



A-level

Panjabi

7682/1 Reading and Writing

Report on the Examination

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General overview

The overall demand of the paper was similar compared to last year. However, the students performed much better compared with last year. The mean mark went up by nearly 9 marks. It is difficult to say whether this year's cohort found this paper more accessible, or whether they were better prepared as compared with the previous cohort. However, it was good to see that this year's cohort was much larger than the cohort of the previous year.

The demand of this year's questions was similar to the questions set last year, however the students found Q04.3, Q08 and Q09 very difficult because they found the stimulus texts quite challenging.

Section A

Question 1

Overall, the students performed very well on this question as the mean mark scored by the students was around 6% higher than last year. A possible reason for this was that the students found this an interesting topic, the Sikh emperor 'Maharaja Ranjit Singh.' The students also performed better on questions 01.5, 01.6 and 01.7 as they scored quite a high mean mark compared with last year on similar questions. It appears they found the question on synonyms quite accessible as the mean mark scored by the students was quite high (around 70%).

Question 2

The students scored less well on the summary question this year, perhaps because it was set on a difficult topic – 'Women's role in the politics of the Punjab.' Generally, the students perform less well on such questions because the vocabulary related to this topic is quite difficult and they do not have much knowledge about the politics in the Punjab. The other reason could be that some students still wrote long summaries and lost marks unnecessarily.

Question 3

The students found this question more accessible than the equivalent question last year, which is indicated by the overall mean mark scored by the students being around 20% higher than last year. The students probably scored well because it was based on 'the folk dance of the Punjab - Bhangra.'

Question 4

This question was based on an interesting topic, 'The nightingale of the Punjab – Surindar Kaur.' The students scored very well on all sub-questions except for question 04.3. The majority of students wrote 'Surindar Kaur sang thousands of Panjabi songs after coming back to Delhi,' whereas they were meant to write as per the mark scheme answer, 'She sang many Panjabi songs, for example songs written by Shiv Kumar Btalavi or Poems by Baba Bule Shah, or religious songs or folk songs.' The overall performance was lower on this question as the mean mark scored by the students was about 11% lower than on the equivalent question last year.

Question 5

It appears that students have acted upon the advice given last time in the Examiner’s report – that is probably why the overall mean mark in the translation scored by the students is up by 11% on last year. Most of the students managed very well to translate most of the sentence parts into English. However, they found the following words or phrases difficult to translate into English: ‘ਰੋਟੀ’ ‘ਖਾਸ ਮੌਕਿਆਂ ਤੇ’ ‘ਢਾਬੇ’ ‘ਸਰੋਂ ਦਾ ਸਾਗ’ ਮੱਕੀ ਦੀ ਰੋਟੀ, ਦਾਲ, ਪੂੜੇ ਅਤੇ ਖੀਰ ਖਾ ਕੇ।’ Some students translated ‘ਰੋਟੀ’ as ‘roti’ and failed to score a mark. Some students translated ‘ਖਾਸ ਮੌਕਿਆਂ ਤੇ’ as ‘on special opportunities’ rather than ‘on special occasions’ and did not score a mark. Hardly any student translated ‘ਢਾਬੇ’ as ‘eateries;’ quite a few of them translated this word as ‘restaurants’ and lost a mark. The majority did not score a mark from the following section of the sentence: ‘ਸਰੋਂ ਦਾ ਸਾਗ’ ਮੱਕੀ ਦੀ ਰੋਟੀ, ਦਾਲ, ਪੂੜੇ ਅਤੇ ਖੀਰ ਖਾ ਕੇ’ because they translated most of the words but did not translate one or more key words.

Section B

The most popular topic, like last year, was ‘The role of women in Punjabi society’ as around 54% of students attempted this question. The second most popular choice was the topic ‘Social issues in the Punjab,’ however this was chosen by only around 29% of students. The students’ third choice was ‘Partition of the Punjab in 1947’ which was chosen by around 20% of the cohort. The least favourite topic was the same as last year ‘Tourism in the Punjab,’ with only around 1% of students basing their essay writing on this topic. The students’ average performance across four topics was around 6% lower than last year. The dip in performance seemed mainly due to the fact that students did not bother to read the prose/stimulus in each question and the majority of students who attempted question 9 did not analyse the effects of partition of the Punjab in 1947 on modern Panjabi society; rather they kept describing the events of the partition in 1947.

Question 06

The average mark scored (around 64%) by the students suggests that most students acquired good marks on this question. This topic was the most popular topic last year as well. The students can perform well on this question because they can relate well to this topic, and they can easily apply their knowledge and understanding of the role of women in Panjabi society according to the demand of questions set in the exam Paper.

Question 07

This was the 2nd most popular topic in the exam. The average mark scored by the students was around 2% higher than on question 06 because generally the higher ability students are aware of the main social issues in the Punjab, or they can easily acquire knowledge of social issues in the Punjab either online or in the literature. In order to gain more marks in the question the students are advised to answer the second part of the question as well ‘Suggestions about which steps the Punjab government could take to resolve the social issues in the Punjab.’

Question 08

This question was on ‘Regional cuisine and delicacies of the Punjab.’ It was attempted by the fewest students and those who did attempt this question found the prose/stimulus about foreign impact on Punjabi foods quite difficult. The first part of the question, ‘Write about regional Panjabi foods’ was quite accessible, however.

Question 09

This question was on the effects of the partition of the Punjab, in 1947, on modern Punjabi society. The average mark scored by students was about 49%. Some students performed less well on this question than they could have done because they were writing about the events of the partition itself rather than the effects the partition still has on modern Panjabi society.

The majority of students wrote their summaries to the correct word length. However, there were still some students who were writing long summaries and losing marks unnecessarily. The students are advised to stick to the correct word limit in order to gain good marks in the summary question. The students are also advised to write an essay of no more than 300 words otherwise they could lose marks for the language quality: longer essays are more likely to contain more grammatical mistakes.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results Statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.