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Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2022

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE

In Bangladesh Studies (4BN1)

Paper 1 History and culture of Bangladesh

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General comments

All candidates answered the required three questions and few if any displayed signs of problems relating to time or rubric infringement.

There were some signs of a genuine improvement of candidates to answer the questions as stated and there were some good answers to questions 1 and 2. However there are still concerns about the way candidates answer question d which carries 16 marks. The question gives the candidate topics on which to use in their answer together with a statement that they should also use information of their own. Unfortunately few candidates did. It is hoped that following this examination Centres will take note of the question and prepare future candidates to make better attempts to answer the question fully.

Comments on individual questions

Question 1

Most candidates were able to score 2 marks for question 1b on Operation Searchlight. Many candidates were able to describe or identify some of the reasons why there were difficulties in establishing the new state of Bangladesh in question 1c but more candidates need to **explain** why. In question 1d, the Kashmir issue was a well-known topic and along with the additional material of the Canal Water Dispute most candidates were able to attempt an explanation of these. However few candidates went beyond the topics stated in the question as requested. As a result the maximum mark achieved was usually limited at the top of level 3.

Question 2

Question 2 was a popular question, which required candidates to answer questions on Bengal. The beliefs of Sufis usually attracted 2 marks in question 2b and question 2c on why Haji Ilyas was important in the history of Bengal was also well done. It was clear that candidates had a good knowledge of Haji Ilyas as there were some excellent answers. There was good knowledge displayed regarding Bakhtiyar Khalji in question 2d with genuine attempts to answer the question. There were more answers in this question that used own knowledge and as result candidates were able to access level 4 marks which was pleasing.

Question 3

The questions on the Mughal Empire were not as popular and there were fewer high scoring answers. Some candidates were able to identify at least one achievement of Islam Khan in question 3b but few were able to explain why the British became involved in the Indian sub-continent in question 3c. Although the weaknesses of the Mughul Empire were well known as stated in question 3d there were weak attempts to explain these and as a result marks achieved were not as high as in other questions. Most candidates did not go further than the topics stated in the question and as a result, a mark at the top end of level 3 was the maximum achieved.

Question 4

Candidates had to answer questions on Bengal under British rule. Part 4b on the terms of the Diwari Treaty were generally not known and few candidates scored maximum marks. Attempts to answer 4c on why the East India Company ended in 1858 were not well done and a low level 2 mark was a common one. There were few good attempts to answer the question on the reasons why Bengal was partitioned in question 4d. There was scant evidence of using candidates' own knowledge to explain further reasons for partition with few top level 3 marks achieved. Clearly this was not a well-known topic.

Question 5

This was a popular question on the topic 'on the road to partition.' However, the question was not always answered well. Few candidates could state two features of the Delhi proposals of 1927 (5b) but the importance of the Lucknow Pact of 1916 was generally answered well (5c). As a result, marks achieved were good. Attempts to answer question 5d were mixed. Too many candidates described all the events leading up to partition including some of those in the 1930s with little attempt to answer the question. As a result, many candidates failed to score high marks. However, there were a few candidates who did answer the question set including the Cripps Mission and the Simla Conference but limited evidence of using their own knowledge to explain further reasons for partition with few level 4 marks achieved.

Question 6

This question asked candidates to answer questions on 'Bangladesh – the establishing the new country.' Lalon Shah (6b) was well known and often attracted 2 marks. Few candidates knew why Bangladesh joined world organisations after 1971 (6c) Generally the achievements of General Ziaur Rahman were well known in question 6d with genuine attempts to answer the question. However few candidates went beyond the topics stated in the

question as requested. As a result, the maximum mark achieved was usually limited at the top of level 3.

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