



Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2023

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE  
In Pakistan Studies (4PA1) Paper 01

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## General Comments

As in previous years, the standard of responses to the questions set was impressive. There is little evidence of candidates having insufficient time to answer three questions and their approach suggests that centres are taking note of the suggestions on exam technique made in previous reports.

Centres may find it useful to consider the following points in their preparation of candidates for the exam:

- In Part B, candidates are instructed to provide two examples for two marks. Some candidates provide three or four examples, possibly presuming that all are correct. This is not good technique because even if two correct answers are given, marks will be lost for any incorrect answer given.
- In Part C, it is important that candidates remember that the question is about causation. They are not required to write detail about the topic in the question, but more to address the reasons for an event, policy, outcome etc.
- It is worth repeating the comments made last year about Part D. The question provides a suggestion about the most important factor/issue. However, the question is much wider than just that factor/issue. In order to achieve the highest marks, candidates must also discuss other factors and reach a conclusion on comparative importance.

## Comments on Specification Questions

### Question 1

**Question (a):** The correct alternative was D: Wavell.

**Question (b).** Whilst other appropriate responses were accepted, it was expected that candidates would provide two of the following as responses:

- There should be no separate electorates (1)
- Immediate Dominion status should be granted (1).
- India should be a federation (1) with a two-house parliament. (1)
- All adult men and women should be allowed to vote. (1)

### Question (c)

This topic was well-known. Most responses focused on the details of the Cripps proposals and how they were unacceptable to both Muslims and Hindus. Explanations generally centred on the lack of focus on establishing Pakistan and the requirement to wait until after the war for reform. Other responses also saw the lack of local representation as a reason for unpopularity. This was also a valid route into the question.

### Question (d)

Jinnah is rightly regarded as one of Pakistan's greatest leaders and candidates had little difficulty in explaining how he had played a central role in bringing about the formation of Pakistan. However, some responses did this at the expense of ignoring other contributors. The best responses also looked at the work of Allama Muhammad Iqbal, Rahmat Ali, and Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and discussed how the changing political context and the desire of the British to leave the sub-continent were factors in the formation of Pakistan. Where a supported judgement was then provided, high marks were awarded.

## Question 2

**Question (a):** The correct alternative was B: The 9<sup>th</sup> Century.

**Question (b).** Whilst other appropriate responses were accepted, it was expected that candidates would provide two of the following as responses:

- His *The Incoherence of the Philosophers* played a significant role in promoting the idea that events are the will of God. (1)
- *The Revival of Religious Sciences* brought together the orthodox Sunni theology and Sufi mysticism in one comprehensive guide (1)
- Al-Ghazali played a major part in spreading Sufism and Sharia. (1)
- His writing laid the path of Islamic Education from the 12th to the 19th centuries. (1)

## Question (c)

Most candidates were aware that the 1784 India Act was part of the British policy of taking control of the sub-continent into British government hands. However, not all responses provided the reason for such a policy, with the exploitative nature of the EIC being a major factor.

## Question (d)

Candidates are very comfortable with questions on the Mughal Empire and there were some excellent responses to this question. Almost all candidates were able to provide information on the building programmes of the emperors, particularly in Lahore. Other areas covered were the quality of Mughal administration (through the mansabdari system), the creation of a huge empire and patronage of the Arts. Where some candidates failed to score highly, it was the result of not being able to reach a sustained judgement on whether the magnificent buildings were a greater achievement than the other areas discussed.

### **Question 3**

**Question (a):** The correct alternative was D: Napier.

**Question (b).** Whilst other appropriate responses were accepted, it was expected that candidates would provide two of the following as responses:

- British rule was tightened (1).
- The EIC was abolished. (1)
- Control was now by the Secretary of State for India. (1)
- Bahadur Shah was sent into exile, ending the Mughals dynasty. (1)
- 1877 Queen Victoria was named Empress.(1)

### **Question (c)**

This question was well-answered, with many candidates providing detailed responses outlining the different motivations of groups taking part in the War of Independence and the effectiveness of the British policy of 'divide and rule'. Where some candidates failed to score at a high level, it was as a result of giving details of the lack of unity, rather than explaining why that lack of unity existed. Candidates must remember that Part C questions are causation questions and reasons must be provided.

### **Question (d)**

Although there were some responses where the work of an individual religious thinker was confused with that of another religious thinker, candidates generally provided good responses to this question. There was considerable knowledge shown of the work of Shah Wali Ullah in relation to the importance of the Quran in Islam, of the Jihad movement established by Syd Ahmad Shaheed Barelvi and of the importance of the Faraizi movement set up by Haji Shariat Ullah. There were many different views on which of the religious thinkers was the most important. Which thinker was chosen was not of any significance, the most important factor was that a supported argument was provided for the choice.

#### **Question 4**

**Question (a):** The correct alternative was C: The Press Act.

**Question (b).** Whilst other appropriate responses were accepted, it was expected that candidates would provide two of the following as responses:

- The Council of Princes had no power and was just a talking shop.(1)
- The British Viceroy had ultimate authority (1)
- The Executive Committee had just three Indians on it (1)
- Only 2% of Indians could vote in elections. (1)

#### **Question (c)**

Candidates demonstrated excellent knowledge of the partition of Bengal, but some of them allowed their knowledge to get in the way of providing a focused response on why the partition took place. Many responses wasted time by providing detail on the reasons for partition but, at best, this material was relevant only as a brief introduction to explain the reaction of the Hindus in Bengal in opposing partition. Best responses focused on Hindu agitation and its impact on British trade in the region as well as the threat of assassination to British officials.

#### **Question (d)**

This reasons for the failure of the Khilafat Movement are well-known and responses generally focused on the Hijrat, outbreaks of violence at Chauri-Chaura and elsewhere, and lack of unity amongst the followers of the movement. Almost all responses felt that the main reason for the movement's failure was the decision by Kamal Ataturk to abolish the Caliphate and exile the Caliph in 1924. Where some candidates might improve the quality of their responses is to ensure they explain why the factor they are giving is important in answering the question. For example, the story of the Hijrat is an unfortunate one for Muslims, but why did it contribute to the failure of the Khilafat Movement?

### **Question 5**

**Question (a):** The correct alternative was C: Yahya Khan

**Question (b).** Whilst other appropriate responses were accepted, it was expected that candidates would provide two of the following as responses:

- Pakistan hosted millions of Afghan refugees who fled the war in Afghanistan (1)
- Pakistan allowed the U.S.A to use airbases for Operation Enduring Freedom.(1)
- President Musharraf condemned all acts of terrorism and pledged to combat Islamic extremism and lawlessness. (1)
- The government arrested a number of leaders of jihad organisations and banned such groups.(1)

### **Question (c)**

There seemed to be confusion in some candidates' minds as to exactly what was meant by 'regional languages'. It was surprising to see in some responses a discussion on the importance of Urdu as a uniting language. Urdu cannot be considered as a regional language. Candidates who scored well on this question did so by explaining the importance of maintaining cultural heritage, accessing the considerable literary excellence of regional poets and authors and providing opportunities for students to study in their own regional language.

### **Question (d)**

Some candidates found this question challenging. The main reason for that appeared to be a lack of knowledge of the events in the period 1988-99. After the period of the 'Afghan Miracle', the Pakistan economy went into decline and was close to collapse by 1998. This was a period when Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif led governments and faced difficulties in both their domestic and foreign policies. Candidates who knew the details of these difficulties scored well by explaining their significance in creating problems for the various governments and ultimately leading to their downfall.

## **Question 6**

**Question (a):** The correct alternative was B: Margaret Thatcher.

**Question (b).** Whilst other appropriate responses were accepted, it was expected that candidates would provide two of the following as responses:

- United Nations (1)
- SEATO (1).
- Baghdad Pact/CENTO (1)
- The Commonwealth (1)

## **Question (c)**

This question again demonstrated the need for candidates to be focused in the use of their historical knowledge. Whilst the issues around Kashmir were well-known, some candidates wrote at length about the events in the years 1947-55 and did not explain why those events prevented good relations between India and Pakistan. This was not a question on events in Kashmir in these years, but one on how relations between the two countries were affected by those events. Candidates who realised this, scored very highly on this question.

## **Question (d)**

It was impressive to see the depth of knowledge candidates had on relations between the USA and Pakistan. Many responses explained the initial good relations under Liaquat Ali Khan, cooling relations in the 1960s and 1970s and the close relationship developed after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the influx of American aid to Pakistan. Candidates also seemed to have a good understanding of the worsening relationships as a result of Pakistan's nuclear programme and the Pressler Amendment, followed by the restoration of good relations and aid under President Clinton. It was disappointing that some candidates completed their response without coming to a conclusion on the most important event in this period, but generally this question was very well answered.

