



Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2023

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE

In Bangladesh Studies (4BN0) Paper 01

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## **General comments**

All candidates answered the required three questions and few if any displayed signs of problems relating to time or rubric infringement.

There were some signs of a genuine improvement of candidates to answer the questions as stated and there were some good answers to questions 1, 4 and 5. However there are still concerns about the way candidates answer question d which carries 16 marks. The question gives the candidate topics on which to use in their answer together with a statement that they should also use information of their own. Unfortunately, many candidates did not. It is hoped that Centres will take note of these comments and prepare future candidates to make better attempts to answer the question fully.

## **Comments on individual questions**

### **Question 1**

Most candidates were able to score 2 marks for question 1b on the features of Indian support for East Pakistan. In question 1d, Ayub Khan's domestic reforms were well-known topic and along with the additional material of the land and industrial reforms most candidates were able to attempt an explanation of these. However, many candidates did not go beyond the topics stated in the question as requested. As a result, the maximum mark achieved was often limited at the top of level 3.

### **Question 2**

Question 2 was not a popular question this year, which required candidates to answer questions on Bengal. The achievements of Laksmanasena usually attracted two marks in question 2b and question 2c on how Hussain Shahi was able to enable to give Bengal a period of success and prosperity was well done, and candidates usually scored at least half marks. Candidates had limited knowledge of the Pala dynasty in part d, and few were able to score more than half marks on this question.

### **Question 3**

The questions on the Mughal Empire were not popular and attracted few candidates which was surprising. Most candidates were able to identify two weaknesses of the Mughal Empire in question 3b, but few were able to explain how Akbar established Mughal authority in Bengal in question 3c. There were weak attempts to explain the achievements of the reign of Sher Shah in part d with scores lower than for other part d questions.

#### **Question 4**

Question 4 was very popular, and candidates had to answer questions on Bengal under British rule. Part 4b on the ways the British reacted to Hindu protests against the partition of Bengal were generally well known and many candidates scored maximum marks. Attempts to answer 4c on the importance of the work of William Carey were well done and a good level 3 mark was a common one. There were also good attempts to answer question 4d. There was good knowledge displayed regarding the Diwani Treaty, the Great Famine, and the India Act of 1784 with genuine attempts to answer the question. There were more answers in this question that used own knowledge and as result candidates were able to access level 4 marks which was pleasing.

#### **Question 5**

This was also a popular question on the topic 'on the road to partition.' There were inconsistent attempts to explain the demands of the Lucknow Pact although many candidates scored at least one mark. Most candidates were able to explain why the Cripps Mission of 1942 failed in question 5c, although many did waste time by describing what it proposed before explaining why the Muslim League and Congress rejected it. However, marks achieved were good. Attempts to answer question 5d were generally good. Most candidates had good knowledge of the Simon Commission, the Nehru Report, and the Round Table Conferences and as a result, many candidates scored high marks. There were many answers in this question that used own knowledge and as result candidates were able to access level 4 marks which was pleasing.

#### **Question 6**

This question asked candidates to answer questions on 'Bangladesh – the establishing the new country.' The benefits for Bangladesh in its relationship with Britain were well known in question 6b and many candidates scored two marks. Few candidates knew why Sheikh Hasina Wazed came to power in 1996 and so scores were generally low on this question (6c). Generally, the features of the Language Movement in Bangladesh were well known in question 6d with genuine attempts to answer the question. However, few candidates went beyond the topics stated in the question as requested. As a result, the maximum mark achieved was usually limited at the top of level 3.

