

Examiners' Report/  
Principal Examiner Feedback

June 2011

International GCSE  
Bangladesh Studies (4BN0\_01)  
History and Culture

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## **General comments**

There was a pleasing increase of 30 per cent in the entry this year. The standard of work presented this year by candidates was broadly comparable to that of last year. All the candidates answered the required three questions and few displayed any apparent sign of problems relating to time or rubric infringement.

As with last year, most candidates tended to write about the topics/characters/events listed in the question rather than focussing on the question posed. The content suggested in the question is merely there to guide candidates rather than be prescriptive. The most popular questions were 2, 3 and 4.

## **Comments on individual questions**

### **Question 1**

There were several good attempts at question 1 in which most candidates were able to explain the influence of Hindu and Buddhist rulers of Bengal with reference to the Shashanka, Dharmapala and Devapala. However, most answers tended to be descriptive with little in the way of explanation of the way these factors contributed to the development of Bengal.

### **Question 2**

Question 2 was a popular question and one that was done well. The question required candidates to explain the importance of two individuals in the development of Bengal in the seventeenth century with specific reference to Islam Khan, Murshid Quli Khan and Shaista Khan. Most candidates were able to score well on this question with a good level of detail shown. Answers were generally accurate.

### **Question 3**

There were some good responses to this popular question on the roles of legislation in Britain taking control of Bengal. The Regulating Act and the Permanent Settlement were especially well known. Again many of these responses were descriptive of the factors involved rather than addressing their importance to British rule in Bengal. However, there were also some very well explained answers.

#### **Question 4**

This was a popular question on the attempts of the British to reform the government of India in the detail of the roles of the Morley-Minto reforms, the Montague-Chelmsford reforms and the Government of India Act were well known and attempts at the question were generally good with attempts to explain their importance.

#### **Question 5**

There were some attempts at this question but were largely narrative in kind on the political developments in Bengal up to 1962. Although the Awami League, United Front and Basic Democracy were well known topics there was little attempt to explain their importance to the political developments at this time.

#### **Question 6**

There were a few good responses to this question on the constitutional crisis of 1970 to 1971. Largely many candidates focused on the outbreak of the civil war, which was given in the question to help in the answer, and wrote all they knew about this rather than focus on the question posed. As a result, there were few high scoring answers.

#### **Question 7**

There were a few attempts at question 7 which was concerned with the importance of two named individuals in the development of Bangladesh since 1975. Some answers contained an appropriate level of detail on Ziaur Rahman, Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia that addressed the question but generally little was known about these individuals.

#### **Question 8**

Few candidates answered question 8 on tribal customs, the Language Movement and Kazi Nazul Islam in relation to Bangladesh heritage and culture and those that did provided a descriptive account of their role rather than address their importance to heritage and culture.

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