Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

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Pearson Edexcel International GCSE
In Pakistan Studies (4PA1) Paper 01

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General Comments

Candidates do not appear to have any great difficulty with this year's paper. There was no evidence of candidates running out of time nor of questions proving inaccessible or difficult for candidates to understand.

Whilst all candidates had to answer Question 1, it was interesting to note the similarity in question selection in Sections A and B. In Section B, the vast majority of candidates chose Question 3, with a small number answering Question 4 and only a handful answering Question 2. In Section C, the vast majority chose Question 6, rather than Question 5.

As in previous years a number of weaknesses in exam technique were seen which centres might like to discuss with their candidates.

- It is important to realise that Question (c) is about causation. Candidates are asked to explain why something happened, not to give details of the topic in the question. There is no reward for providing narrative and historical detail should be used only to support suggested reasons.
- Candidates must also understand the importance of bringing their own factors into Question (d). Each Question (d) gives the candidates two bullet points to assist them. In order to achieve the highest marks, candidates must also discuss other factors.

Comments on Specification Questions

Question 1

Question (a): The correct alternative was C: Simon

Question (b). Whilst other appropriate responses were accepted, it was expected that candidates would provide two of the following as answers:

India was now a federation.
The Governor-General was head of the Federation.
There were 2 houses of parliament.
Diarchy was introduced.

Question (c)

Candidates knew Jinnah's Fourteen Points well, but many of them provided unnecessary detail of the Points themselves. Best responses were those which realised that it was not necessary to explain what the Points were, but instead concentrated on why Jinnah had issued them. Candidates who explained that Jinnah felt that the Nehru Report and the attitude of Gandhi forced him to clarify the Muslim position on how India should be governed and to counter Congress ambitions, scored well on this question.

Question (d)

The reasons for the partition of India in 1947 were well known. In this case candidates were given the suggestion that it was because the British wanted to leave and asked whether they agreed. Some candidates concentrated on the road to partition and told the story of the events of the 1930s and 40s leading up to the creation of Pakistan. This was not the correct approach and low marks were given. Other candidates concentrated on explaining why the British wanting to leave the sub-continent brought about partition. This was a valid approach but could not score high marks because a significant element of these extended questions is producing a balanced argument with judgements supported by relevant, explicit evidence. Consequently, candidates were asked to consider a number of factors and use them to consider the extent to which they suggested the British wanting to leave was the real reason for partition. Candidates who followed this approach were rewarded at the highest level.

Question 2

Question (a): The correct alternative was A: 1608

Question (b). Whilst other appropriate responses were accepted, it was expected that candidates would provide two of the following as answers:

The British passed the 1773 Act of Parliament (1) and 1784 India Act (1).
They appointed a Governor-General (1).
They set up a police force (1), legal system (1) and civil service (1)

This is not a popular option and only a handful of candidates chose to answer Question 2. Those who did so did not score high marks. Whilst there was some knowledge of the reasons for the British victory at Plassey, candidates did not seem to know the measures taken by the British in Bengal. In Question (d) most candidates were able to provide some information on Babur and Akbar but few were able to compare the various emperors to reach a judgement on who the greatest Mughal emperor was.

Question 3

Question (a): The correct alternative was A: Bengal

Question (b). Whilst other appropriate responses were accepted, it was expected that candidates would provide two of the following as answers:

There were brutal reprisals by the British (1).
Only 'loyal' princes allowed to remain on their thrones (1).
Bahadur Shah was imprisoned (1).

Question (c)

Candidates were very familiar with the work of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and most provided a good explanation for writing 'The Loyal Muhammadans of India'. Best answers explained not only that Sir Syed wanted to clear the Muslims of blame for starting the War of Independence, but that he was also looking after their long-term interests. By re-establishing relations with the British, Muslims could take advantage of British education and find employment opportunities in the British administration.

Question (d)

Candidates wrote well on the Doctrine of Lapse and there was some good explanation of how it offended the rulers of the sub-continent and forced those such as Rani of Jhansi to take up arms. Where candidates were then able to provide other reasons for the War (and they had many to choose from) higher reward was given, especially if candidates were able to introduce a comparative element.

Question 4

Question (a): The correct alternative was D: 1927

Question (b). Whilst other appropriate responses were accepted, it was expected that candidates would provide two of the following as answers:

Bengal was too large to administer efficiently (1)
Partition would give the Muslims opportunities (1)
The Hindus claimed that it was part of the British policy of 'divide and rule'. (1)

Question (c)

The Simla Deputation was a major step on the road towards the Muslims establishing their identity in the sub-continent in the 20th century. Most candidates were able to explain its importance both in terms of restoring relations with the British, but also giving the Muslims the confidence to push ahead and set up their own organisation to counter the increasingly Hindu-dominated Congress.

Question (d)

Following the formation of the Muslim League the British introduced a number of measures designed to give the people of the sub-continent more say in how their country was run. The two most important measures, the Morley-Minto Reforms and the Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms offered a number of important concessions, most notably separate electorates for Muslims and an extension of voting rights to more local people. However, dissatisfaction with these reforms, coupled with the reversal of the Partition of Bengal, created

such resentment that the British had to introduce repressive measures through the Rowlatt Act. Candidates were asked whether the Rowlatt Act was the most important measure passed at this time and many concluded that it was. Where candidates also discussed the importance of the other measures, high marks were awarded.

Question 5

Question (a): The correct alternative was B: 1973

Question (b). Whilst other appropriate responses were accepted, it was expected that candidates would provide two of the following as answers:

Bhola was the deadliest cyclone ever experienced (1)
500 000 people killed (1)
There was $86.4 million damage etc. (1)
Some people criticised the Pakistan government for its slow reaction (1)

Question (c)

The selection of Urdu as the national language was readily explained by most candidates who were able to analyse its historic significance, its rich literary background and its role in the struggle for Muslim rights. Where this analysis was supported by precise historical information, high marks were awarded.

Question (d)

Mrs Bhutto faced a number of problems in each of her ministries and both ended with the dismissal of her government. Candidates were offered economic problems as a possible cause of her difficulties and many of them explained why such problems were a hindrance to her. However, there were many other problems which also made things difficult for her government. These included problems in Sindh and Kashmir, opposition from Nawaz Sharif, accusations of family corruption and poor relations with the president. High marks were awarded only when some of these were also discussed.

Question 6

Question (a): The correct alternative was C: 1969

Question (b). Whilst other appropriate responses were accepted, it was expected that candidates would provide two of the following as answers:

It meant Pakistan was now suddenly on the front line in the fight against Communism. (1)
The USA provided huge subsidies to Pakistan (1).
Pakistan was seen as fighting for Islam so was popular with other Islamic states (1)
However, the long-term consequences were not good e.g., 'the Kalashnikov culture' (1)

Question (c)

In 1992 Pakistan came close to being declared as a state sponsor of terrorism by the USA, which placed economic sanctions on the country. Candidates were asked to explain why relations changed from 1993 and most were aware that this came about largely as a result of the work of President Clinton. He wanted better relations with Pakistan and removed some of the obstacles to friendship (the Pressler Amendment, the freezing of the sale of F-16 jets etc). Most candidates knew that the Brown Amendment and the visit of Hilary Clinton sealed the improved relations (though some candidates mistakenly believed President Clinton had himself visited)

Question (d)

This question was a slightly different style to that used in Question (d) elsewhere. Instead of offering one reason or feature and inviting candidates to provide others, this question asked candidates to evaluate the success of relations. The demands of the question were exactly the same, calling for a balanced response showing success and, lack of success and considering the extent of that success or lack of success. Most candidates adopted a chronological approach, running through the changing relations between China and Pakistan from the frosty relations during the 1950s to the increasing warm relations after 1962. This was a perfectly valid approach and, when supported with examples scored well.