

URDU: FIRST LANGUAGE

Paper 3247/01
Reading and Writing

Key messages

All candidates are required to spare some time to read the instructions very carefully before attempting the questions. They need to read and understand the demand of the questions in order to get maximum marks. There are two parts in this paper i.e. **Part 1- Reading** and **Part 2 - Writing**. All candidates are required to answer all questions in **Part 1** and select one question from **Part 2**. Those candidates who read the questions and answered carefully scored high or full marks.

General comments

The majority 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 properly and also did not understand the demand of the questions; these candidates were not able to achieve good marks. Some of the candidates mixed up the questions and wrote their answers under the incorrect question, for which they could not achieve any marks.

Comments on specific questions

Part 1

Question 1

A passage was given about means of smoking and candidates were asked to answer seven 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 but only the content. Most candidates performed well, except in **Question 1vi** where they were asked to write on the role of parents to discourage their children to smoke and give four details and **Question 1vii** where they were asked to write how we can benefit from Mehmood Khan's personal experience about giving up smoking with four details. Some candidates misunderstood the questions and answered in general not with the reference of the text for both questions, 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 achieve 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)** was very popular.

Argumentative essay

- (i) Very few candidates who attempted **Question 2 (i)** (watching television is waste of time) were able to give their opinion about how it is and it is not waste of time. Some candidates gave a fully argued response with examples and completed their essay in a very good form and scored high marks. Other candidates did not understand the question properly and they just explained television and its use. These candidates scored very low marks.

Discursive essay

- (ii) A vast majority of candidates attempted this question (too much use of mobile phone could be dangerous). Almost all candidates were against the question and some of them were of the opinion that it could be dangerous. Since this was a topic related to something that was very important in the life of young people, some excellent responses were received. Most of the candidates mentioned the use of mobile phones for education during the Covid-19 pandemic. Those who wrote a full response according to the demand of the question gained maximum marks.

Descriptive essay

- (iii) The demand of this question was to describe a scene of shopping in a market during Chand Raat (a night before Eid). From the writing of majority of the candidates, it appeared that they had all done shopping during Chand Raat, and they described the scene at the market. On the other hand, some candidates described just a few important details of the market for example people and a few shops etc. Those who described the scene, for example the decoration of shops, food stalls, music, toys shops, Hinnah stalls, the lights, different activities in the market etc. in detail, scored full marks in this question.

Narrative essay

- (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, the majority of 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 heard the announcement of the captain. This year very few candidates scored high marks in this question.

Advice to candidates

Candidates are advised to spend some time first on to decide 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 also page numbers.

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Paper 3247/02
Texts

Key messages

All candidates are required to spare some time to read the instructions very carefully before attempting the questions. They need to read and understand the demand of the questions in order to get maximum marks. There are three parts in this paper i.e. **Part 1 - Unseen passage**, **Part 2 - Poetry** and **Part 3 - Prose**. All candidates are required to attempt **Question 1** and select one question from **Part 2** and one question from **Part 3**.

General comments

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

Comments on specific questions

Part 1 – Unseen Passage

Question 1

This question in **Part 1** is compulsory. The candidates were required to read the passage and explain how the author has narrated the story of an old coat, its features and characteristics and poetic style of the poet. Apart from a very few candidates who did not understand the question and explained the whole poem but in the wrong context, the rest did extremely well. Those who successfully answer all parts of the question scored high marks 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 2 (Poetry)

Question 2

This question on **Allama Iqbal**'s poem, '**Talu e Islam**' was a very popular question and many candidates wrote on this question. There was a variety of answers to this question. Some candidates wrote only essays without any reference to his poetry, and some wrote mainly about the life history of the poet without addressing the demand of the question. A good number of candidates fulfilled the demand of the question and wrote the answer to this question with reference to his poetry, and scored full marks.

Question 3

This question was on **Nasir Kazmi**'s poetry and was equally popular as **Question 2**. 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 reference to the ghazals and quoted verses from

the ghazals in the syllabus. Most demonstrated their ability to understand and discuss the wave of sadness in his poetry. It was pleasing to read that some candidates demonstrated depth in understanding and interpreting the poet's work.

Part Three (Prose)

Question 4

This question was on, '**Qadr-e-Ayaz**' by **Colonel Muhammad Khan**. 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. Candidates gave full details of the text, and their answers were full of references from the work of the author in the syllabus. Those who discussed on purposefulness of poet's work, scored high or full marks for this question.

Question 5

This was also a very popular and a well attempted question. The question was on **Altaf Fatima's** essay '**Conductor**'. Candidates showed that they had prepared this section very well and answered the question with full reference to the text. The candidates who scored full marks described the full story and at the end justified how the author has very beautifully presented the conductor as representative of middle class.

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 texts included in it. They should write answers in sequence and should not mix up one with another to avoid confusion. They should very clearly write on the top of each page which question they are attempting and when they use any additional pages, 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 answer in their question paper.