



Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE

In Bangla (4BA0)

Paper 01: Reading, Writing and Translation

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General Overview:

This report provides a summary of candidate performance in the May 2025 International GCSE Bangla (4BA0/01) examination, which assesses reading, writing, and translation skills. Most candidates exhibited a commendable level of proficiency, reflecting thorough preparation and engagement with the syllabus.

Approximately 2,180 entries were recorded for this series. Overall, performance in the 4BA0/01 examination was strong, with many candidates achieving highly praiseworthy results.

Paper Overview:

The examination evaluates three key skill areas: reading, writing, and translation, structured across three sections:

Section A: Reading Comprehension – 40 marks, contributing 40% to the total score, aligned with Assessment Objective 1 (AO1).

Section B: Writing – 40 marks, also contributing 40%, aligned with Assessment Objective 2 (AO2).

Section C: Translation – 20 marks, contributing the remaining 20%, aligned with Assessment Objective 3 (AO3).

The examination lasts for 2 hours and 30 minutes and carries a total of 100 marks. All questions are based on outlined themes from the specification.

Section A – Reading Comprehension (AO1)

This section comprises four questions designed to assess candidates' ability to read and interpret a range of texts.

Question 1: Gap-fill exercise (6 marks)

Candidates were required to find appropriate words to complete a gap-fill exercise based on a short passage on *Electric Cars*, using a supplied word bank. Candidates who did not attain full marks were challenged to identify contextually appropriate vocabulary, particularly in items 1a, 1c, and 1e. An accurate understanding of word meaning and contextual application was essential for success in this question.

Question 2: Multiple matching task (8 marks)

Candidates matched statements to speakers based on three short texts on the topic of *Audiobooks*.

Some responses were invalidated due to the selection of too many options. Items 2c and 2f proved particularly challenging.

Question 3: Note-taking task (12 marks)

Based on the text *Rubina's Journey on a Metrorail*, candidates completed several statements. Common issues included misinterpretation in item 3d (*the occasion of having a free trip on the Metrorail*) and inferences in 3f (*the reasons for seeing the capital city differently*). Candidates

needed to read carefully and interpret contextual nuances, particularly in multi-part questions, to succeed in this item.

Question 4: Open-response and summary tasks (14 marks)

Part 4(a): Candidates responded to short-answer questions based on an autobiographical extract (10 marks). Performance was generally good, though question 4(v) (*details about the house*) was difficult due to misinterpretation or conflation of ideas.

Part 4(b): A summary question requiring synthesis of opinions from a dialogue about *studying abroad* (4 marks). The mean score was higher than the previous series reflecting improvement on last year's performance.

Section B – Writing (AO2)

This section assessed creative and descriptive writing abilities.

Question 5: Guided writing (14 marks)

Candidates wrote approximately 80 words on *Gardening* using four prompts related to past, present, and future experiences.

Strong responses demonstrated grammatical accuracy and addressed all prompts evenly. Weaker responses missed marks by neglecting one or more time frames or misinterpreting prompts. High-performing responses used at least two verb tenses and covered all stimulus points.

Question 6: Descriptive writing (26 marks)

Candidates chose one of three titles: *Travel Destinations*, *Study*, or *An Ideal Personality*. The most popular choice was *Study*, followed by *An Ideal Personality* and lastly *Travel Destinations*.

High-quality responses exhibited a rich vocabulary, clear narrative structure, and coherence across time frames. Stronger essays adhered to a formal tone and addressed all bullet points comprehensively.

Section C – Translation (AO3)

Question 7: English to Bangla translation (20 marks)

Candidates translated a passage on *Free-time Activities*.

Common difficulties included vocabulary items such as *made our way to the canteen*, *intellectually enriching*, *socialising*, *keen*, and *enthusiast*. Spelling inaccuracies and contextual misinterpretations affected clarity. High-performing candidates conveyed meaning accurately while retaining the tone and nuance of the source text.

Advice to Centres

Section A – Reading Comprehension

- Emphasise vocabulary acquisition and contextual understanding.
- Train candidates to follow instructions meticulously, especially in multi-part tasks.

Specific Guidance:

- **Gap-fill:** Teach contextual clue analysis.
- **Matching tasks:** Instruct candidates to avoid over- or under-selection. Encourage the use of elimination techniques and awareness that some options may not be mentioned at all.
- **Note-taking:** Focus on identifying key information and understanding compound question formats.
- **Summary tasks:** Encourage synthesis of ideas rather than verbatim chunk copying.

Section B – Writing

- Prepare for different formats of writing, such as articles, blogs, alongside email responses.
- Instruct candidates to address all bullet points with balanced attention. Promote the use of standard Bangla vocabulary and discourage reliance on transliterations or informal language.
- Encourage consistent use of past, present, and future tenses, incorporating personal opinions with justifications. Foster varied sentence structures and cohesive writing.
- Inspire to use idioms, proverbs, and sophisticated language.
- Be extra vigilant on some common errors, such as unnecessary use of anglicisation, spelling errors, incorrect verb conjugation, improper use of formal and informal writing styles, etc.

Section C – Translation

- Practise translation tasks regularly, with an emphasis on phrase-by-phrase accuracy.
- Build a glossary of common English–Bangla equivalents.
- Encourage initial drafting before final translation to ensure clarity and coherence.

General Recommendations

- Regular practice of past papers is advised to build confidence and improve time management.
- Emphasise clarity, precision, and grammatical accuracy in all responses.
- Provide constructive feedback on content, coherence, and structure to support continuous improvement.

Conclusion

Candidates demonstrated strong linguistic capabilities, with many exceeding expectations in this series. Their efforts and preparation are highly commendable. With sustained support and targeted instruction, future cohorts are well-positioned to excel further in their language proficiency and examination performance.

