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Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

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In Pakistan Studies (4PA1) Paper 02

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Introduction

General comments

Most candidates who sat the Autumn paper in 2002 appeared to have been well-prepared by centres and had a clear knowledge and understanding of the topics covered in the examination paper. Centres and candidates are therefore to be congratulated for their achievements in this unusual year.

The majority of candidates were able to attempt to answer the all the questions, although a small number of candidates did not answer the more demanding questions with either assess or evaluate as command words. It is also worth noting that some specific specification terms appeared unfamiliar, and more detail about these will be given in the individual question section of this report. It is worth emphasising at this point, however, that it is essential that candidates are familiar with key terms.

Section A.

The Physical Environment

Q1a(i) and Q1(ii)

Most candidates were able to identify the geographical term for glacial melting. However, only a few were able to name a landform caused by glacial erosion, with a disappointing number answering rivers or deltas. This section of the specification, 1.2 glacial processes and landforms, appears to somewhat poorly understood by candidates.

Q1b

Candidates were much more secure with the causes of river flooding, and many were able to write some excellent answers including excessive rainfall, poor levee maintenance and deforestation. A number of answers referred to over-flow from reservoirs but failed to make a connection to river flooding, consequently limiting the marks which could be awarded.

1c

In general, candidates had both knowledge and a good understanding of a cause of the Southwest Monsoon. A few answers referred to the Western Disturbances which could not be credited.

1d

This question included a resource showing logs being transported from a forest in northern Pakistan. Candidates were asked to suggest reasons for the distribution of natural resources, which directly links to section 1.4 (a) of the specification. The geographical term 'distribution' refers to the location of natural resources, consequently the candidates were required to explain, for example, the reasons for forests in northern Pakistan. A significant number, however, described how natural resources are transported within Pakistan, and therefore failed to answer the question.

1e

In contrast, this question was clearly understood by candidate who provided some detailed answers explaining why the exploitation of non-renewable energy resources in Pakistan is difficult. Factors mentioned included hazards and dangers, pollution, the lack of many non-renewable resources, and the shortage of skilled workers and finance. The better

answers included clear explanations linking these factors to the difficulties encountered during exploitation.

1f

This question used the more challenging command word 'evaluate', which requires candidates to measure the value or success of something, drawing on evidence such as strengths, weaknesses, alternatives and relevant data, and ultimately provide a substantiated judgement/conclusion (Specification Appendix 5). In this case the candidates were asked to evaluate the responses made by international agencies to earthquake events in Pakistan. The better answers included a review of such contributions, for example those made by the World Bank, the Red Crescent and the Red Cross, and frequently compared these to the responses made directly by the Pakistani government. Centres should note that individual countries are not international agencies, and answers which centred on country's contributions were unlikely to reach level 3.

Section B

The Human Environment

Q2a(i) and 2a(ii)

Candidates showed both the ability to calculate the total number of migrants from Pakistan and knowledge of occupations in the formal tertiary sectors, with doctor, teacher and bank manager being the most common answers.

2b

Candidates were also secure when naming two countries which attract large numbers of migrant workers from Pakistan, and the majority gained both the marks available.

2c

This question asked for one reason for Pakistan's negative trade balance. Most candidates recognised that the value of imports exceeds that of exports and were able to develop one reason of explanation. Some answers, however, gave two or more reasons, only one of which could be credited.

2d

The resource for this question was a pie chart giving information about food security in Pakistan. Candidates were then asked to suggest two ways of improving food security. Frequent responses included increasing agricultural output, importing more food and growing food rather than non-food crops, all of which are valid. In general candidates were secure with this topic, although a few confused food security with food hygiene, and therefore could not be given any credit for their answers.

2e

Candidates were asked to explain the factors that have resulted in the growth of informal services in Pakistan. The term 'informal services' was generally well understood, and answers include factors such as rural to urban migration, lack of jobs in the formal sector, lack of education and child employment. The better candidates were able to make the connection to explain how these factors have led to a growth in informal services. A small minority of candidates misunderstand the question and discussed manufacturing in Pakistan.

2f

As in question 1f, this question uses evaluate as the command word. The candidates were required to evaluate the benefits and challenges of the operations of transnational corporations (TNCs) for the people of Pakistan. Nearly all of the candidates were able to describe at least one benefit and one challenge. The better answers included a range of factors and explained why each was either beneficial or a challenge for Pakistan, with the loss of cultural identity and improvements in education, knowledge and skills commonly identified. Answers which reached the highest levels included some form of evaluation, for example, a consideration of the relative importance or the impact of the selected benefits and challenges.

Section C

Challenges for Pakistan

Q3a(i) and 3a(ii)

Nearly all candidates were able to both correctly identify burning fossil fuels as a cause of global warming and to name a greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide being the most frequent answer.

Q3(b)

This question asked candidates to explain one reason why the rural population structure is a challenge for communities in Pakistan. The majority of candidates did not appear to understand the term 'population structure', although this is a specification term (3.2b, population structure of rural communities). It is strongly suggested that centres and candidates make sure that they are familiar with and understand the terminology used in the specification. This question was consequently

poorly answered, with few candidates obtaining more than one or two marks, and the majority not receiving any credit.

Q3(c)

The resource for question 3 (c) was a word cloud showing the relative size of urban areas in Pakistan. Candidates were asked to suggest two strategies used in response to the challenges of living in large urban areas. Although not specifically required in the question, the better answers tended to focus on a specific urban area, examples of this being the development of the Karachi Mass Transit Program and suggestions for reducing the housing crisis in Lahore. This question was generally well understood and answered.

Q3(d)

Candidates were required to explain how infant and maternal mortality rates have implications for healthcare provision in Pakistan. The candidates who recognised that they were being asked to consider the implications for health care tended to reach level three. The candidates who included valid factors such as the high financial cost of attempting to reduce infant and maternal mortality rates and the negative implications this might have on other health care services or the fact that insufficient trained doctors or nurses are available to provide full infant, maternity and other care tended to reach the higher levels. The majority of candidates, who explained reasons for the infant and maternal mortality rates in Pakistan did not focus on the question and could only be awarded level one or the bottom of level two.

Q3(e)

This eight-mark question required the candidates to assess the factors influencing population distribution in Pakistan. The command word 'assess' requires candidates to make a clear link to the text provided to interpret and analyse issues using own or others views to support a balanced argument (Specification Appendix 5). This question was generally well answered, with a number of answers explaining both the human and physical reasons for the variations in population distribution in specific areas, usually comparing and contrasting Balochistan and the urban and agricultural zones of the Indus valley and flood plain. A significant minority of answers also included some assessment of the relative importance of the different factors, and therefore were able to reach level three.

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