

FIRST LANGUAGE URDU

Paper 3247/01
Reading and Writing

Key messages

It is important to include relevant material from *both* passages in response to **Question 1**. **Question 2** requires candidates to write using the appropriate style, format and vocabulary of a speech rather than a general essay on the topic.

General comments

The overall performance of candidates was very good. Candidates demonstrated a good command of the language, wrote detailed responses and were confident in their use of complex sentences. Most responses were relevant and well illustrated. Some candidates did not address the specific question asked and did not keep to the word limit.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

The majority of candidates showed a high level of reading and writing skills, appropriately using material from both passages in their composition. Weaker responses were characterised by a tendency to write a general composition on the topic without using examples and ideas from the given passages. Candidates need to use material from both passages in response to the question; in some cases material from only one passage was used. Some candidates could improve their performance by writing more concisely, making sure that they keep to the word limit.

Question 2

Most candidates performed well in this question. The best responses used an appropriate writing style and wholly relevant material in their speeches, providing good justification and examples in support of their thoughts about how students are builders of the nation. Most candidates kept their focus on the question, were concise and stayed within the word limit. Candidates need to write in the appropriate format asked for in the question; some candidates did not write in the format of a speech and instead wrote an essay on the topic. Weaker responses were less focussed, over long and did not provide examples in support of their ideas. Candidates need to answer the specific subject matter of the question; some wrote about successful people being those who work hard (the topic for **Question 1**), rather than students as builders of the nation, and therefore some of their content could not be credited.

FIRST LANGUAGE URDU

Paper 3247/02

Texts

Key messages

Answers need to address the specific focus of each question and show an understanding of the texts beyond their literal meaning to the issues and attitudes that they raise. Some candidates wrote only general essays and needed to include an informed response to the texts.

General comments

Overall the performance of candidates was very good. Candidates showed a good command of language which meant they were able to communicate their exploration and understanding of the texts clearly. Most wrote very detailed responses which were relevant and well illustrated.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1: Poetry

GHAZLEIN

Question 1

Iqbal

(a) Many candidates answered this part well and comprehensively. A few candidates did not organise or express their thoughts clearly.

(b) This part was very well attempted. The strongest candidates showed a good understanding of Iqbal's use of humour in describing his feelings and supported their ideas with examples from the text.

Question 2

Ghalib

Candidates who attempted this question demonstrated a very good understanding of the topic. The best responses included a detailed discussion of the features of Ghalib's poetry and included well chosen quotations from his poetry to illustrate their points.

NAZMEIN

Question 3

Iqbal

(a) This part was very well answered by most candidates. The best responses showed a detailed understanding of the text and appropriate use of quotations from it.

(b) This part was again very well answered. The majority of candidates explored the features of "Mard e Momin". There were some very good responses in which candidates focussed clearly on the question and made close reference to the poetry in support of the points they made. Weaker candidates tended to write more generally about the poem or gave only an explanation of the verses.

Question 4

There were some very good responses which explored the author's use of language to communicate the feelings of those who are living abroad far from their own country. Many included good use of quotations in support of the points made.

Some candidates could improve their performance by answering the specific question asked. Candidates should avoid merely giving an explanation of the whole poem without addressing the specific question, in this case about the feelings of those who are living abroad.

Section 2: Prose

MAZAMEEN

Question 5

(a) This question was generally answered very well. The best responses showed a good understanding of how the author uses everyday items in a humorous way, gave a detailed account of the author's views about the bicycle and included their own opinion. A few candidates could improve their performance by answering the specific question asked rather than giving a general response about the text.

(b) This part of the question was very well attempted. The best responses showed insight into the underlying attitude of the author and of the issues raised in the essay and made close reference to the essay itself.

Question 6

This question was generally well answered. The best responses were well-argued, articulate and showed a good understanding of the author's views on culture and civilisation.

Question 7

Mirat ul Aroos

(a) Candidates answered this part very well. The best responses explored the character of Mama Azmat and her activities in a sensitive and informed way and included relevant quotations and references from the text.

(b) The majority of candidates answered this part well. There were some interesting discussions about Ashgary and the habits of "Mama Azmat" which included informed personal opinion with close reference to the text.

Question 8

The best responses to this question differentiated between the good and bad characters, showed an understanding of the author's use of language to create his effects and included a discussion of the characterisation of "Nazir Ahmad".

Question 9

Dastak Na Do

(a) Some responses showed a thorough understanding of the novel. discussed the author's use of simple language and included a personal response. Weaker responses contained only general comments with insufficient detail and did not include reasons or examples from the text.

(b) Many candidates did not address this question adequately; reference needed to be made to the characters involved in the novel, for example an exploration of why Sulat Jehangir is sad and struggles to express herself.

Question 10

Most candidates addressed the question fully, showing a good understanding of the characters, relationships and situations in the novel and included appropriate references in their responses.