

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2015

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE
In Gujarati (4GU0) Paper 01
Written Paper

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This year the number of entries was slightly lower than last year. The paper was considered suitable and an appropriate test for the whole range of abilities. The overall performance of candidates was of a very good standard. It demonstrated secure knowledge of language and enjoyment of the subject. Most of the candidates demonstrated their knowledge and understanding of grammatical rules with accuracy and adopted an appropriate formal style of Gujarati language. It also included accuracy in spelling with a good range of structures presented.

The majority of candidates managed to demonstrate their translation skills for both English to Gujarati and Gujarati to English.

Candidates showed their flexibility in communication in writing essays and letters in Gujarati. They were successful in manipulating the language accurately to organise facts and ideas, presenting explanations, opinions and information in writing.

Higher ability candidates demonstrated extensive vocabulary, idioms and structure, a secure grasp of tense concept/ time reference, use of more complex structures and a clear ability to manipulate language to suit the task.

Middle ability candidates acquitted themselves well and were accurate, but the range they used was fairly limited. Therefore they lost the opportunity to demonstrate a wider range of the language, which could improve their overall quality mark. Some points were misunderstood and had some major omissions with a degree of irrelevance and repetition. There was some evidence of correct time sequences but mostly candidates were inconsistent and insecure. Quality of Language was fairly accurate and simple but there was inconsistency in application of grammar, syntax and morphology when attempting more complex language.

Less able candidates were not successful in understanding straightforward sections. Their style was incomprehensible. Many basic errors were noticed in all aspects of grammar.

Question 1 - Sentences testing grammatical knowledge:

The majority of candidates performed well. Question 1 (d) - many candidates found difficulty to translate the word “**climate**”. For the word “**earth**” interesting vocabulary was used such as ધરતી, જમીન, આપણો ગ્રહ, અવની, etc. There was some evidence of the use of correct grammar for translation.

Question 2 - Translation into Gujarati: Transmission:

Some candidates showed their skill with clear grasp of detail and excellent transfer of inference, nuance and idiom.

The majority of the candidates enjoyed translating into Gujarati and showed their transmission skill by providing competent rendering of original text with grasp of most detail, nuance and idiom.

However some candidates failed to transmit successfully as some very straightforward sections were totally misunderstood.

Quality of language:

Some of the candidates showed a high level of accuracy overall with occasional basic errors, usually in more complex language. A wide range of lexis and structure appropriate to task was used and the grasp of tone concept/ time sequence was generally secured. On the other hand, some candidates showed inaccuracies in basic grammar, although narrative sections, usually short and straightforward are in general correct; lexis and structure appropriate to the task tend to be adequate with several items unknown. Some of the candidates totally misunderstood large sections. There was no awareness of tense concept/ time sequence and could notice basic error in all aspects of grammar.

As this question was about the food which is very much related to health, candidates incorporated some of their own ideas rather than concentrate what was asked to be translated and lost a few marks. The vocabulary used by candidates was very interesting, for example candidates translated the word ‘**health**’ in Gujarati as – ‘આરોગ્ય, તંદુરસ્તી, સ્વાસ્થ્ય, તબિયત, etc. Some candidates could not translate the words fat, heart disease, obesity, nutritious etc. Some of the candidate found difficulty to give correct translation for the saying “Health is wealth.” Overall most of them enjoyed translating this Question.

Question 3 - Translation into English:

This question was about career. Most of the candidates enjoyed translating and performed very well. Most of them misinterpreted ‘મારા મતે આ ખૂબ જ જરૂરી છે .’ which means “In my opinion this is necessary.” This phrase was incorrectly translated “this is very important for me.” They misread the words ‘મારા મતે’ which means ‘in my opinion’ as ‘મારા માટે’ which means ‘for me’. A small number of candidates managed to translate correctly.

In whole, candidates performed better in question 3 than question 2, although there were similar errors for Transmission and Quality of language as in question 2.

Question 4 - Essay writing in Gujarati

This year there was not a letter writing option. In this question there were four options so candidates chose the ones they found interesting and felt confident.

- (a) “There are not enough facilities in our local area.” Do you agree and why?

This question was the least popular as attempted by only seven candidates.

- (b) “Imagine how the world would be without electricity.”

This was the second most popular question attempted. As this was about imagination of the world without electricity the candidates showed the importance of electricity for every little thing needed to survive. They expressed how necessary it is for modern technology which relies 100% on electricity. Some candidates, on the other hand, showed the benefits of having electricity such as people can have a more social and pollution free life.

- (c) “Describe one very special festival you have celebrated and give reasons why it is so special.”

This was a popular question. Candidates who attempted this question performed very well. As this was about the celebration of a special festival the candidates expressed their emotions from their personal experiences. They explained how important it is to celebrate the festival. The most popular festival chosen was Diwali. Mostly all of the candidates gave their reasons as to why the festival is so special for them.

- (d) “Write about your experience of attending a family wedding.”

This was the most popular question out of all four. As this was the subject about their own family wedding the candidates described it very well. They enjoyed describing the different rituals of a Hindu wedding and how important their role was in that celebration.

Although this year there was no letter writing option a couple of candidates wrote their essay in a letter format.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

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