

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2013

International GCSE
Pakistan Studies
Land, People & Resources
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General Comments

Question 1, composing of a map of Pakistan and short answer geographical questions was, as in previous years, compulsory. Candidates were able to select three other questions from a choice of seven covering a variety of topics.

The majority of candidates appeared to be very well prepared for this paper, and were able to apply their knowledge effectively. There was clear evidence of the centres had taught much of the specification in depth and had ensured that candidates were able to provide specific case study material, especially when answering the longer questions.

However, despite the general high level of knowledge shown, some topics did not produce the same standard of answers as others. Centres are reminded that questions covering all sections of the specification are likely to be set.

Question 1

The expectation is that most candidates will perform well with this question and be able to show a sound general knowledge of the geography of Pakistan. As in previous series, the majority of candidates obtained between seven to nine marks, with only a very small number gaining all twelve marks. The physical geography of Pakistan tended to be better known than the human geography. Relatively few candidates were able to identify the major road (highway) 1b (iv), or the mineral resource 1b (vi).

Question 2

This was a popular question and produced some competent answers, particularly in part 2(b), where reference was appropriately made to a wide range of causes of soil erosion.

Question 2a (ii) required candidates to describe variations in humidity throughout the year and , while most answers noted the general trends with supporting details such as the highest and lowest annual figures, a number of responses were over-generalised or showed weak interpretation skills. For example, an answer such as; *'From the start of the year the humidity starts decreasing then it remains constant for two months then it decrease for two months and then it increases'* is not only inaccurate but is also lacks the use of figures and names of months. Question 2a (iii) asked candidates to give reasons for variations in humidity throughout the year and most were able to suggest either monsoon rainfall or the western depressions as the main causes.

Explanations for the low percentage of forestation in Pakistan varied in depth and focus. While most candidates were able to suggest that deforestation for agricultural land, fuel, timber or urban expansion are major causes, relatively few were able to consider physical variables such as climate and relief and therefore could not reach the highest level.

Question 3

This was also a popular question and candidates frequently showed some highly detailed knowledge of population pyramids, the variations between rural and urban life in Pakistan and reasons for migration to other countries. Answers for question 3b were particularly effective when the candidate directly compared urban and rural ways of life as illustrated by this extract; *'In urban areas it is common for women to work, while in rural areas, they are expected to stay at home. In urban areas there are factories, vehicles and processed food, hence diseases. In rural areas there are no factories or vehicles and the people eat natural food.'*

Question 4

This was slightly less popular than questions 2 and 3 but was still answered by a large proportion of candidates. There were a number of very detailed answers to 4a (ii) in which candidates suggested a number of reasons for the differences in male and female literacy rates in Pakistan. Question 4a (iii) required development of the selected problem caused by population growth to be awarded 2 marks.

Question 4b was, in general, very poorly answered by candidates who clearly had little knowledge of the structure of any of the cities of Pakistan. It is a specification requirement that the structure of at least one city must be studied. The better answers describe the clear urban zones in Islamabad. Question 4c produced some satisfactory answers but candidates tended to focus on the reasons for the lack of status of women, rather than reasons for the limited success of attempts to raise this status. This led to answers that were not focused sufficiently to reach the top tier as shown by this extract; *'Society believes that men have to work and earn for the family and as women have to just sit at home, more respect is given to the men. Areas of Pakistan are so heavily populated it is difficult to get the message across to the entire population.'*

Question 5

The majority of candidates obtained two marks for question 5a (i). The method of obtaining water from tube wells was also well known. Question 5a (iii) asked candidates to suggest the importance of irrigation water to Pakistan, candidates tended to not the significance of this water for use in agriculture; *'...water is available for the growth of crops'* but frequently failed to develop their explanations of why this is so significant in Pakistan.

Question 5b required an outline of the main features of land tenure in Pakistan. This topic was not well known, despite being a specification requirement. Candidates frequently answered by describing agriculture in Pakistan; *'Warm humid climate and loamy soil in Sindh which is good for the cultivation of rice.....'* but such comments did not answer the question and therefore could not be awarded any marks.

Question 5c produced some outstanding answers in which candidates showed detailed knowledge of attempts to increase agricultural production and of the reasons why these named attempts had not always been as successful as planned.

Question 6

Almost all candidates achieved high marks for all the sub-questions of 6a. However, section 6b was less well answered. Candidates were able to describe cottage and craft industries in Pakistan but were not always able to comment on the ways in which these contribute to the economy.

Question 6c asked candidates to explain why the attempts to reduce bonded and child labour had not always succeeded. The majority of answers indicated that the candidates had a very good knowledge of the reasons for the lack of enforcement of measures to reduce these practices, but were less secure about the actual legislation; *' There are many industries which rely on bonded labour such as carpet waving, sports goods and brick making. This is because there is no implementation of laws, many laws are passed but due to government instability and corruption they are not enforced....'*

Question 7

This was a reasonable popular question and, when the candidates were confident with the detail and case study material required, tended to result in some of the best answers seen. However, some map reading and basic geographical errors were seen in 7a (i) when candidates were unable to identify the national boundary of Pakistan and gave the answer; *'Taftan.'* Questions 7a (ii) and (iii) enabled candidates to give some highly detailed descriptions of opencast mining and mineral extraction. Question 7b was also well answered with candidates demonstrating some impressive knowledge of named renewable energy schemes.

Answers to question 7c tended to be somewhat generalise and therefore did not always reach the highest level. Candidates were able to write about a number of sources of environmental pollution but the legislation to reduce these and the reasons for the over-all lack of success, were not always evident. The following extract illustrates these points and is typical of a middle band answer; *' ... less ships are going out to sea for fishing so there is less oil slipping into the sea, in addition there are laws which are designed to reduce this type of pollution. These are not always enforced.'*

Question 8

This was also one of the more popular questions. Candidates were able to answer questions 8a (i) and (ii) with confidence, however the term 'invisible trade' (question 8a (iii)) was not well known and a number of answers suggested this was trade between countries which actually did not exist. Question 8b produced some very detailed responses with candidates describing weather conditions, relief and lack of investment in areas such as the North West Frontier Province.

Candidates provided some sound descriptions of the problems connected with transport throughout Pakistan for question 8c, but did not always develop their ideas to suggest why it is important that these problems are resolved and the transport network and systems are consequently improved.

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