) were well understood and answered, for 4a (ii) the most common response identified language issues. Sections 4 b(i) and 4 b(ii) were also well known topics with candidates recognising how the provision of education is changing in Pakistan, particularly for females and how aid agencies help Pakistan in response to natural disasters, with the most recent earthquake or floods used as examples.

Question 4c) was also well understood and answered. Candidates often focused on why agriculture needs reforming because of the low levels of production, and how technology could increase production. However, very few responses mentioned land ownership in Pakistan and why this might be affecting agricultural systems and productivity.

Question 5

The first sections, including 5a(ii) and 5b(i) were well answered, candidates commonly recognised more energy needed for industry and there is a need to reduce oil imports. Most were able to describe at least the way multi-national companies operate in different countries with a headquarters in a parent country which receives profits.

5b (ii) produced a number of developed answers which recognised the positive impact MNCs can have on Pakistan. However, a number of candidates introduced a valid point such as bringing in foreign investment but then did not add more than 'so this makes positive contribution to Pakistan's economy' essentially repeating the words in the question, and therefore failing to provide a full answer.

5c) This was one of the better answered longer sections. A number of responses recognised the limitations due to energy, transportation and infrastructure, but many also mentioned the impact of terrorism and how this is deterring international investors who might help develop and expand manufacturing industry.

Question 6

Again the first sections of this question were well understood and answered, in part 6a(ii) candidates recognised the need for transporting imports and exports as well as raw materials and in part 6b(i) the majority of candidates recognised the issues related to the negative balance of trade of Pakistan.

In section 6b(ii) a number of candidates did not recognise the term 'invisible exports' and often confused this with the informal economy rather than services and banking and therefore failed to gain marks. However, question 6(c) was generally well answered, although, even the candidates that provided good responses to this question spent the first few lines describing interesting tourist sites in Pakistan and why people should visit them, therefore lacking focus on the question. However, the majority of answers were detailed and provided specific details about why particular areas have had their tourism development limited, often explained by security issues, as well as lack of infrastructure.

Question 7

Section 7a (ii) produced a range of answers with candidates recognising either loamy soil, or the requirement for fertilisers, as well as the need for high rainfall as important for sugar cane cultivation. Section 7b (i) was well known and answered, many candidates obtained full marks with some excellent answers about cottage industries. Similarly, 7b (ii) produced some very good responses which focused on corruption and the lack of enforcement of laws, as well as the need for children's small hands for carpet weaving.

Question 7(c) also produced some very detailed answers. Candidates seemed to have a clear awareness of the dominance of men in society in Pakistan and the issues this creates for those trying to improve the status of women. Purdah was frequently cited, as well as the issues around child marriages. Quite a few candidates put forward their own views about whether this was a good thing or not for society, something that was not required by the question and which did not obtain any additional credit.

Question 8

As with most of these a (ii) parts of the exam section 8a (ii) was well answered with deforestation and overgrazing the most common responses. However, for 8b (i) a number of candidates failed to understand what this question was. They identified resources in Pakistan but failed to discuss how these are being managed, therefore limiting the marks they could be awarded.

Section 8b (ii) produced some very detailed answers about the various types of pollution in Pakistan produced by industry and urban areas.

Question 8(c) Candidates often began their answers with a description of some of the regional differences in economic development in Pakistan, often presenting them as agricultural areas as less developed and industrial areas as more developed, richer areas. Candidates were generally able to provide good reasons for the differences they described.

