



Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE

In Pakistan Studies (4PA1)

Paper 02: The landscape, people and economy of
Pakistan

Edexcel and BTEC Qualifications

Edexcel and BTEC qualifications are awarded by Pearson, the UK's largest awarding body. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers. For further information visit our qualifications websites at www.edexcel.com or www.btec.co.uk. Alternatively, you can get in touch with us using the details on our contact us page at www.edexcel.com/contactus.

Pearson: helping people progress, everywhere

Pearson aspires to be the world's leading learning company. Our aim is to help everyone progress in their lives through education. We believe in every kind of learning, for all kinds of people, wherever they are in the world. We've been involved in education for over 150 years, and by working across 70 countries, in 100 languages, we have built an international reputation for our commitment to high standards and raising achievement through innovation in education. Find out more about how we can help you and your candidates at: www.pearson.com/uk

Summer 2025

Publications Code 4PA1_02_2506_ER

All the material in this publication is copyright

© Pearson Education Ltd 2025

General comments

Performance on the paper was impressive, with a number of candidates producing excellent responses to all three of the questions they answered. There are a number of areas centres might like to concentrate on to improve further the performance of their candidates:

- It is important to pay particular attention to the dates given in the question. They are there to guide candidates and to restrict the amount of content candidates need to cover. So, for example, in question 4 (c), events before 1919 and after 1927 were not relevant. In question 6(b) the United Nations could not be rewarded as a response because it was outside the dates given in the question.
- In the same way, questions also sometimes restrict the material to be covered in a response to a particular area or policy. Thus, in question 3 (b) the only aspects of Sir Syed's work which were rewardable were those on education.
- As pointed out in previous reports, the most significant differences between those candidates who scored the highest marks and those who score less well was the approach to answering Questions (c) and (d). Consequently, it may well prove useful to centres to reiterate the advice given last year on those two questions:
 - Q(c) is a causation question. Candidates need to explain 'why', rather than write about 'what'. It is very good technique to use the words of the question in writing an answer. Had candidates begun their response to Question 5 (c) by saying '*The most important political development in India was ... because...*' then there would, undoubtedly, have been fewer responses just giving details of the events of the period.
- Q(d) is a judgement question. Candidates should consider a number of factors and decide which was the most important/main etc. Best rewarded responses look at three factors. So in Q1(d) where candidates were the most significant achievement of Pakistan as a new nation in the years up to 1959 was the creation of a new constitution, candidates were required to give an explanation of the importance of the new constitution, but also of two other factors. To score the very highest marks they were required to make a judgement on the relative importance of those three factors. Such an approach requires more than saying why one factor was the most important. Candidates have to explain why the other factors were not as important.

Comments on individual questions

Question 1

Responses to the compulsory section of the paper were, generally, strong, though some candidates found question 1(d) challenging. The vast majority of candidates were aware that Allama Muhammad Iqbal made his Allahabad Address in 1930 and knew several of the details of the Government of India Act of 1935. Details of the mistreatment of Muslims during Congress Rule were very well-known, though only the best responses explained why this mistreatment created difficulties. In 1(d),

knowledge of the 1956 Constitution was a little disappointing. However, most candidates were able to explain in detail other achievements in this period, particularly the early work in establishing the new nation.

Question 2

This question was answered by a small minority of candidates. Those candidates answering it were generally aware that in 1526 Babur established the Mughal Empire and the importance of the treachery of Mir Jafar and adverse weather conditions at the Battle of Plassey. As in previous years, There was a limited knowledge of the work of Mahmud of Ghazni in question 2 (c) . However, question 2 (d) was particularly well-answered, with most candidates explaining how money was wasted in the Deccan wars, endless warfare exhausted the treasury and that during the closing years of the reign Aurangzeb became dependent on the revenue of Bengal.

Question 3

This was a very popular topic, with a large number of excellent responses. Both the death of Tipu Sultan in question 3(a) and the reasons why Haji Shariat Ullah founded the Faraizi Movement were well answered, but responses on the work of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan in question 3(b) and the reasons for the outbreak of the War of Independence in 1857 were of a particularly high standard. Sir Syed's support for Western education and his role in opening educational institutions was noted and British arrogance was seen to underpin all the reasons for the outbreak of violence in 1857. The culture, religion and economic well-being of the local communities was seen to be under threat as a result of British attitudes.

Question 4

The popularity of question 3 meant that there was a limited number of responses to this question. Responses to questions 3(a), 3(b) and 3(c) showed a very good understanding of the topic, with some particularly impressive responses on how the partition of Bengal was part of a wider policy by the British to undermine the influence of the Hindu community in East Bengal and beyond. Responses to question 3(d) were a little disappointing with candidates tending to list the events in the years 1919-27, rather than considering the importance of them. Where judgement was made it tended to be around the unfairness of the Rowlatt Act in that it placed severe restrictions on local people and the Amritsar massacre resulting in many local losing faith in the British as fair-minded rulers.

Question 5

This was not a popular question and a number of those candidates who chose to answer it, struggled to answer all four questions at a consistent level. Candidates knew that Nawaz Sharif became Prime Minister for the first time in 1990 in question (a) and there were good responses in question (d). Unfortunately, few candidates could give a convincing explanation of the reasons for the resignation of President Musharraf in question (c) and there was considerable confusion in question (b) where measures to stimulate the growth of Urdu (not a regional language) were often stated. In question (d) there was a good understanding that support for Afghanistan enabled Pakistan to experience an economic boom as huge sums of money poured into the country from the USA to develop Pakistan's army and support the large number of Afghan refugees, but that a longer term consequence of support for Afghanistan was the growth of guns in society and an increased threat to law and order in the period of the 'Kalashnikov Culture'.

Question 6

A popular question with a large number of very good responses. Most candidates knew about the Mutual Defence Assistance Agreement in 6 (a) and CENTO and RCD were common responses to 6(b) (though there were a number of candidates who incorrectly suggested the United Nations). Responses to 6 (c) sometimes tended to list events, but better responses did explain effectively how the events affected relations. There was considerable agreement in 6 (d) that Kargil was significant, though most candidates tied it in with the wider problem of Kashmir, which has soured relations between Pakistan and India since 1947. It was pleasing to see candidates writing on the impact of events which improved relations, such as 'cricket diplomacy, the stopping of nuclear testing and the Lahore Declaration in which they pledged to take action to improve relations.

