

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2015

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE
In Hindi (4HN0) Paper 01
Written Paper

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General Introduction

This was the third session of this paper in this suite of languages. The International GCSE Hindi paper tested the candidates' ability and competence in the use of the Hindi language in a range of contexts. The paper was well within the reach of the candidates and appeared to be equally accessible in comparison with the previous years' paper. The questions set in the paper required candidates to demonstrate a level of understanding and acquired knowledge of the Hindi language which they needed to apply to a range of given situations, whether it be formal or informal. This involved the use of formal grammar, style and vocabulary writing in Hindi.

There were four compulsory questions and candidates could choose one from four topics in the essay question (question 4). All candidates were expected to write a piece of composition for question 4.

Question 1

There were five sentences set in this question to be translated into Hindi and each sentence was assessing different aspects of grammatical structure of the Hindi language. Almost all candidates found this question accessible and the majority of them translated it very well. Only a few students at the lower end of the spectrum understood the content but could not apply the required grammatical structure to make an appropriate sentence. The common mistakes were as follows:

Q1(a) candidates were required to write "वह पार्टी में अपने भाई के साथ आई है।" but some candidates at the lower end mixed up the information and could not write a grammatically correct sentence.

Q1(b) required candidates to write a question "हम हवाई अड्डे से घर किस समय पहुँच पाएँगे?" and the majority of the candidates did very well, providing a range of alternative words for 'airport' in Hindi. They demonstrated good understanding of the content and sentence structure.

Q1(c) was also an interrogative sentence which aimed to assess candidates' ability to form a question in Hindi using the appropriate grammar structure. The majority of candidates at the upper end of the ability range did very well, but some at the lower end made mistakes. This sentence appeared to be more challenging than other sentences in this question.

Q1(d) was a conditional sentence and the majority of candidates did this well using appropriate vocabulary and sentence structure. Some students at the lower end of the ability range could not translate correctly. The required answer was "मैं तो सुमन के जन्मदिन की पार्टी में जाऊँगा भले ही आप जाएँ या न जाएँ।".

Q1(e) the majority of candidates did this very well but some candidates at the lower end could not translate this sentence correctly and muddled up the information. Some candidates struggled to translate this part of the sentence "सारी दुनिया से आए हैं।".

Overall, this question was equally challenging in comparison with the previous years' paper.

All candidates were awarded marks for their knowledge of grammar in accordance with the quality of their work, and the mark scheme was applied rigorously.

Questions 2 and 3

These two questions were translations – from English to Hindi and Hindi to English.

Question 2 was set on the topic of homes. Almost all candidates did well in relating to the topic, while some at the upper end produced good quality translations and scored very good marks. A few sentences appeared to be slightly demanding for the candidates as there were some challenging words.

There were grammatical mistakes in candidates' work as some of the candidates at the lower end did not have a thorough knowledge of the Hindi language. They could not form the sentences correctly – particularly complex sentences – but their communication was clear.

Question 3 was set on the topic of tourism. The text was accessible to candidates of all abilities. All candidates produced reasonably good work according to their ability. Many candidates at the lower end of the ability range appeared to be struggling in translating the Hindi equivalent of tourists and they made mistakes in their translations.

The majority of students did very well on this question but there were a few who could not translate the text in an appropriate manner. They were awarded according to the quality of their work and the mark scheme was applied rigorously.

Question 4

In this question candidates were required to write a piece of composition of between 200-250 words, and had a choice of four topics. The majority of candidates chose to attempt question 4(c), an essay on 'आप आने वाले बीस वर्षों में हमारा जीवन कैसे भिन्न होने का अनुमान लगाते हैं?' Their essays were very interesting to read with logical examples.

The second popular choice made by the candidates was question 4(a): 'आजकल युवा लोगों पर इतना दबाव क्यों है?' These candidates wrote interesting essays based on their immediate experiences.

Some candidates attempted question 4(d) and provided a good account of information on the Bollywood event they attended.

A few candidates wrote a discursive essay on 'क्या हम पानी का उपयोग समझदारी से करते हैं? साफ़ पानी का बचाव करने के लिए क्या किया जा सकता है?'

These essays were well written with good reasons and explanations and these candidates managed to score good marks. Only one candidate did not write an essay as they were not prepared appropriately for this examination.

Almost all candidates wrote good pieces of composition except a few at the lower end. They demonstrated good knowledge and understanding of the Hindi language and its grammatical structure.

Conclusion

The candidates performed a lot better than the previous year. Although most candidates demonstrated good knowledge of key vocabulary, there was evidence of poor spelling and syntax errors, particularly in complex sentences and in the translation of articles. Teachers are advised to train candidates to read and understand a range of texts. Furthermore, it is advised that teachers should discuss how the language works in terms of grammatical structures as this is clearly advised in the IGCSE specification.

Particularly for question 4, candidates should be guided to write their response to the situations portrayed and information required in the question. They should be advised to read the question carefully, understand what they are required to write, how to elaborate on their view points and then accomplish the task. Teaching and learning grammatical structure should be embedded in day-to-day teaching and learning with thorough details.

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