
A-LEVEL BENGALI

Unit 2 Reading and Writing
Report on the Examination

2635
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General comments

This year the number of students increased considerably compared to last year. The majority of students performed well due to a combination of hard work and sound subject knowledge. This was reflected in the students' overall responses to questions, in particular the essay.

Like last year, the vast majority of students answered the literary question on drama. A large number of students also answered essay questions from non-literary topics on various problems faced by the young boys and girls living in Britain. The questions on short stories and Bengali cinema were attempted by a considerable number of students in roughly equal numbers. However, only a few students attempted the questions on novels and poetry, and hardly any answered on music.

Most students demonstrated their ability to write a structured essay exemplifying many aspects of the marking criteria. They often showed linguistic skills and originality in their responses, and so were awarded good marks. It is important to remind students that more credit is given for the quality of language including the range of vocabulary, idioms and structure rather than for accuracy alone.

Section 1 Comprehension

There were seven parts to Question 1(a). Students were expected to give seven short answers. The vast majority of them answered these questions well. A small number of less able students found Question 1(a)(vii) hard and gained no marks. As in Question 1(a), the majority of students performed well in Question 1(b). However, a small number of students found these multiple choice questions difficult. In Question 1(c), students were asked to replace five words or phrases with words or phrases with the same meaning used in the text. Only a few students failed to identify the correct word for Part (ii) and were awarded zero.

Section 2 Translation

This question required students to translate a passage of 150 words from English to Bengali. Most students answered well. The majority understood the contents of the passage and scored good marks. Only a very small number of students struggled to transmit the meaning fully.

Section 3 Literary and non-literary essays

Questions 3(a) and 3(b)

These two questions were on Bengali fiction. The first question was based on a novel the student had read and the main characters s/he liked most, and the second was based on a short story. A considerable number of students answered these questions and achieved good marks.

Questions 4(a) and 4(b)

Question 4(a) was about a Bengali poem depicting rural life and environment, which was to be briefly discussed. Question 4(b) was about a Bengali play; a favourite character in the play was to be discussed. The majority of students attempted this latter question and generally scored good marks.

Questions 5(a) and 5(b)

There were two non-literary topics in this question. Question 5(a) concerned the independence of Bangladesh, and Question 5(b) the problems faced young British Bengali boys and girls and the possible solutions to these problems. Question 5(b) attracted more students than Question 5(a). Some students performed very well and showed good understanding of the topics. They appeared to have a good knowledge about the various problems and were able to put these forward in a logical fashion. As a consequence a pleasing number of students scored high marks. Question 5(a) proved to be more challenging to those who attempted.

Question 6(a) and 6(b)

A considerable number of students answered the Question 6(a) on cinema well and scored good marks. Examiners were surprised to note that, this year, hardly any students chose to answer the Question 6(b) on music.

Use of statistics

Statistics used in this report may be taken from incomplete processing data. However, this data still gives a true account on how students have performed for each question.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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

Converting Marks into UMS marks

Convert raw marks into Uniform Mark Scale (UMS) marks by using the link below.
[UMS conversion calculator](#)