

Examiners' Report/  
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2012

International GCSE  
Pakistan Studies  
History & Heritage  
4PA0\_01

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## **General comments**

The standard of work presented this year by candidates was broadly comparable to last year although there was a disappointing fall in the entry figure of some 13% compared to May 2011.

All candidates answered the required three questions with few or no rubric errors. It is pleasing to note that the majority of candidates had been well prepared for the examination. The highest scoring candidates were the ones who answered questions 2, 3 and 4. A good level of accuracy and relevant detail was produced with an attempt at explanation in their answers. There were fewer irrelevancies this year and some genuine attempts to answer the questions as set. However on the other hand, there were a large number of candidates who produced narrative and descriptive answers, especially with response to questions 1 and 5 that failed to explain the contribution of importance of the given factors. There were also a minority of candidates who produce weak answers displaying a limited amount of knowledge who were clearly unprepared for this examination.

## **Comments on individual questions**

### **Question 1**

This was a popular question but candidates struggled to score highly. The question focussed on the contribution of Mughal Emperors to the cultural development of the Empire regarding art, music, architecture and music. Most candidates were able to describe such developments but could go little further in explaining how these factors were developed by the Mughal Emperors. As a result a large number of candidates were unable to score more than half marks since explanation was required for the higher level marks.

### **Question 2**

This popular question on the reasons for the British involvement in the Indian sub-continent and the changes introduced to economic and industrial conditions brought some good answers and many candidates scored well with clearly stated knowledge. However there were a number of candidates that wanted to relate the second part of the question to the War of Independence which tended to produce irrelevant answers at times. Nevertheless there were some high scoring responses to this question.

### **Question 3**

This question was probably the most popular and highest scoring one. Most candidates knew much about the work of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and they were able to produce high scoring answers on his contribution to the two nation theory, the Aligarh Movement and to a lesser extent on politics. It has to be said that the answers to this question were often very long and many candidates wrote too much at times. Although very many candidates scored highly, not all answers were to the point and sufficiently concise. As a result candidates spent far too much time writing about other aspects of his work that weren't required and for which little or no credit could be awarded. However marks were generally high for most candidates showing that they knew their facts on this topic and were able to explain their answers.

### **Question 4**

This was also a popular question that dealt with the reasons for the partition of Bengal and its subsequent reversal in 1911. Again most candidates knew their facts on this topic and wrote extensively on it and as a result generally scored very highly. Where some candidates went wrong was evidenced in part b on the reversal of the partition. Narrative answers were to the fore with these answers and there was little attention to the explanation of the reasons for the reversal of the decision to partition Bengal.

### **Question 5**

This was quite a popular question that required candidates describe and explain the role and importance of three regional languages in Pakistan since 1947. Most candidates failed to explain the role and importance of these and tended to describe all they knew about them. Many candidates also wrote extensively and irrelevantly about these regional languages before 1947, going back as far as medieval times. This tended to be a disappointing question which examiners had expected candidates to perform well on.

### **Question 6**

This was not a popular question and was attempted by very few candidates who had found the choice of other questions clearly difficult and was often the final one of three to be answered. Few of the candidates who answered this question were able to get to grips with the constitutional developments and answers were often sketchy and at best descriptive in nature. As a result, answers failed to score many marks.

### **Question 7**

This question was popular to some candidates and there were a few good answers on Bhutto's policies. However answers tended to be largely descriptive especially with regard to his policies but most candidates were attracted by the arrest, trial and execution of Bhutto with little attention to the question that asked for the reasons for his execution. Answers again were descriptive with little attempt to explain how the information presented resulted in his execution.

### **Question 8**

This was a popular question that required candidates to explain how successful Pakistan's relationship has been with Afghanistan. Answers to this kind of question often tend to be a narrative of events since 1947 in chronological order and this year was no exception. However it is fair to say that in the midst of lots of description there were some genuine attempts to explain successes and failures and these candidates achieved just reward for their efforts.

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