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Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2022

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE

In Pakistan Studies (4PA1)

Paper 1 History and Culture of Pakistan

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General Comments

This year's examination saw some impressive responses across the whole paper. Almost all candidates completed three questions and there was little evidence of candidates misunderstanding questions or finding them inaccessible. As in previous years, the vast majority of candidates chose Question 3 in Section B, and in Section C, only a small minority chose Question 5, rather than the more popular Question 6.

Whilst performance was generally of a high standard, it is worth emphasising a number of points on parts (c) and (d), where some candidates tended to undermine their overall performance with errors in exam technique.

- Centres must continue to emphasise that Question (c) is about causation. If candidates find themselves writing substantial narrative, they are not answering properly. The question calls for reasons, not narrative.
- In Question (d) candidates must take care to ensure the timeframe they are being asked to write about. For example, in Q3 candidates were asked about 'during this time', which means the whole time period of the topic. In Question 6 candidates were asked about relations between India and Pakistan in the years 1965-99, so relations in 1947 should not have been part of the response.
- Candidates must also understand that in the Question(d), the question provides a suggestion about the most important factor/issue. However, the question is much wider than just that factor/issue. In order to achieve the highest marks, candidates must also discuss other factors and reach a conclusion on comparative importance.

Comments on Specification Questions

Question 1

Question (a): The correct alternative was A: Liaquat Ali Khan was assassinated

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

- The League won 87% of the Muslim vote (1)
- It won 446 of 495 Muslim seats (1)
- The League took control in Bengal and Sindh (1) and became the largest party in Punjab (1)
- The League was now shown to be so important it could not be ignored (1)

Question (c)

A large number of candidates focused on a description of the events of 1930-32 and how each conference failed. Whilst this approach did lead to some explanation as to why there had to be a second and third conference, it was not the most effective way to answer the question. Those candidates who explained the reasons for bringing the different parties together (the desire for a settlement, the failure of the Simon Commission etc) and then addressed why events at each conference created the need for another conference generally scored well.

Question (d)

As mentioned earlier, this type of question is not primarily about the reason or event mentioned in the question. To score well on this question, candidates were expected to evaluate the importance of the One Unit system but also to consider the relative importance of other measures related to government, such as the 1956 and 1962 Constitutions and the introduction of martial law. It was surprising in a question covering the years up to 1971 that so few candidates discussed the 1970 election and the formation of Bangladesh.

Question 2

Question (a): The correct alternative was B Emperor Aurangzeb died.

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

- Arcot (1)
- Plassey (1)
- Buxar (1)
- Wandiwash (1)
- Pondicherry (1)

Question (c)

As in previous years, this was not a popular option, but those who did attempt it had a very good understanding of the reasons for formation of the British East India Company and the desire to exploit India's wealth.

Question (d)

The work of Sheikh Ahmad Sirhindi was generally well-known, but some answers failed to consider other factors for the spread of Islam, such as support from the Umayyads, Abbasids, Delhi, Deccan and Bengal sultanates and the Mughal emperors.

Question 3

Question (a): The correct alternative was C: The Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College was set up.

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

- Rani Laxmi Bai. (1)
- Nana Sahib. (1)
- Tantia Tope. (1)
- Maulvi Ahmadullah (1)
- Bahadur Shah (1)

Question (c)

Candidates were very familiar with the work of Syed Ahmad Bareilvi but some wrote at length about this work, rather than focusing on the reasons for that work, such as Syed Ahmad Bareilvi's concern that Islam had been corrupted by incorrect practices and the need for armed struggle against the foreign and non-Muslim forces oppressing the Muslims.

Question (d)

Some candidates allowed themselves to be diverted by the inclusion of the War of Independence to write solely on the how division amongst the Indians allowed the British to emerge victorious from that struggle. Whilst the war was an important element in the question, candidates needed to note that the question asked about British control 'during this time', which meant the whole period of Topic 3 in the specification, i.e. c1783–1898.

Those candidates who realised this were able to score high marks by including information on British measures such as Pitts India Act and the Doctrine of Lapse, as well as the earlier work of men such as Robert Clive.

Question 4

Question (a): The correct alternative was B: The Delhi Proposals were published.

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

- Shaukat Ali (1)
- Maulana Mohammad Ali Jauhar (1)
- Hakim Ajmal Khan (1)
- Abul Kalam Azad (1)
- Gandhi (1)

Question (c)

Some candidates had no knowledge of the Hunter Committee (even though it is expressly listed in the specification). However, the vast majority of candidates scored well on this question by explaining the need for the British to act, and be seen to act after the events of the Amritsar Massacre.

Question (d)

This question was generally well-answered with most candidates explaining that the Lucknow Pact was the high watermark of relations between Hindus and Muslims in the early twentieth century. The Pact was the first time that Hindus and Muslims made joint demands to the British for political reform and the first time that Hindus accepted that the future government of India might involve a degree of power-sharing or partition. Best answers went on to explain that the Pact was something of a false dawn as it was not long-lasting, though this was not apparent in 1917.

There was a tendency to underplay the progress made in the Muslim position by the Morley-Minto and Montagu-Chelmsford reforms, though most candidates did explain the inadequacies of these British measures.

Question 5

Question (a): The correct alternative was A: Asif Ali Zardari became President

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

- Crime (1)
- Terrorism (1)
- Kidnappings (1)
- Political opposition to measures to counter problems (1)

Question (c)

Although only a small number of candidates answered Question 5, those who did so had a good understanding of the two key reasons for Musharraf's takeover in 1999. Firstly, Sharif was facing overwhelming difficulties in terms of rising fuel prices, political opposition at home and international criticism and economic sanctions as a result of nuclear testing. Secondly, Musharraf had the support of the army and Sharif's ill-fated attempt to prevent him landing at Karachi airport after a visit to Sri Lanka proved the catalyst for Musharraf's takeover.

Question (d)

Candidates were given a wide range of choices in considering the importance of domestic policies and events in the years 1971-88. Although some candidates wrote on foreign policy/events (for which there could be no reward), there was an interesting variety of answers. The work of Bhutto and Zia was well-covered, as was to be expected of topics listed as stimulus points. There were, however, some very good responses using knowledge of events such as the 1973 Constitution, the execution of Bhutto, the reintroduction of martial and the unrest in East Pakistan in 1971.

Question 6

Question (a): The correct alternative was D: President Bhutto visited the Soviet Union.

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

- Britain supported Pakistan's policy towards Afghan war v Soviet Union (1)
- It gave £30m aid to help Pakistan cope with Afghan refugees (1).
- It later gave £16 million to help Baluchistan and NWFP. (1)
- It supported Pakistan's return to Commonwealth in 1989 (1)

Question (c)

This question was very much to the candidates' liking. They demonstrated an excellent understanding of the importance of the Pakhtoonistan issue in making relations between the two countries difficult in 1947, especially when Afghanistan voted against Pakistan's admission to UN. The impact of later attacks on the Pakistan embassy and the rebuttal of Iskander Mirza's offers in 1956 and Afghanistan's refusal to join the RCD (because Pakistan was a member) were also well-explained.

Question (d)

Candidates demonstrated a good understanding of relations between India and Pakistan in the given period, though responses were sometimes limited to a narrative of the relations, rather than a consideration of the importance of events and policies in improving or worsening relations. Regrettably, some candidates neglected to limit their answers to the years given and gave an account of the reasons for difficult relations in 1947. Such accounts could not be rewarded.

Most candidates explained the importance of Zia's visit in improving relations and perhaps avoiding war. Better answers explained that the impact of Zia's visit was only short-term and relations between the two countries were generally not good (indeed, there were two wars in this period), primarily as a result of disagreements over Kashmir.

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