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# A-LEVEL BENGALI

Unit 2 Reading and Writing  
Report on the Examination

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## General comments

This year the number of students decreased significantly compared to last year. However, the majority of students performed quite well, showing that they had good knowledge of the subject and had prepared well for the exam. This was reflected in the students' overall responses to questions, especially in the essays in Section 3.

This year, the vast majority of the students answered the literary questions on either a short story or a novel. A large number of students also answered the non-literary essay questions on the Bangladeshi independence movement and the contribution of Bengali people to the British economy in various aspects of life. The questions on drama and a popular film were also attempted by a good number of students. Only a very few students attempted the questions on Bengali poems and the rural songs of Bengal.

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

## Section 1 Comprehension

Question 1(a) was divided into six parts. Students were expected to give six short answers. The vast majority of them answered this question well. The majority of students also performed well in Question 1(b), which consisted of five multiple choice questions.

In Question 1(c), students were asked to replace five words or short phrases with words or phrases used in the text with the same meaning. However, a considerable number of students found parts (i), (ii) and (iv) challenging, failing to find the correct words, and several were awarded zero for the whole question.

## Section 2 Translation

This question required the students to translate a passage of 150 words from English to Bengali. Most students understood the passage well and were able to render the meaning accurately in Bengali; these students scored well. Only a very small number of students struggled to transmit the passage fully and therefore scored lower marks.

## 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 remembered most, and the second was based on a short story. A large number of students chose to answer these questions and achieved good marks.

**Questions 4(a) and 4(b)**

Question 4(a) was about two Bengali poems by a poet, which had to be analysed briefly so that the qualities of the poet could be discussed. Question 4(b) was about a Bengali play which had to be discussed briefly with opinions. The majority of students attempted Question 4(b) and generally scored good marks.

**Questions 5(a) and 5(b)**

There were two non-literary questions on this topic. Question 5(a) concerned the independence of Bangladesh and 5(b) the contribution by the British Bengalis to the British economy. The two questions attracted more or less equal number of students. Some students performed very well and showed good understanding of the topics. They appeared to have a good knowledge and analytical power on these topics and were able to put their views forward in a logical fashion. As a consequence they scored high marks.

**Question 6(a) and 6(b)**

A considerable number of students answered Question 6(a), on cinema, well and scored good marks. It was surprising to note that this year only two students answered Question 6(b), on music.

**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](#)