

FIRST LANGUAGE URDU

Paper 3247/01
Reading and Writing

Key messages

All candidates should spend time reading the instructions very carefully before attempting the questions. They need to read and understand the demand of the questions in order to achieve the highest possible marks. There are two parts in this paper, Part One Reading and Part Two Writing. All candidates are required to answer all questions in Part One and select one question from Part Two.

General comments

The question paper was set on the new specification and it was the third year of this paper. The majority of the candidates performed extremely well and answered the questions after having read the whole passage with full care. There were many good responses from candidates this year. However, there were some candidates who did not read the passage carefully or properly and also did not understand the demand of the questions; these candidates were not able to achieve good marks.

Comments on specific questions

Part One

Question 1

A passage was given about environmental pollution and candidates were asked to answer eight questions with reference to the given passage. Many candidates were able to answer these questions correctly and were able to score either full marks or very good marks. The candidates showed a good command of language and structure, as well as content. Most candidates demonstrated the ability to write very detailed and comprehensive responses and showed confident use of complex sentences.

This question tests understanding of the content of the text, both explicit and implicit. Most candidates performed well, except in a few sub-questions where they were asked to provide **(a)** three changes that occurred in the behaviour of people in the previous century and **(b)** two reasons for low water pollution in the 20th century. They misunderstood the question, and hence lost five marks. Similarly, some candidates did not perform well in the last question as it was based on explaining how pollution was more dangerous with three reasons why.

Advice to candidates

Candidates are advised to read the passage more than once and underline the main points. Then, they should read the question and try to answer in light of the passage but in their own words to get full marks. It should be noted that if the question is worth one mark, the Examiner expects one point and if it is worth four marks, four points are expected by the Examiner. Candidates should take care to write neatly and use either dark blue or black pen, not pencil.

Part Two

Question 2

Candidates were required to write an essay on one of the four topics provided. This year all questions were equally popular.

Question 2(i) – Argumentative essay

Most of the candidates who attempted part (i) (Education plays important role in solving the problems of human life) were able to describe the importance of education, but not the part it plays to solve the problems of human life. Some candidates fully argued with examples and completed their essay very well according to the demand of the question and scored high marks. Those who did not understand the question properly and only wrote about the importance of education scored low marks.

Question 2(ii) – Discursive essay

Many candidates attempted this topic (the effects of tourism on human life). Some candidates were in favour of tourism and some of them were against this idea. Some candidates answered this question very well according to the demand of the question and gained maximum marks.

Question 2(iii) – Descriptive essay

The demand of this question was to describe a scene of 'prize giving ceremony in school'. From the writing from the majority of candidates, it appeared that they have all attended a prize giving ceremony and they described the scene in the school hall in detail. On the other hand some candidates described just a few important details of the ceremony such as lights, tables and chairs, chief guest's speech, etc. Those who described the scene with the most detail, e.g. decoration of the hall, lights, medals, shields, speeches, audience and students waiting for their prizes, etc. in detail scored full marks in this question.

Question 2(iv) – Narrative essay

This question was of the same popularity as other three questions. A good number of the candidates chose this topic to write their answer. It was a creative writing task. Many candidates who wrote on this topic did not fulfil the demand of the question. For example many candidates did not start the essay from where they were supposed to start; so part of their story was irrelevant to the question. Some candidates were unable to bring the narrative to a suitable ending, losing marks for structure. Some candidates did not describe the fair and how they were feeling, etc. This year most candidates did not score high marks in this particular question.

Advice to candidates

Candidates are advised to spend some time to deciding which topic to write on. Once they have decided, they should write down the bullet points and write a draft, and then they should write their response. They need to read the question fully and understand the demand of the question to score high marks. Candidates are also advised to write their answers in the booklet in the correct sequence. If a continuation booklet is used, candidates should indicate this clearly on the page.

FIRST LANGUAGE URDU

Paper 3247/02
Texts

Key Messages

All candidates should spend time reading the instructions very carefully before attempting the questions. They need to read and understand the demand of the questions in order to achieve the highest possible marks. There are three parts in this paper: Part One Unseen passage, Part Two Poetry and Part Three Prose. All candidates are required to answer Question One and select one question from Part Two and one question from Part Three.

General Comments

The question paper was set on the prescribed texts and was third exam of the new specification. Most candidates performed extremely well. However, there were many candidates who did not fulfil the demand of Question 1 (Unseen passage). Some candidates understood the demand of the questions in the paper and answered all the questions very confidently, scoring high or full marks.

Comments on Specific Questions

Part One (Unseen Passage)

Question 1

This was the compulsory question in Part One. Candidates were required to read the passage and explain how the author has shown the importance of unity, how has he used the language and to what extent he has been successful. Many candidates did not understand the question and wrote on the importance of unity by copying from the text, or wrote on language very briefly. Those who explained the meaning of the passage as well as the use of language with examples of how the author was successful scored high marks or full marks.

Advice to candidates

Candidates are required to read the unseen passage very carefully. They should read the question and understand the demand of the question. Sometimes the examiner is asking more than one thing in the question and to score high marks candidates have to answer all parts of the question. The bullet points given at the end of the question are there to help candidates, but it is not absolutely necessary to use these in order to score high marks. Higher marks are awarded where candidates are able to use their own words when answering the question.

Part two (Poetry)

Question 2

This question was on *Talu e Islam* by Allama Iqbal and was equally popular as Question 3. Candidates who answered Question 2 showed that they were fully prepared for this question and they wrote excellent answers. Full marks were awarded to those candidates who wrote with the reference to the poem and quoted verses from the poem. Most candidates demonstrated their ability to understand the sentiments expressed in Iqbal's poetry about Muslims' success, their hard work and equality and were able to write and analyse in detail.

Question 3

This question on Mirza Ghalib was another very popular question and many candidates answered this question. There was a variety of answers to this question. Some candidates wrote an essay without any references from his poetry and some wrote mainly about the life history of the poet and did not address the demand of the question. Many other candidates answered this question with reference to Mirza Ghalib's poetry and scored full marks.

Some candidates who were able to appreciate the poet's use of similes and metaphors in the verses scored high or full marks. It was pleasing to read that they demonstrated depth in understanding and interpreting the poet's work.

Part three (Prose)

Question 4

This question was on the drama *Kurtaba Ka Kazi* by Imtiaz Ali Taj. Many candidates answered this question. They were able to answer very well and gave descriptive accounts of the author's views. In addition, they provided their own comments in appreciation of his work.

This question was very popular and those who chose this question gave full details of the text and their answers were full of references from the work of the author and his essay in the syllabus. These candidates scored high or full marks.

Question 5

This was also a popular and a well attempted question. The candidates showed that they had prepared this section very well and they answered with full references from the text. The candidates who scored full marks described the full story and at the end justified that how the author has very beautifully depicted the picture of a hard worker. They also described the style of the author very well.

Advice to candidates

Candidates are strongly advised to read the syllabus and understand the demand. All the set texts listed in the syllabus should be read by all candidates.

Candidates should write answers in a logical sequence and should not mix up one with the other to avoid confusion. They should write clearly at the top of each page which question they are attempting and when they use any extra sheets, they should also write which question they are continuing.