



GCSE **Punjabi**

8683/RF Paper 3 Reading Foundation Tier

Report on the Examination

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General Comments

The overall demand of the Paper was slightly lower as compared with the Foundation Tier Paper of 2023. This has been endorsed by the mean mark which has gone up slightly. Although the students had fewer words to read, the paper had four more multiple-choice questions and the regulatory requirement not to test vocabulary outside of the published vocabulary list was still in place from last year, the students still did not find the paper that accessible.

The students found questions 01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08, 09 and 10 accessible; however, they found questions 11, 12, 13 and 14 challenging.

Section A

Question 1

This question was a multi-choice question based on the topic ‘Jobs’. The students found this question slightly less accessible as compared with last year as the mean mark scored by the students was around 12% lower than last year. However, the mean score of about 67% indicates that most students found it accessible. It appears that the statements about the job ‘post officer’ and ‘teacher’ were difficult to work out.

Question 2

This was a low demand question and based on ‘free time’. Around half of the students found most of the sub-questions accessible. The Q02.1 and Q02.4 were, however, answered only by one thirds of students. In question 02.1 many students struggled to work out ‘watching dramas/plays’ written in Panjabi. The Panjabi word for ‘games/sports’ was not easy for the lower end students, eg in question 02.4 they confused it with ‘videos’ and did not score a mark.

Question 3

The students found this question very accessible as compared with last year as the mean mark went up by around 20%. The majority of students showed clear understanding of the language in two statements.

Question 4

Although, this question was based on ‘the environment’ and it was testing three time frames as well, the students found the vocabulary of this question easy to comprehend.

Question 5

About half of the students found this question accessible. The students also performed better on this question in comparison to last year. However, the students did not perform equally on both sub-questions 05.1 and 05.2 as the mean mark scored on both sub-questions was around 63% and 35% respectively. The students found the Panjabi words, like ‘ਸਿਆਹੀ’ and ‘ਕਾਗਜ਼’ quite difficult to translate into English as ‘ink’ and ‘paper’. The lower end students wrote their answer as an advantage ‘the printer is cheap’ rather than writing as an answer ‘ink is cheap’ hence lost a mark.

Question 6

This was a literary question based on a short story. The students performed less well on this question as struggled with the Panjabi text written in the direct speech.

Question 7

This question was based on an interesting topic ‘holidays’ and it was aimed at lower grade.

Question 8

The students were asked to complete the sentences and the majority of the students found this question quite accessible. The students performed very well on all the sub-questions except Q08.3 where more than a half of students could not work out the meaning of phrases ‘ਕੰਮ-ਕਾਰ’ and ‘ਸਮਾਂ ਨਹੀਂ’ in Panjabi.

Section B**Question 9**

This question was based on the topic ‘charity’ and it was aimed at lower grade. Most students found it accessible.

Question 10

The question asked students to read the stimulus as well as the options in Panjabi to work out their answers, and only around 48% of students performed well.

Question 11

This question was based on the topic ‘poverty’. Generally, the students perform less well on this question due to the lack of practice in the classroom. However, the students performed well on this question, which shows that students are getting familiar with the style of the question as the specification matures.

Question 12

This question was based on an epic poem called ‘Zangnama’ and the majority of students found the vocabulary quite hard. Students are advised to read literary texts, poems, or folk songs more, which can generally improve reading skills.

Question 13

This question was aimed at higher grade and it was testing students’ knowledge of three time frames. Overall, students’ performance was better than last year. However, only around 25% of students could perform well on this question. Some students wrote their answers in the wrong columns without reading the titles of the columns properly. A few of the students did not bother to attempt the question as they found it too difficult.

Section C

Question 14

This translation question carried 9 marks. The mean mark scored by the students was around 4 marks, and most students found the translation quite difficult.

The most common mistakes made by the students were as follows:

- Incomplete translation of each section of the sentence which did not qualify for a mark.
- A few students translated 'He works wholeheartedly' instead of 'He treats heart patients' and did not gain any mark.
- A few students translated the phrase 'a big hospital' as 'a beautiful hospital' and lost a mark.

Some students did not use the correct tense; they rather used present tense instead of past tense, hence did not gain any credit.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results Statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.