



GCSE

Punjabi

8683/RF Reading (Foundation)

Report on the examination

Version: 1.0
June 2025

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General Comments

The demand of the paper was comparable to last year's paper. However, the students found this year's paper slightly less accessible, that has been endorsed by the mean mark going down by around 2 marks. There was no requirement to use words from the outside vocabulary like the previous year. There were the same number of multiple-choice questions compared to the previous year. However, the students had to read approximately 121 words more compared to last year. So, this year's mean mark slightly went down either because of more words to read or due to the ability of this year's cohort.

The demand of this year's questions was comparable to the questions last year. The students found questions 01, 02.1, 02.2 & 02.4, 03, 04, 05, 06.1-06.6, 07, 08.1&08.4, 09, 10, 12.1-12.3 and 14 accessible; however, they found questions 02.3, 06.7, 08.2 and 08.3, 11, 12.4 and 13 difficult.

Section A

Question 01

This was a low demand question. Most of the students found this question quite accessible, that was indicated by a mean mark scored around 82%.

Question 02

The mean mark scored by students was around 75% because it was based on an interesting topic 'food and drink'. The most common answer for question 02.1 was 'vegetables/mixed vegetables' and for question 02.2 was 'orange juice'. The answers, like 'juice' on its own, gained no mark. The most common answer for question 02.4 was 'naan/ naans'. The answers, like 'pita bread/flatbread' were also accepted. The answers like 'roti' got rejected and scored no marks.

The mean mark scored by the students on question 02.3 was around only 12%. Most students wrote this answer wrong either as 'meat' or 'chicken'. However, 'chicken' was in the reject column and 'meat on its own could not be accepted as it could have been meat from any animal or bird. The cognate 'meat' caused problems for many students, as cognates written in Panjabi are difficult to read for the students.

Question 03

This question was based on an interesting topic 'social media'. Overall, the mean mark scored around 62% suggesting that they found it accessible. However, students performed less successfully on question 03.1 as the mean mark scored around 16% was lower than the mean mark scored on question 03.2. They might have found vocabulary more difficult in 03.1 than the vocabulary in 03.2.

Question 04

The mean mark scored around 51% suggesting that the student found this question less accessible. This was a multiple-choice question based on the topic 'environment'. Generally, students perform less successfully on this topic because they find vocabulary quite difficult related to this topic.

Question 05

The students' performance was comparable to students' performance last year on a similar question. The students scored a mean mark around 53% on question 05.1. Most common correct answers for an advantage were 'saves electricity/energy' and the most common correct answer for disadvantage was 'LED bulbs cost lots of money'. The mean mark scored around 44% on question 05.2 suggesting that the students performed less well on this question. The answers, like 'lower gas bills/costs less on heating' were acceptable for an advantage. The most common correct answer for a disadvantage was 'The rest of the house stays cold'. The answers, like 'turning off heating in the living room/are using less water' were considered mere guesswork work and got rejected.

Question 06

The mean mark scored around 2% higher than last year on this question showed that students found this question accessible. Generally, students don't tend to perform as successfully on literature-based questions, however the mean mark scored around 51% suggesting that performance is improving with these types of questions.

Only 1/4 of the students could score a mark on the statement/question 06.7. Because the answer in Panjabi was not straightforward it required a little inference. The Panjabi text was written in the first person, "I didn't want to spoil the relationship by paying the price for a bottle of milk, I could only thank you". The mark scheme answer was 'false'. However, the majority of students only read "by paying the price for a bottle of milk" and made the decision that the answer was 'true'. However, they neglected to read the next sentence hence, answering incorrectly.

Question 07

This was a low demand question, most students could score a mean mark around 84% on this question. Another reason for the better performance on this question could be it was based on an interesting topic 'school homework'.

Question 08

This was a complete sentence type question. The mean mark scored around 34% suggesting that many students found this question difficult. The students performed well on question 08.1 as a mean mark scored around 53% was higher than a mean mark scored on other sub-questions in this question. Most common correct answers were 'the children's diet has gone worse/bad/unhealthy'. A few students wrote as answers, 'the children's diet is low/lot' were considered incorrect and scored no marks. Question 08.4 was also found less accessible by many students as the mean mark scored was around 35%. Most common answers, like 'food is important for body and brain/mind' were considered correct. However, the answers like, 'food is important for growth/well-being/health' were not considered correct and hence scored no mark.

Many students found the following sub-questions difficult:

Question 08.2

The students scored about 16% mean mark on this question by writing the correct answer, 'the time for physical education has increased/has gone up'. Most students answered, 'the time for physical education is less/a little/a very little/has gone...' and scored no marks. A few students wrote as answers, 'the time for physical education is enough/adequate' and scored no marks. The Panjabi words for 'physical education', 'time' and 'increased' proved to be difficult for many students.

Question 08.3

Only around 30% of students could score a mark on this question by writing the correct mark scheme answer 'free milk'. The two key words 'free' and 'milk' created problems for most students. Some low ability students wrote 'water' as an answer instead of 'milk' and gained no mark.

Section B

Question 09

Most of the students found this question accessible and scored a mean mark around 67%. It was a low demand question and was based on the topic 'future jobs'.

Question 10

This question was on the topic 'setting up your own business'. The students performed less well on this question as compared to a similar question last year. That was shown by 4% lower mean mark scored by the students as compared to mean mark scored last year. Although, most commonly used Panjabi words/vocabulary was used, the students still found it difficult.

Question 11

The students' performance was 15% lower compared to a similar question last year. Generally, the students perform less successfully on these kinds of questions because they don't practise these kinds of questions in the classroom and don't learn sufficient vocabulary related to the topic. Students only needed to know the meaning of four Panjabi words related to school life: 'ਪੜ੍ਹਨ' 'ਖੁਸ਼', 'ਵਿਦਿਆਰਥੀ' and 'ਸਕੂਲ'. All of these words were most commonly used words and one of them was a cognate 'school' even so the students couldn't score well on this question. It appears the knowledge of the Panjabi sentence structure/grammar also plays a crucial role to perform well on this kind of question. However, it sounds like the students' grammatical skills were not fully developed. That's why students performed so low on this question.

Question 12

The mean mark went up by around 18% suggesting that students performed better on this question compared to last year. They found question 12.1-12.3 accessible. However, they found question 12.4 difficult. That was why they could only score the mean mark around 24% on this question. The poem said, 'Her brother will come riding a blue horse' however, the students

couldn't link 'a blue horse' in the poem to the correct option which says 'riding an animal' to score a mark.

Question 13

This question assessed students' knowledge of two timeframes. They were supposed to write activities in the correct columns: 'past' and 'future'. The students' performance was 6% lower compared to the same question last year. However, the mean mark scored around 31% by the students suggested that they found this question less accessible like last year. The students performed less well on this question as they needed strong knowledge of timeframes and topic related vocabulary. A few students wrote their answers in English and lost marks. The student must write their answers in Panjabi in Section B to qualify for marks. Some students wrote the activities in the wrong column, hence lost marks. Very few students did manage to put down activities and the related vocabulary in the correct column, however the verbs were missing so, no marks were awarded.

Section C

Question 14

The mean mark around 6% higher compared to last year suggesting that the students performed better than last year. This year 63% students scored 4 marks as compared to 60% students who scored 4 marks last year.

The students performed as follows on various sentence parts while translating Panjabi into English:

Sentence Part 1: 'I go/walk': Most students translated this sentence part well into Panjabi without any issues.

Sentence Part 2: 'to school on foot'. Most students translated this sentence part well. However, some students did not include 'on foot/ walk' and lost a mark.

Sentence Part 3: Many students translated this sentence part as 'I play hockey' and scored a mark.

Sentence Part 4: Most students translated this part well. However, some students either forgot to include the frequency word 'daily' or they found it hard and omitted it and lost a mark.

Sentence Part 5: The majority of students translated this part as 'I want to be/ would like to be' and scored a mark.

Sentence Part 6: Most got the translation correct of this sentence part. However, some low ability students got confused with 'grown up' bit and associated this bit with 'big team' and lost a mark.

Sentence Part 7: Many students didn't have any issues while translating this part into English.

Sentence Part 8: Many students translated this part of the sentence well.

Sentence Part 9: Lower ability students struggled in translating 'sports tournament' into English and hence lost a mark. Some students wrote a wrong possessive pronoun with school. They wrote 'my school' instead of 'our school' and lost a mark.

A few students either didn't attempt the translation task or included irrelevant information in their response, hence receiving no marks.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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