

FIRST LANGUAGE URDU

Paper 3247/01
Reading and Writing

Key Messages

It is important to include relevant material from *both* passages in response to **Question 1**. Candidates are reminded that in order to access full range of marks they need to read the task for **Question 2** carefully and to write within the specified word limit using appropriate style, format and vocabulary.

General Comments

The majority of candidates performed well in both questions. Candidates wrote detailed responses, have demonstrated a good command of the language and were confident in their use of complex sentences.

Comments on Specific Questions

Question 1

The question required candidates to write an essay on Agriculture and Environment. The majority of candidates performed well in this question showing a high level of reading and writing skills. Strong candidates have demonstrated their ability to appropriately select material from both passages and to use it effectively in their writing.

Weaker responses were characterised by a tendency to write general composition on the topic without using examples and ideas from the given passages or using material from only one passage. Candidates are reminded to use material from both passages in response to the question in order to access full marks.

Question 2

Most candidates performed well in this question. The best responses used an appropriate writing style and wholly relevant material in their speeches, providing good justification and examples in support of their thoughts about the role young people play in protecting the environment. Most candidates kept their focus on the question, were concise and stayed within the word limit.

Candidates are reminded to write in the appropriate format asked for in the question; some candidates did not write in the format of a speech and instead wrote an essay on the topic. Weaker responses were less focussed as candidates did not provide examples in support of their ideas and did not keep within the word limit. Candidates are reminded to answer the specific subject matter of the question in order to achieve full marks available for content.

FIRST LANGUAGE URDU

Paper 3247/02

Texts

Key Messages

All candidates are required to select one question from **section one** Poetry and one question from **section two** Prose. Answers need to address the specific focus of each question and show an understanding of the texts beyond their literal meaning to the issues and attitudes that they raise. Some candidates wrote only general essays and needed to include an informed response to the texts.

General Comments

Overall the performance of candidates was very good. Candidates showed a good command of language which meant they were able to communicate their exploration and understanding of the texts clearly.

Comments on Specific Questions

Section One

Question 1

- (a) Most of the candidates answered this part well and comprehensively by giving reference to the Ghazal and by expressing their opinion about the poet.
- (b) This part was very well attempted. Stronger candidates showed a good understanding of the poetry included in the syllabus.

Question 2

Candidates who attempted question on “Mir Taqi Mir” demonstrated a very good understanding of the topic. The best responses included a detailed discussion of the features of poetry including the use of similes and metaphors.

Question 3

- (a) The question on Akber Alah Abadi poem “Agar Mazhab Giya” was very well answered by most candidates. The best responses showed a detailed understanding of the poem and appropriate use of quotations from it.
- (b) This part was very well answered. Stronger candidates focussed clearly on the poet’s ideas about modern education and made close reference to the poetry in support of the points they made.

Question 4

This question was about Hali’s poem “Musadus e Hali”. There were some very good responses with in depth discussion of the author’s use of sentiments to communicate the value of religion and culture. Many candidates discussed Eastern values and included good use of quotations in support of the points made. Candidates are encouraged to answer the specific question asked and avoid merely giving an explanation of the whole poem without addressing the specific question.

Section Two

Question 5

- (a) This question was generally answered well. Stronger responses addressed the specific question asked on the author's sense of humour with reference from the given passage. Weaker candidates gave only a general response about the text.
- (b) This part was well attempted. The best responses showed insight into the author's style and made close reference to his work.

Question 6

This was another popular question. The best responses demonstrated candidates' understanding of Munshee Pram Chand's style; candidates' answers were well-argued and articulate with close references to Munshee Pram Chand's work.

Question 7

- (a) This part invited candidates to compare the three characters. The best responses explored which character was in the right, justified their answer in a sensitive and informed way and included relevant quotations and references from the text.
- (b) This question was very popular. Candidates were asked to write about the reality and style of the passage. Stronger candidates supported their answers with close references and quotations from the text.

Question 8

This question was generally well answered. The best responses included a comparison between the two characters and showed an understanding of the author's use of language to create his effects. Many good answers included a discussion of "Akbari" character that can still be seen in our present society.

Question 9

- (a) In this question the candidates were required to write about Safder Yaseen's character. Stronger responses showed a thorough understanding of the character's nature and included informed personal opinion with close reference to the text.
- (b) This part was based on relationship between "Gatee", her mother and sister. Stronger candidates produced well-balanced answers exploring the reasons why Gatee became rebellious.

Question 10

Most candidates addressed the question very well, showing a good understanding of the characters, relationships and situations in the novel. Stronger candidates justified the idea that not all can be bought with money, making appropriate references in their responses and drawing on examples from the text.