

Aga Khan University Examination Board
Notes from E-Marking Centre on SSC Part II Pakistan Studies Examination
May 2013

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 2013 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 was heartening to see the candidates being adjusted to the demand of the paper and the paper pattern and thus doing well in their examination. They seemed to be accustomed to space limited examination. Many of the candidates were able to answer the required questions. The answers were relevant, focused and addressed the question 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 knowledge of the subject while attempting the answers. It is also essential for the candidates to read the question carefully before answering to avoid ambiguity in the key words of the questions and the matter asked to be answered.

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, so that the print appears bright and clear after scanning of the papers. The candidates should not overwrite on the booklet as the answer becomes difficult to read.

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

<p>Question 1a: Discuss how environment is damaged by industrial pollution.</p>
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Candidates attempted the question well. The better responses mentioned the ways in which the environment is damaged by the industrial pollution which included contamination of soil, threat to the marine animals etc.

Average responses mentioned only ONE or TWO points instead of the required THREE points.

Weaker responses attempted the questions in general highlighting all types of pollution that is domestic and agriculture.

Question 1b: Give any TWO benefits of trade for economic development of a country.

This question was also well attempted and the candidates were able to write down the benefits of trade such as increase in foreign exchange reserves, resources utilization, increased competition etc.

Average responses were the ones in which the candidates were able to explain only ONE benefit of trade.

Weaker responses mentioned only the terms commonly used in trade such as import, export etc.

Question 2a: Discuss any TWO problems faced by Pakistan right after partition in the formation of its government.

This question was not comprehended well. The better responses which were few were able to highlight the TWO problems faced by Pakistan in the formation of government. These problems included lack of trained personnel, official accommodation, and the records not being transferred etc.

Average responses were the ones which highlighted only ONE problem instead of TWO.

Weaker responses were not focused on the key word 'formation of government' thus the children were writing all the problems such as canal water dispute, Kashmir issue etc.

Question 2b: Discuss any THREE causes that led to the separation of East Pakistan.

Better responses highlighted the TWO valid reasons that led to the separation of East Pakistan. The reasons included the lack of representation of East Pakistan, Bengali not being claimed as a national language, result of 1970 elections and the attitude of the politicians of West Pakistan etc.

Average responses mentioned ONE or TWO points instead of THREE which were the requirement of the question.

Weaker responses mentioned irrelevant points such as the USSR invasion of Afghanistan etc.

Question 3a: Discuss any THREE reasons behind the rapid growth of population in Pakistan.

This question was well attempted and the candidates were able to highlight the reasons for the rapid growth of population which included early marriages, want of a male child, more hands to earn etc.

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

Weaker responses were the ones which were left blank by the candidates.

Question 3b: Name any TWO historical sites of Pakistan.

Better responses mentioned the two historical places of Pakistan, this question turned out to be very informative to all of all as the children came up with different sites, such as the white palace and the residence of the King of Swat etc.

Weaker responses mentioned the historical buildings of India or were mentioning the landmarks of Pakistan such as Mazar-e- Quaid, Habib Bank Plaza etc.

Question 4a: Describe any THREE strengths of Pakistan's relationship with USA.

This question was attempted well by the candidates.

Better responses mentioned good and relevant examples of the strengths of relationship between Pakistan and USA; they mentioned financial aid, defence aid and especially the support of USA in the war against terrorism. Some of the candidates also mentioned the US Aid programmes currently running on Pakistan.

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

Weaker responses were the ones in which candidates mentioned the weaknesses instead of the strengths and talked about pressure of US in Pakistan internal affair, drone attack etc.

Question 4b: Mention any TWO basic principles of Pakistan's foreign policy.

This question was attempted well.

Better responses mentioned the basis of Pakistan ideology and highlighted the points such as national security, protection of its ideology, economic development etc.

Average responses mentioned only ONE point rather than TWO.

Weaker responses were the ones which mentioned the authority responsible for the making and executing the foreign policy of the country.

Question 5a: Describe any THREE features of a welfare state.

Better responses described the features of welfare state by mentioning the provision of all the basic rights, equitable distribution of resources, grant of fundamental rights etc.

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

Weaker responses were the ones which were left blank by the candidates.

Question 5b: Describe how the dignity of labour assists the development of a nation.

This question was not well attempted as the candidates did not comprehend the question well. Instead of correlating the dignity of labour with the national development they mentioned the meaning of the word dignity of labour and correlated it with Islam.

Better responses were the ones in which the candidates did show relationship with the two and mentioned that every person's contribution is important and some of the students gave examples to support their answer.

Average responses mentioned only ONE point rather than TWO.

Weaker responses were the ones in which the candidates had written about the definition of the term dignity of labour.

This is an ERQ question, in which the candidates were given a choice between a and b.

Question 6a: Discuss any FIVE problems that arise due to mass migration from rural to urban areas.

This was an ERQ question and the Candidates chose this one more than the other and performed really very well. Better responses mentioned the problems due to mass migration by writing about unemployment, burden on the infrastructure, crime, slum areas, fewer work forces for the agriculture etc

Average responses mentioned less than FIVE points which resulted in scoring less marks to them

Weaker responses did not mention the problems on the other hand they pointed out the reasons that had led to the mass migration from rural to urban centres.

Question 6b: Discuss any FIVE importance of a constitution for a state.

This was an ERQ question and few candidates attempted the question, the Candidates generally performed well in it by mentioning the importance of constitution such as it defines the powers between the organs of the state, safeguards the fundamental rights of the state, defines the true character of the state etc.

Average responses mentioned less than FIVE responses.

Weaker responses gave the time line leading to the constitution making in Pakistan and some of the candidates had mentioned the salient features of the constitution of Pakistan.