

URDU

Paper 9686/02
Reading and Writing

Key messages

To do well in this examination, candidates should:

- read each passage and the questions carefully before writing their answers;
- in **Questions 3** and **4** write concise responses in their own words as far as possible – candidates will not be awarded marks for content if they copy whole sentences/phrases from the text when answering;
- stick to the prescribed word limit in **Question 5**;
- avoid any superfluous details which are irrelevant to the question.

General comments

In **Question 1**, any answers directly copied from the text were not allowed and no marks were awarded.

In **Question 2**, candidates were asked to write the antonyms of the words taken from Text 1. A small number of candidates explained the meaning of the words or wrote sentences to show their meaning which was the requirement in **Question 1**. Candidates are advised to carefully read the rubric before answering the questions.

Most candidates understood the two texts very well and answered the questions accurately. In **Questions 3** and **4** candidates must respond exactly and precisely to each question. A few candidates directly copied from the texts without showing any understanding of what was being asked and therefore could not be awarded marks for content. This in turn sometimes had an impact on the marks awarded for Quality of Language.

In **Question 5**, the specific requirement was to write about the positive and negative effects on people of celebrating festivals. The best responses addressed only what was required by the question in a clear and concise way. Weaker summaries did not focus on the effects mentioned in the texts and instead included other, irrelevant information or the candidates' own opinions.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1

Question 1

In writing sentences for the given words, the words روایات and نقش قدم proved a little challenging for many candidates to convey their meanings in Urdu.

Question 2

Most candidates answered correctly by writing the antonyms of the given words from Text 1. A good majority of candidates explained the meanings of اکثریت and سنسان in their answers. Some candidates used the given phrases in their own sentences, which was not the requirement of this question.

Question 3

- (a) Most candidates demonstrated a clear understanding of the key words in the question and answered correctly.
- (b) Many candidates were able to answer the question fully by writing about the decision and its effects. Some candidates missed the second key point (اپنے بڑوں کے کارناموں پر فخر محسوس کرنا).
- (c) This question needed a clear focus on the text to find the correct key information. Many candidates understood the question and gave at least two correct points. The correct answer for point two was (تحائف کی خریداری کے لیے بھیڑ لگ جاتی تھی).
- (d) Most candidates gave two points accurately. Some did not include the third point (خاص / اچھے کھانوں کا مزا لیا جاتا تھا).
- (e) Most candidates understood this question well and gave all three pieces of information required.

Section 2

Question 4

- (a) This was a straightforward question and most candidates answered it correctly and scored all 3 marks.
- (b) This question needed a clear understanding of the implications for students and workers. Some candidates answered it correctly and scored all marks while a few candidates wrote (افسوس ناک / ناخوشگوار واقعات پیش آتے) (قانون کو توڑا جاتا ہے) and (لڑائی ہو جاتی ہے) (ہیں)۔ افس بند ہونے کی وجہ سے مزدوروں کو کام نہیں ملتا۔
- (c) Most candidates answered this question very well for all three marks.
- (d) Many candidates found this question challenging and did not include the relevant information in their answers. The key phrases required as correct answers were (افسوس ناک / ناخوشگوار واقعات پیش آتے) (قانون کو توڑا جاتا ہے) and (لڑائی ہو جاتی ہے) (ہیں)۔ A few candidates wrote their own views rather than focusing on information from the text and marks could not be awarded.
- (e) Candidates found this question relatively straightforward to answer although a few candidates again wrote their own opinions and therefore could not score any marks.

Question 5

- (a) Most candidates responded to **Question 5(a)** with confidence. Candidates needed to write ten points about the positive and negative aspects of celebrating festivals. Instead of summarising the information in the two texts, some candidates wrote only about their own opinions which did not score any marks in this part of the answer. A few candidates simply reproduced the texts without summarising the key information relevant to the question.

Some candidates did not achieve as many marks as they could have done because they wrote long introductory sentences and their own opinions rather than focusing on the specific requirements of the question. This sometimes meant that they had reached the maximum number of words allowed before they included any relevant information and therefore could not score any marks.

- (b) In **Question 5(b)**, candidates were asked to write about the importance of festivals in their life. Most candidates answered this well and the majority said that they were in favour of celebrating their festivals appropriately. The best answers were those which showed some originality and included at least one opinion which had not already been mentioned in the two texts.

Quality of Language

The language used across the paper generally ranged from sound to good or very good.

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Paper 9686/03
Essay

Key messages

In order to do well in this examination, candidates should:

- plan their essay before they start writing in order to produce well-structured and persuasive arguments;
- write a composition on the essay title, **not** the general topic heading;
- stay within the prescribed word limits.

General comments

Overall, the performance of candidates was good, with a high proportion of excellent scripts. The best essays were written in accurate Urdu in an organised and well-structured way. They included an introduction, several cogent points relating to the title and a concluding paragraph. Where appropriate, there were also relevant quotations.

Linguistically, many essays were almost error-free, with a wide range of vocabulary, complex sentences, a variety of clause structures, dependent clauses, judicious use of the passive voice and appropriate use of more sophisticated idioms and metaphors.

Some essays could have been much improved by staying within the prescribed word limit. Candidates need to be able to write concisely. Exceeding the upper word limit, is likely to have an effect on the mark awarded for Content as they may not reach a concluding paragraph within the word limit, or may end up repeating points already made which affects the overall structure of the essay.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Most candidates chose this essay title and successfully provided essays which contained insightful discussions about social media and its positive and negative effects on life. The best essays were almost error-free, contained sophisticated linguistic devices and were well structured including a clear introduction, a coherent argument and a thoughtful conclusion.

Candidates described in detail the negative impact social media has had on the relationships people have with their loved ones, family and friends. Many candidates explained that the younger generation does not feel the need to socialise with their friends and family by taking part in face-to-face communication or activities; instead they are accustomed to communication through the internet and through social media applications which is detrimental to their development and social skills. Many were able to explain in detail how social media acts as a distraction and can often lead to less interest in spending quality time in real life with other people.

The best essays were able to also comment on the positive impact of social media such as being able to easily connect with relatives and friends that live in other areas of the world. People can also see what is happening around the world and this can motivate them and educate them. There were some very good essays which contained insightful discussions about the positive and negative effects of social media with an excellent conclusion.

Question 2

This question was attempted by a very small number of candidates. Those that did attempt it wrote a well-structured essay including clear points. They were able to thoughtfully present their arguments and emphasise the importance of following the law of the country.

Some candidates were able to explain the significance of law and order to create a civilised society that abides by the rules and regulations of the state. The best essays were able to explain the need for a fair justice system that treats every civilian equally regardless of their social status, demographic, religion and so on. Some candidates mentioned that where there is successful implementation of fair laws, all citizens are given equal rights and opportunities. This can also reduce and eradicate crimes and unfair treatment and can enhance society by having an overall positive impact on the country.

Question 3

This essay title was answered reasonably well by most candidates who chose to write about it. Some candidates focused on one side of the argument explaining why they believe leisure is a waste of time. They were able to successfully provide a detailed explanation as to why they believed this. The best essays included reasons for the importance of leisure and were able to link this with the positive impact it has on a person's work. For instance, if someone is well rested and feels refreshed, having spent time pursuing leisure activities, they may feel more motivated to work harder to achieve their goals.

The best-structured essays included a detailed and balanced discussion of the relevance and importance of both work and leisure and why both are required to lead a healthy and balanced life. They also provided a well thought-out conclusion detailing how the two are closely linked and equally essential.

Question 4

This was a fairly popular question and those that answered it showed great passion whilst including some well thought-out points. There were some insightful responses that were developed very logically and had a clear structure. In particular, some candidates were able to draw attention to the aftereffects of using atomic weapons throughout history and a few referred to specific events such as the Second World War, Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Some candidates highlighted the advantages to a country if they have atomic power such as a means to defend their country if they were ever under attack. They also explained how having atomic weapons puts pressure on leaders to resolve any issues through negotiation as this will be beneficial for both countries. Many candidates used evidence of recent tension between Pakistan and India to support their argument.

The best essays discussed in more detail how countries should deal with problems such as poverty, crime rates and weakened infrastructure as opposed to spending money on atomic weapons.

Question 5

This was a very popular question. There were some very interesting essays, which contained insightful discussions in relation to the environment and how it has been damaged by pollution and how it is becoming increasingly difficult to control this. The best essays were almost error-free and contained a thoughtful and balanced discussion with examples from daily life in a well-structured essay including a clear introduction, a coherent argument and a thoughtful conclusion.

The most successful candidates provided a detailed insight into this question by explaining different factors that resulted in air, water, environmental and noise pollution. Although the damage has been done, many candidates argued that certain measures can still be taken to control any further damage to our health, water, species and environment, particularly in developing countries. The best essays mentioned that there is no way of completely eradicating pollution in these areas but included some suggestions as to how the harmful effects of pollution could be minimised. Candidates were able to give specific examples of actions that could be taken to combat pollution such as planting trees and reducing the number of factories. Examples also included ways in which the government could support these initiatives.

Weaker responses provided a general discussion on pollution but this did not relate to the specific essay title which required candidates to discuss how the environment has been damaged by pollution and how it is impossible to now control this. Some candidates gave their views on different types of pollution but again did not link this to the title.

Some responses exceeded the word limit which meant that the conclusion could not be considered by examiners. Candidates are reminded that they must address the specific essay title within the word limit. General unspecific essays, which seem rehearsed, will not score highly for Content.

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Paper 9686/04
Texts

Key messages

- Candidates are required to answer only **three questions**, each one on a different text. A few candidates attempted more than three questions thus limiting their ability to access higher marks.
- Before answering the question, candidates must take care to ensure they understand the main focus of the question.
- If answering **Questions 1(a), 2(a) or 3(a)** it is important to provide detailed answers to **both** parts of the question.

General comment

On the whole, candidates did well although in some cases it appeared that candidates had not read the question carefully enough and therefore did not address the main focus of the question.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1

Question 1

- (a) A good number of candidates attempted this question but only a few were able to access the higher mark bands. In **part (i)** the majority of candidates demonstrated a very good understanding of the ghazal and explained it in a straightforward way. However, some candidates did not discuss the key words (فلسفیانہ پہلو کی عکاسی) within the question in relation to the given ghazal and this had an impact on the marks which could be awarded.
- (b) A good number of candidates attempted this question and there were many very good essays. Only a few candidates did not address the focus (تصوف کے پہول) of the question.

Question 2

- (a) This was a popular choice within the poetry section, with many candidates providing good explanations. However, some did not adequately expand their answer in **part (ii)** which required them to discuss particular qualities of Nazir's poetry in relation to that nazam.
- (b) A good majority of candidates attempted this question and wrote good essays which focused of the specific requirements of the question. A few candidates discussed only the poet's life and his contributions rather than addressing the question which had been asked.

Question 3

- (a) Only a few candidates attempted this question and those that did simply explained the extract from the poem. Only a small number of candidates actually addressed the main focus/keywords in their discussion with respect to the given poem.
- (b) There were not many answers to this question, but those who attempted it performed well and wrote good essays.

Section 2

Question 4

- (a) Many candidates attempted this question. Some candidates simply reproduced the text without addressing the focus of the question.
- (b) This was a popular option and candidates wrote detailed responses, addressing the key points required.

Question 5

- (a) Many candidates reproduced the story without including their own views. Some excellent first-hand responses were seen for this question.
- (b) A significant number of those who answered this question retold the story of *Garam Kot* without expanding on the reason why this short story became so popular as was asked in the question. Some answers successfully demonstrated a good understanding of the question, providing excellent discussion.

Question 6

- (a) This question was quite popular and well answered in general although some candidates did not address the specific focus of the question and wrote a very general essay.
- (b) This question required candidates to discuss the role of Anar Kali in relation to a specific statement. Most candidates provided excellent detail in their responses. The best answers demonstrated a comprehensive analysis of the role of Anar Kali.