

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2013

International GCSE
Pakistan Studies
History & Heritage
4PA0_01

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General comments

The standard of work presented this year by candidates was broadly comparable to last year although there was a slight increase in the entry figure of some 7% compared to May 2012.

All candidates answered the required three questions with few rubric errors. It is pleasing to note that the majority of candidates had been well prepared for the examination. The highest scoring candidates were the ones who answered questions 3, 4 and 5. A good level of accuracy and relevant detail was produced with an attempt at explanation in their answers. There were some genuine attempts to answer the questions as set this year compared to previous ones. However on the other hand, there were a large number of candidates who produced descriptive answers, especially with response to questions 1 and 2 that failed to explain the contribution of importance of the given factors. There was also a minority of candidates who produce weak answers displaying a limited amount of knowledge who were clearly unprepared for this examination.

Comments on individual questions

Question 1

This was a popular question but candidates struggled to score highly. The question focussed on the contribution of the succession of Mughal Emperors following the death of Aurangzeb to the decline of the Empire. Most candidates were able to describe the factors but could go little further in explaining how these factors contributed to the decline of the Empire. Also it was interesting that a large number of candidates dealt with the failure of Aurangzeb when the question clearly indicated that these factors were required following his death, As a result a large number of candidates were unable to score more than half marks since explanation was required for the higher level marks.

Question 2

This question on the contribution of Robert Clive and Warren Hastings to the Indian sub-continent brought some good answers and most candidates scored well with clearly stated knowledge. However there were small numbers of candidates that answered this question and as a result few good answers were noted.

Question 3

This question was probably the most popular and highest scoring one. Most candidates knew much about the work of the three individuals and they were able to produce high scoring answers on their contribution to the spread of Islam. Most answers to this question were often very long and many candidates wrote extensively at times. Although very many candidates scored highly, not all answers were to the point and sufficiently concise. As a result some candidates spent far too much time merely describing their work that wasn't required and as a result marks were relatively low for this group of candidates. However marks were generally high for most candidates showing that they knew their facts on this topic and were able to explain their answers.

Question 4

This was also a popular question that dealt with the reasons for the failure of the Khilafat Movement. Again most candidates knew their facts on this topic and wrote extensively on it and as a result generally scored very highly. However narrative answers tended to be at the forefront of such answers and as a result there tended to be little explanation of the reasons for the failure of the Movement with specific reference to the Chauri Chaura incident.

Question 5

This was a very popular question that required candidates explain the success and failure of the three Round Table Conferences. Most candidates were able to explain both aspects of the Conferences and as a result scored very highly indeed which was very pleasing! As a result scores for this question were often high, often scoring near to maximum marks.

Question 6

This was a popular question and was attempted by many candidates. However the main aspect of responses tended to be narratives of different aspects of Congress Rule with little attempt to explain why or how these aspects affected Muslims. As a result many candidates scored near or around half marks for largely descriptive aspects of Congress Rule with little more than learnt responses to the effect these had on Muslims.

Question 7

This question was popular to some candidates and there were a few good answers on Bhutto's downfall. However answers tended to be largely descriptive especially with regard to her policies but with little attention to the question that asked for the reasons for her fall from office on two occasions.

Question 8

This was a popular question that required candidates to explain how successful Pakistan's relationship has been with Russia. Answers to this kind of question often tend to be a narrative of events since 1947 in chronological order and this year was no exception. However it is fair to say that in the midst of lots of description there were some genuine attempts to explain successes and failures and these candidates achieved just reward for their efforts.

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