

FIRST LANGUAGE URDU

Paper 3247/01
Reading and Writing

Key messages

All candidates are required to spare some time to read the instructions very carefully before attempting the questions. They need to read and understand the demand of the questions in order to get maximum marks. There are two parts in this paper i.e. **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. Those candidates who read the questions and answered carefully scored high or full marks.

General comments

The majority of the candidates performed extremely well and answered the questions after having read the whole passage with full care. It seemed that they were fully prepared for their examination. However, there were some candidates who did not read the passage carefully and properly and also did not understand the demand of the questions; were not able to achieve good marks.

Comments on specific questions

Part One

Question 1

A passage was given about sports and candidates were asked to answer eight questions with reference to the given passage. A large majority of 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 content. Most candidates demonstrated the ability to write very detailed and comprehensive responses and showed confidence use of complex sentences.

In this question language and structure were not assessed, only content. Most candidates performed well, except in **Question 1iii** where they were asked to give three ways that people show that they feel pride in their teams and **Question 1iv** where they were asked to give four details describing the playing field. Candidates misunderstood the questions and mixed up both answers, and hence lost seven marks. Similarly, some candidates struggled to perform well in **Question 1vii**, where they were asked how to keep sports from negative effects with four reasons.

Advice to candidates

Candidates are advised to read the passage very carefully more than once and underline the main points. Then they should read the question and try to answer in the light of the passage, using their own words to get full marks. It should be noted that if the question is worth 1 mark, the Examiner expects one point and if it is worth 4 marks, same four points are expected by the Examiner. Candidates should always write neatly and tidily and in the spaces provided 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 **Question 2(ii)** and **2(iv)** were very popular.

Argumentative essay

Question 2 (i)

Very few candidates who attempted **Question 2 (i)** (Politics is a good profession) were able to describe politics as profession. Some candidates gave a fully argued response with examples and completed their essay in a very good form and scored high marks. Other candidates did not understand the question properly and they just explained the political situation of their country. These candidates scored low marks.

Discursive essay

Question 2 (ii)

A vast majority of candidates attempted this question (the role of education in the development of a country). Almost all candidates were in favour of the question and some of them were of the opinion that apart from education other factors were also important for the development of country. Those who wrote a full response according to the demand of the question gained maximum marks.

Descriptive essay

Question 2 (iii)

The demand of this question was to describe a scene of a wedding. From the writing of the majority of candidates, it appeared that they have all attended a wedding, and they described the scene at the wedding in detail. On the other hand some candidates described just a few important details of the ceremony for example people, lights food etc. Those who describe the scene, for example the decoration of the wedding hall, the lights, the rituals of the wedding, the bride and bride groom, the colourful dresses of people and feelings of different people etc. in detail, scored full marks in this question.

Narrative essay

Question 2 (iv)

A good number of the candidates chose this question. This question required creative writing. Many candidates who chose this question did not fulfil the demand of the question. For example, the majority of candidates did not start the essay from where they were supposed to start; hence part of their response was marked as irrelevant. Some candidates were unable to finish the story well, losing marks for structure. Some candidates did not describe the feelings when they heard the phone call etc. This year very few candidates scored high marks in this particular question.

Advice to candidates

Candidates are advised to spend some time to decide the topic they want to write on first. Once they have decided, they should write down bullet points and make a draft essay, 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 proper sequence. If additional pages are used, candidates should indicate this clearly on the page.

FIRST LANGUAGE URDU

Paper 3247/02
Texts

Key messages

All candidates are required to spare some time to read the instructions very carefully before attempting the questions. They need to read and understand the demand of the questions in order to get maximum marks. There are three parts in this paper i.e. **Part One Unseen passage**, **Part Two Poetry** and **Part Three Prose**. All candidates are required to attempt **Question 1** and select one question from **Part Two** and one question from **Part Three**.

General comments

The question paper was set on the prescribed texts. The majority of the candidates performed extremely well and answered three questions fully. It has been observed that this year the candidates' responses were much better. The majority of candidates answered **Question 1** (Unseen passage) very well and scored very good marks.

Comments on specific questions

Part One

Question 1 (Unseen Passage)

This question in **Part One** is compulsory. The candidates were required to read the passage and explain how the author has shown the love for a son and used language, and to what extent he was successful. The question also asked candidates to explain the last verse of the given poem. Apart from a very few candidates who did not understand the question and just either explained the whole poem or wrote on language very briefly and did not explain the last verse properly, the rest did extremely well. Those who successfully explained the meaning as well as the language with examples scored high marks or full marks.

Advice to candidates

Candidates are required to read the unseen passage very carefully. Read the question and understand the demand of the question. Sometimes the examiner asks 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 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 Nasir Kazmi and was equally popular as **Question 3**. Candidates were able to show that they were fully prepared for this question and they wrote excellent answers to this question. Full marks were awarded to those candidates who wrote with the reference to the ghazal and quoted verses from the ghazal in the syllabus. Most demonstrated their ability to understand the sentiments expressed in Nasir Kazmi's poetry.

Question 3

This question on Amjad Islam Amjad's poem, 'Aik Kamra-e-Imtihan Main' was another very popular question and many candidates wrote on this question. There was a variety of answers to this question. Some candidates wrote only essays without any reference from his poetry, and some wrote mainly about the life history of the poet without addressing the demand of the question. A good number of candidates wrote the answer to this question with the reference to his poetry and scored full marks.

The 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 these candidates demonstrated depth in understanding and interpreting the poets work.

Part Three (Prose)

Question 4

This question was on the essay, 'Uswa Husnah' by Syed Salman Nadvi. Many candidates chose this question, and 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. Candidates 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. Candidates scored high or full marks for this question.

Question 5

This was also a very popular and a well attempted question. Candidates showed that they had prepared this section very well, and answered the question with full reference to the text. The candidates who scored full marks described the full story and at the end justified how the author has very beautifully mentioned about book reading. 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 candidates are required by the syllabus to read all the texts included in it. They should write answers in sequence and should not mix up one with another to avoid confusion. They should very clearly write on the top of each page which question they are attempting and when they use any additional page, they should mention which question they are answering. It is advised that candidates should avoid using extra sheets if they can manage to use the additional answer pages in their question paper.