

Aga Khan University Examination Board
Notes from E-Marking Centre on SSC Part II Pakistan Studies Examination
May 2012

Introduction

This document has been produced for the teachers and candidates of the SSC Part II course in Pakistan Studies. It contains comments on candidate responses to the 2012 Secondary School Certificate II (SSC II) Examination, indicating quality of the responses and highlighting their relative strengths and weaknesses. This document should be read along with the AKU-EB Pakistan Studies syllabus based on the National Curriculum (2006).

General comments

It is pleasing to note that the candidates this year were able to perform well to the demand of the paper. They were more prone to space limited examination. Many of the candidates were able to answer the required questions which were relevant, focused and addressed precisely. However, it is apparent that the candidates are still writing far too much, which resulted in difficulty in managing time. Candidates must be selective in using their obvious enormous knowledge of the subject while attempting the answers.

Candidates need to be familiar with the command words in the student learning outcomes which contains some terms commonly used in examination questions. However, candidates should also be aware that not all questions will start with or contain one of the key words from the glossary. Questions such as 'how?', 'why?' or 'to what extent?' may be asked as well.

It is necessary for the candidates to understand that they should write their answers using BLACK pointers, which enables brightness in their writing after scanning of the papers.

This report is for the aid and benefit for the teachers as well as students, to indicate the requirements of the examination.

Question 1a

Better responses mentioned the definitions of trade and commerce correctly.

Average responses mentioned the definition of trade but were not able to mention the correct definition of commerce.

Weaker responses highlighted different kinds of trade and gave an incorrect definition of commerce.

Question 1b

Better responses included the factors such as land, availability of raw material, energy supplied, developed infrastructure etc.

Average responses mentioned only ONE or TWO points instead of THREE which were required in the answer.

Weaker responses mentioned the benefits of industry for a country's economy and for the people in general.

Question 2a

Better responses mentioned the joining of the four provinces of West Pakistan or current Pakistan into ONE single unit.

Weaker responses mentioned the joining of East Pakistan as a single unit instead of West Pakistan.

Question 2b

Better responses mentioned the education policies of Z.A. Bhutto such as free compulsory education, nationalization of schools etc. Also the candidates mentioned its positive as well as negative impacts of it such as overcrowding of schools, increase in literacy, etc.

Average responses only mentioned the policies of Z.A. Bhutto but did not mention its impact on the country.

Weaker responses lacked the policies of Z.A. Bhutto and there was no mention of impact on the country as well.

Question 3a

Candidates found this question a bit difficult.

Better responses highlighted the problems such as females not being counted as a part of a family, lack of check and balance in our census system etc.

Average responses mentioned only ONE point rather than TWO.

Weaker responses mentioned the definition of census, importance of conducting census and the problems faced by females in rural areas.

Question 3b

Better responses mentioned the social problems such as higher expenditure on health and education, more dependent population and lack of people in the economically activated age group.

Weaker responses described the table given rather than the social problems arising from it.

Question 4a

This question was attempted well by the candidates.

Better responses mentioned good and relevant suggestions for the improvement of relations between India and Pakistan.

Average responses mentioned only ONE or TWO points instead of THREE which were required in the answer.

Weaker responses were the ones which were blank and the student had not attempted the given question.

Question 4b

This question was attempted well.

Better responses highlighted the contribution of China such as Karakoram Highway, Mechanical Complex at Taxilla, Development of Gawadar Port etc.

Average responses mentioned only ONE point rather than TWO.

Weaker responses were the ones which were blank and the student had not attempted the given question.

Question 5a

Better responses mentioned the impact of social justice by granting equality, justice to all, overcoming divisions within a society etc.

Average responses mentioned only ONE or TWO points instead of THREE which were required in the answer.

Weaker responses mentioned the definition of the terms given in the question such as social justice and welfare state rather than the importance of social justice in a welfare state.

Question 5b

Candidates attempted this question very well, and better responses illustrated responsibilities of a good citizen in an appropriate manner. The response of the question showed a good set of conscious citizens ready to take position to render their duties towards the State.

Average responses mentioned only ONE point rather than TWO.

Weaker responses were the ones which were blank and the student had not attempted the given question.

Question 6a

This was an ERQ question and was selected by few candidates. Better responses mentioned the shape of the population pyramid and the distribution of the population etc.

Average responses mentioned less than FIVE points which resulted in the loss of marks.

Weaker responses did not analyze the pyramid correctly on the other hand calculated the percentages of the population by the data given which was not required as a part of the answer.

Question 6b

This was an ERQ question and the Candidates chose this one more than the other and performed really very well. Better responses showed the understanding of the students and some of the candidates reflected really well on the problems such as Lack of funds, more emphasis on defence, over population, high rate of inflation results in child labour etc.

No proper education policy

Average responses mentioned less than FIVE responses.

Weaker responses mentioned the suggestions for overcoming the problems of the education sector rather than mentioning the problems it is facing.