

FIRST LANGUAGE URDU

Paper 3247/01
Reading and Writing

Key messages

All candidates are required to spend some time to read the instructions very carefully before attempting the questions. They need to read and understand the demand of the questions to get maximum marks. There are two parts in this paper i.e., **Part One Reading** and **Part Two Writing**. All candidates are required to answer all questions in **Part One** and select one question from **Part Two**. Those candidates who read the questions and answered carefully scored high or full marks.

General comments

Most of the candidates performed extremely well and answered the questions after having read the whole passage with full care. Some candidates who did not seem to have read the passage carefully and did not always understand the demand of the questions; were not able to achieve good marks. Some candidates mixed up the questions and wrote their answers under incorrect question resulting in no marks.

Comments on specific questions

Part One

Question 1

A passage was given about 'Handy crafts' and candidates were asked to answer eight questions with reference to the given passage. A large majority of candidates were able to answer these questions correctly and were able to score either full marks or very good marks. The candidates showed a good command of content. Most candidates demonstrated the ability to write very detailed and comprehensive responses and showed confident use of complex sentences.

In this question language and structure were not assessed, only content. Most candidates performed well, except in **Question 1(iv)** where they were asked to write views of Moeen Khan about the change of time and preparation of Chapels with two details and **Question 1(vi)** where they were asked to write Hamid Quraishi's suggestion with a reason. Some candidates misunderstood the questions and answered in general, not with the reference to the text, and hence lost marks.

Advice to candidates

Candidates are advised to read the passage very carefully more than once and underline the main points. Then they should read the question and try to answer in the light of the passage, using their own words to get full marks. It should be noted that if the question is worth 1 mark, the Examiner expects one point and if it is worth 4 marks, same four points are expected by the Examiner. Candidates should always write neatly and tidily and in the spaces provided and use either dark blue or black pen, not pencil. If they cross out an answer and write somewhere else, it is very important to mention on which page the new answer has been written and also answer should be clearly marked with the correct number of the question.

Part Two

Question 2

Candidates were required to write an essay on one of the four topics provided. This year **Question 2(ii) and 2(iv)** were very popular.

Discursive essay

Question 2(i)

The majority of candidates who attempted **Question 2(i)** (Has the use of social media brought any betterment) were able to give their opinion with fully argued response with examples and completed their essay in a very good form and scored high or full marks. Some candidates did not understand the question properly and they just explained the importance of social media in general. These candidates scored low marks.

Argumentative essay

Question 2(ii)

A good number of candidates attempted this question (Only balanced diet is important for health). Those candidates who attempted this question were in favour of the question and some of them were against. This was a topic that is popular among young people. Most candidate who attempted this question wrote excellent responses.

Descriptive essay

Question 2(iii)

The demand of this question was to describe a festival in your area. From the writing of the majority of candidates, it appeared that they had all experience the festivals, and they described the scenes at the festival very well. On the other hand, a very few candidates described the preparation of visit giving irrelevant information not needed for the question, and so scored low marks. Those who described the scenes of the festival, for example the food stalls, circus, animals, swings, and people selling different things, scored full marks in this question.

Narrative essay

Question 2(iv)

A good number of the candidates chose this question. This question required creative writing. Many candidates who chose this question did not fulfil the demand of the question. For example, most candidates did not start the essay from where they were supposed to start; hence part of their response was marked as irrelevant. Some candidates were unable to finish the story well, losing marks for structure. Some candidates did not describe the feelings when they found themselves alone at the river bank and there were noise behind them. Those who fulfilled the requirement of the question scored high marks in this question.

Advice to candidates

Candidates are advised to spend first a few moments deciding the topic they want to write. Once they have decided, they should write down bullet points and make a draft essay, and then they should write their response. They need to read the question fully and understand the demand of the question to score high marks. Candidates are also advised to write their answers in the booklet in the proper sequence. If additional pages are used, candidates should indicate this clearly the number of the question and page numbers.

FIRST LANGUAGE URDU

Paper 3247/02
Texts

Key messages

All candidates are required to spend some time reading the instructions very carefully before attempting the questions. They need to read and understand the demand of the questions to get maximum marks. There are three parts in this paper i.e., **Part One Unseen passage**, **Part Two Poetry** and **Part Three Prose**. All candidates are required to attempt **Question 1** and select one question from **Part Two** and one question from **Part Three**.

General comments

The question paper was set on the prescribed texts. Most of the candidates performed extremely well and answered three questions fully. Most candidates answered **Question 1** (Unseen passage) very well and scored very good marks.

Comments on specific questions

Part One

Question 1 (Unseen Passage)

This question in **Part One** is compulsory. The candidates were required to read the passage and explain how despite being poor, the author has fulfilled domestic life and family responsibilities very well. Apart from a very few candidates who did not understand the question and just either wrote the whole passage or wrote in general on the author and did not explain the question properly, the rest did extremely well. Those who successfully wrote on author's domestic life and family responsibilities with examples from the text scored high or full marks.

Advice to candidates

Candidates are required to read the unseen passage very carefully. Read the question and understand the demand of the question. Sometimes the examiner asks more than one thing in the question, and to score high marks candidates must answer all parts of the question. The bullet points given at the end of the question are there to help candidates, but it is not necessary to use these to score high marks. Higher marks are awarded where candidates can use their own words when answering the question.

Part Two (Poetry)

Question 2

This question on **Sayed Zameer Jafree** on his poem '**Admee**' was a very popular question. Candidates were able to show that they were fully prepared for this question, and they wrote excellent answers to this question. Full marks were awarded to those candidates who wrote with the reference to the work and quoted verses from the '**Admee**' in the syllabus. Most demonstrated their ability to understand and discuss about the moral decline of man in his poem '**Admee**'. It was pleasing to read that some candidates demonstrated depth in understanding and interpreting the poet's work.

Question 3

This question was on **Parveen Shakir's** poetry. This question was not that popular as **Question 2**. Candidates who wrote on this question were able to show that they were fully prepared for this specific question, and they wrote excellent answers to this question. Most of the candidates who chose this question were not able to fulfil the demand of the question and wrote on either life history of the poet or just in general without any reference to her work, therefore, they were not able to score good marks in this question.

Part Three (Prose)

Question 4

This question was on **Muhammad Hussain Azad's** essay '**Rishta Nata**'. Many candidates chose this question and were able to answer very well and gave descriptive accounts of the author's views. In addition, they provided their own comments in appreciation of his work particularly about the moral lesson given by him in his work. Candidates gave full details of the text, and their answers were full of references from the work of the author in the syllabus. The majority of the candidates scored high or full marks for this question.

Question 5

The question on **Mirza Ghalib's** letters was not that popular, however those who chose this question, generally attempted it well. Candidates displayed thorough preparation and referenced the text comprehensively in their answers. Those who scored full marks not only described the message in detail but also justified how the style of letters Mirza Ghalib made a medium of frank conversation and expression of heartfelt feelings. Their responses showcased an appreciation of Mirza Ghalib's style and a clear understanding of the letters' themes.

Advice to candidates

Candidates are strongly advised to read the syllabus and understand the demand. All candidates are required by the syllabus to read all the set texts included. They should write answers in sequence and should not mix up one with another to avoid confusion. They should very clearly write at the top of each page which question they are attempting and when they use any additional page, they should mention which question they are answering. It is advised that candidates should avoid using extra sheets if they can manage to use the additional pages for their answer in their question paper.