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Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

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Pearson Edexcel International GCSE
In Pakistan Studies (4PA1)
Paper 1: The History and Culture of Pakistan

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Introduction

General comments

This was the first examination of the new specification and it may well prove beneficial to point out common errors or places where there is room for improvement to enable centres to continue to give their students the best chance of success. Examples of how to improve technique are given for **Question 1**, which all candidates had to answer.

All questions have five parts:

- **Part A** is a multiple-choice question and, as long as candidates select only one option, no further guidance is necessary.
- **Part B** awards two marks for two pieces of historical information. There is no need to provide an explanation or even write sentences. So, for example in **Question 1 Part B**, it was enough to simply write '**Hyderabad and Junagadh**' to gain full marks.
- **Part C** is a causation question. Candidates are asked why something happened and they should limit their answers to providing information that supports a given reason. So, in the **Part C** question in **Question 1** candidates, were not required to explain what the One Unit Policy was unless they were using that information to explain why it was introduced.

So best answers began '**The One Unit Policy was introduced because...**' Then the reason was provided. However, to score highest marks responses then had to use knowledge of the One Unit Policy to support the reason given. If a candidate claimed the One Unit Policy was introduced to bring about unification, it was important to explain how it was intended to do that.

- Similarly, in **Part D**, the requirement is not just to write as much as is possible about the factor mentioned in the question. The wording of the question is such that candidates must make a comparative judgement.

In **Question 1, Part D** candidates were asked to consider whether Ayub's greatest success was his agricultural reform policy. That required a discussion on how successful his agricultural policies were, how successful other measures were (**e.g. the introduction of a new constitution**) and then a judgement on whether there was more success in his agricultural measures than other measures.

Candidates are given two topics which they might like to cover in their answers. This guidance, however, is not an invitation to write everything you know about the topics. They are a suggestion that, in some way, information about them could be used to support an answer.

Comments on individual questions

Q1

Most candidates were able to score 2 marks for **Part B** for identifying two princely states. Most commonly mentioned were Hyderabad, Junagadh and Kashmir. It was common to read in **Part C** that the One Unit policy was introduced to increase efficiency or help unite the country, but to access higher marks it was necessary to explain how the policy would bring about such an outcome.

Part D was a good example of how some candidates failed to score the marks their knowledge deserved by paying too little attention to the precise requirements of the question. Many candidates explained what Ayub did and often explained the extent of success he achieved, but very few were able to compare one policy with another to consider whether reforming agriculture was the greatest success.

Q2

A popular question, though knowledge of Akbar's religious reforms was sometimes not strong. Candidates knew a great deal about the work of Aurangzeb and many answers explained how his constant warfare and the increased influence of local rulers made the Empire more difficult to govern. Where answers were able to link these difficulties with problems for those who succeeded Aurangzeb high marks were awarded.

In **Part D**, there was considerable knowledge of the Battle of Plassey and how the British came to win it. However, the question to be answered was not what happened in the battle, but whether the British gained control of large parts of India as a result of success in this battle. Best answers explained how control of Bengal and access to its wealth were important stepping stones in the establishment of British control in the sub-continent.

Q3

A less popular option, though candidates generally knew the material well. The most common responses on Shah Wali Ullah's work revolved around his translation of the Quran and organising opposition to the Marathas. Some candidates failed to note that the requirements of **Part C** were limited to British military actions (for example greased cartridges, requiring service outside their home territory etc.). Such candidates wrote at great about the causes of the war, but much of their response was irrelevant.

The work of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan is well known by candidates, but they must take care not to just relate the whole of his work and then conclude that restoring relations with the British was very important. What they were asked to do was consider whether it was more important than other aspects of his work. The top level could be awarded only when candidates carried out a comparison.

Q4

Another less popular answer with some candidates lacking knowledge on **Part B and C**.

Candidates knew about the Lucknow Pact, but sometimes gave details of what was agreed, rather than what were the results of the agreement. **Part C** produced a wide range of answers, with some candidates having little understanding of the details of the reforms, but others clearly understanding of why, in the words of Congress, the reforms were **'inadequate, unsatisfactory and disappointing'**.

The Khilafat is a very popular topic **Part D**, but candidates must take care to limit themselves to the requirements of the question. There was no requirement to explain why the Khilafat movement started, or the details of its work. All candidates were required to do was to give reasons for its failure.

Q5

This was the least popular question on the paper and some of the candidates appeared to have too little knowledge of the subject matter to make detailed responses. **Part B** presented few difficulties, with most candidates providing details of large scale projects and the taxi scheme. Many answers on **Part C**, however, concentrated solely on what Mrs Bhutto had to offer and neglected to consider the problems Nawaz Sharif was having – a significant part of the answer.

In **Part D** candidates tended to write everything they knew about Bhutto's reforms, but sometimes neglected to include the introduction of a new constitution. Consequently, it was impossible for them to reach the top level by comparing the impact of the new constitution with that of other measures, such as the nationalisation policy.

Q6

This was a popular and well-answered question. The majority of candidates identified the admission that the Pressler Amendment and the agreement to sell fighter planes as examples of the friendlier approach (**Part B**). Some candidates wrote about visits by VIPs, though not everyone realised it was Hilary and Chelsea Clinton. Sharif's difficulties over Kargil (**Part C**) were

very well known, with candidates writing not only about his unsuccessful policy, but also his attempt to cover up the government's involvement.

Part D asked candidates whether it was true that Pakistan's relations with the Soviet Union had been unsuccessful. Most candidates explained how Pakistan's desire for a relationship with the USA in the years immediately after independence and the support for the Afghan freedom fighters in 1979 did harm to relations with the Soviet Union. Where candidates were able to show examples of better relations and reach a judgement on the extent to which relations were poor, high marks were awarded.