



Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2024

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE

In Bangla (4BA0) Paper 01

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General Overview:

This report provides an overview of the performance of candidates for the June 2024 International GCSE Bangla (4BA0/01) examination—aimed at evaluating various language skills, including reading, writing, and translation. The majority of candidates exhibited a commendable level of proficiency.

The examination recorded almost 2300 entries in this series, and overall, the performance in the 4BA0/01 2406 Examination was notably good.

Paper Overview:

The paper, which assesses reading, writing, and translation skills, consists of three sections:

- Section A: Reading Comprehension (40 marks, 40% of the total marks, Assessment Objective 01)
- Section B: Writing (40 marks, 40% of the total marks, Assessment Objective 02)
- Section C: Translation (20 marks, 20% of the total marks, Assessment Objective 03)

Section A involves reading and responding to a variety of tasks through four questions. Section B includes two writing tasks, with one question offering three choices. Section C requires translating a text from English to Bangla. The examination is 2 hours and 30 minutes long, with a total of 100 marks available. Each question aligns with the themes suggested in the specification.

Section A – Reading Comprehension (AO1)

- **Question 1:** This is a gap-fill question worth 6 marks. Candidates must select the correct word from a provided box to complete sentences. This year's text focused on 'Use of Social Media.' The mean mark for this question was 5, with difficulties in identifying appropriate words for certain gaps. The mean mark was similar to last year. Candidates who could not score full marks in this question had challenges to identify the correct word for questions 1(a), 1(e), and 1(f). Candidates needed to consider not just the meaning of the given vocabulary, but also the context to make their selection.
- **Question 2:** This question is a multiple-matching question worth 8 marks. Candidates read three texts and match statements to the correct speaker. This year's theme was 'Buying Clothes Online,' and the mean mark was 6. Again, for this question, the performance is like the previous year. Some candidates marked more or fewer than the required number of boxes as opposed to the required 8 crosses. This year a significant number of students found 2(b) and 2(g) challenging.
- **Question 3:** Question 3 is a note-taking question worth 12 marks. Candidates' complete statements based on a text about 'World Tour of a Bangladeshi Young Woman.' The mean mark was 8, with difficulties noted in certain items. This item also performed comparably this year. On question 3(a) some candidates did not understand the keyword 'year of travel' and indicated the place of travel instead. A few candidates could not decipher the different contexts of questions 3(g) and 3(h) and responded wrongly. This is due to a lack of precision, as the stems of the questions were not understood fully by the students. Candidates also need to be careful about making choices on two-part questions to pick the right set of required information.

- **Question 4:** Consists of two parts:
 - Part 4(a): An open-response question with 10 marks, requiring short answers based on a literary text. The mean mark was 6 this year.
 - Part 4(b): A summary question worth 4 marks, asking candidates to summarise opinions from a dialogue. The mean mark was just above 1 out of 4. Candidates generally performed well but faced challenges with specific questions. Grammar and spelling errors in comprehension did not have any impact if they did not obscure meaning. The topic of this question was 'Library' and the mean mark for 4(a) was 8.45 and for 4(b) it was 1.80 out of 10 and 4, respectively. Some candidates struggled to identify the required information, particularly on questions 4(iii) and 4(iv). They could not achieve full marks since they mixed up two ideas from the text due to misunderstanding. In most of the cases, the rest of the part from this question was answered correctly. Question 4(b) was a higher-demand question in Section A and language manipulation is required to answer this question. Many candidates have handled it properly but there is a significant number of candidates who did not show this skill and could not score marks here due to the direct lifting of the required information from the provided text.

Section B – Writing (AO2)

- **Question 5:** This item is a short, guided writing task worth 14 marks, requiring candidates to use four prompts to write about 'My House' in approximately 80 words. The four prompts are given to refer to past, present, and future events. The mean mark was 10. Successful candidates performed well and were able to write paragraphs using the provided stimuli given in the task and secured good scores both in 'communication and content' and 'quality of language'. However, some candidates struggled to display appropriate grammatical skills and to maintain coherence in their responses. To secure a higher score on this question, reference to each stimulus is a must with at least two tenses. Unfortunately, some candidates lost communication and content marks as they failed to refer to all four stimuli or they used a word irrelevantly because they did not understand it. This has happened mostly on the prompt where candidates were expected to write about a house that they have seen recently. It is essential to use all stimuli and present them in a balanced way. Some candidates struggled with grammatical accuracy and coherence too.
- **Question 6:** A descriptive writing task worth 26 marks, offering three options. Candidates write an essay of about 140 words on topics like 'Cleanliness of Your Area,' 'Future Plan,' and 'Health is Life.' The mean mark was 19 which is slightly better than last year (18 marks). Candidates showed creativity and coherence but needed to address all bullet points and use a formal writing style. Question 6a (Cleanliness of Your Area) was the least popular essay. The most popular essay was question 6b (Future Plan) and approximately 1550 candidates had chosen this essay. Question 6c (Health is Life) was the second most popular. A significant number of candidates successfully narrated their chosen task with a range of sophisticated vocabularies and coherent sentences relating to past, present, and future events. Many of the candidates were successful in providing opinions and justification. Examiners were looking for each bullet point to be covered and developed

here. Every essay stimulus offers candidates the opportunity to write in different tenses and to give opinions.

Please note that there was an unintentional error on the question paper for question 6b where the wrong addressee was instructed to reply in the email. We can confirm that this did not have any impact on the assessment of this item and candidates score remained unaffected regardless of who they have addressed in their response.

Section C – Translation (AO3)

- **Question 7:** A translation task worth 20 marks. Candidates translated a text about 'Tourism' from English to Bangla. The mean mark was 15. This year it was better than the previous year which was about 14. Some candidates faced issues with vocabulary and spelling, affecting their scores. Some students could not translate words/phrases such as sea beach, travellers, modern facilities, visitors, international, holiday destination, plan, economy, encourage, tourism, tourists etc correctly.

Advice to Centres

Based on observations from the recent examination session, the following recommendations and preparation tips are offered to enhance future candidates' performance:

Section A

Strengths in Reading Comprehension: Many candidates demonstrated strong comprehension skills and the ability to interpret texts accurately. They showed a good grasp of vocabulary and language structures, which enabled them to answer questions effectively.

Questions 1, 2, 3, and 4

- *Questions 1, 2, 3, and 4* focused on understanding key vocabulary items from the foundation level specification. Candidates should familiarise themselves with these key vocabulary items.

Preparation Tips:

Question 1: Candidates should carefully read the instructions before starting. They can use the reading time to select the correct letter from the box to complete the blanks. Only the relevant letters should be written in the boxes. Grammar rules can help narrow down the choices.

Question 2: Advise candidates to identify the key message in each part of the question and match or eliminate each person accordingly. Candidates sometimes make too many marks in the grids. Ensure that only the required number of selections is made in each row to avoid invalidating the response. They should scrutinise whether statements have been addressed by none, one, or multiple respondents.

Question 3: Candidates should carefully read (skim or scan) the texts and write appropriate phrases in the gaps. Ensure that any phrases copied from the text are relevant and directly address the questions. A relevant verb/adjective form is sometimes needed to make the answer meaningful. Where two pieces of information are asked, candidates need to ensure both kinds of points are included from the given perspective in that question stem.

Question 4(a) and 4(b): In 4(a), short answers are required. Providing concise answers with key messages will be credited. Overly lengthy answers may miss the correct response. For 4(b), candidates should summarise the speakers' views and avoid lifting phrases directly from the text. They should infer and convey the main points effectively.

Section B

Strengths in Writing Skills: Several candidates demonstrated impressive writing abilities with well-structured essays and appropriate language usage. Their creativity and expressiveness were notable.

Questions 5 and 6: required essay writing on given topics in Bangla.

Preparation Tips:

Teachers should advise candidates to follow the bullet points closely to write comprehensive essays for full marks. All four stimulus words must be used as stated. Candidates should provide a brief introduction and cover the three tenses mentioned. Emphasise the importance of using the appropriate style and checking grammar and spelling. Candidates should read the prompts carefully before writing their essays.

Some candidates mistakenly selected one option from Q6 but answered another. Ensure they cover all three bullet points and use past and future tenses correctly. Responses should include examples of three timeframes and an opinion. Advise them to use formal language rather than colloquial forms and avoid transliterated words. Use of standard Bangla vocabulary is expected.

Section C

Translation Skills: Most candidates exhibited excellent translation skills, with accurate responses to the text.

Preparation Tips:

For Question 7, candidates should be mindful of the Bangla equivalents for English words and translate sentence by sentence or in meaningful chunks. They are encouraged to use additional space for initial translation drafts before finalising the translation in the provided spaces. It can be effective to translate one English phrase or sentence at a time before composing it into a coherent passage.

General Recommendations

- Build a robust vocabulary and understand grammar rules to enhance language proficiency.
- Avoid very long or very short answers for Questions 5 and 6. Candidates should adhere to the word count requirements.
- Ensure candidates practice time management to complete all sections within the allotted time. Regular practice with past papers is beneficial.
- Encourage participation in translation exercises and regular practice to improve translation skills.

In conclusion, many candidates demonstrated linguistic skills beyond expectations. It is commendable to see their efforts and improvements. With continued guidance and effort, candidates are likely to excel further in their language proficiency.

