



GCSE

BENGALI

8638/LH Listening Higher Tier
Report on the Examination

8638
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General Comments

In the June 2022 series, there were several pleasing, high-scoring scripts. Most students scored marks consistently throughout the paper. The paper differentiated well between the students to whom it was targeted. The mean mark on the paper was about 37 out of 50. The ablest students responded well to all the questions, in particular the Bengali questions in Section B. Less able students struggled with the more challenging questions, particularly those in the latter half of the examination. Although the number of students leaving blanks in multiple-choice questions was fewer, there were still instances of these. Teachers should continue to encourage students to attempt all such questions. Questions requiring a written answer discriminated well. The majority of these questions were aimed at the top grades and required precise answers. Some also required students to draw simple conclusions and to understand the material which contained more complex and less familiar language in line with the requirements of the subject content. Students handled the paper well and were well practised in the Specimen Assessment Materials and past papers.

Teachers are advised to remind students to maximise the 5 minutes of reading time in the listening paper by:

- reading all the questions carefully, particularly those in Section B;
- checking questions with emboldened words where it might have asked for particularly negative views or the most relevant option to choose;
- looking at any examples given, as these point out the level of detail required;
- underlining keywords which have been highlighted in the rubrics/questions;
- identifying the questions which have two or more parts to answer from the same utterance;
- sign-posting Section B as it requires answers in Bengali;
- being careful about listening to the question numbers in Section B as these are announced in Bengali.

Section A

Questions 01-04

As expected in this overlap section, students performed significantly better at the higher tier. On question 01, almost 50% of the higher tier candidates got it right, whereas this was around 17% of the foundation tier students did so. There was an impressive success rate on question 02: approximately 80% in the higher paper. In the higher paper, about 88% of the candidates got all three options correct on question 03 and about 77% got it right on question 04. As expected, higher-tier students had greater success in answering these overlap questions.

Questions 05-06

These questions were accessible to most students. The topic area of these questions was education post-16 and the vocabulary was familiar to the candidates. An impressive success rate was evident on these two questions and about 91% of the candidates secured marks on questions 05 and question 06, 88% responded correctly.

Question 07

This question was set on travel and tourism. This question was answered well by many higher-tier students. About 80% got both options correct. Students clearly understood the complex vocabulary and grammatical structures used in this extended utterance very well and were able to choose the correct answers with a high degree of success.

Questions 08-13

The success of these questions indicated that students coped well with the relatively abstract nature of some of the language used in these questions about technology and travel. Approximately 86% got question 08 correct, 94% on question 09 and 75% on question 10. From this performance, candidates found question 10 comparatively hard and this is because question 10 was set at a higher level of demand. Similar performance was also seen on question 13 (about 64%) compared with question 11 (about 80%) and question 12 (about 94%). In this set of questions, question 13 was set at a higher grade.

Questions 14-17

These questions were designed to be challenging questions and were handled quite well by students. Questions 14-17 was about students' opinion on a film festival. In general, P, N, and P+N answers are difficult for students to pick out and this proved to be the case here. Question 14 was the least successful one and 65% of the candidates got this question correct. Students should be reminded that, in such exercises, they are required to listen to the whole utterance to identify the overall opinion.

Questions 18-19

Question 18 was designed to challenge the ablest students, with answers in English and two answers to be found in one recorded speech. The topic of this question was life at school. It was an inferential type of question. Only the very best students succeeded and answered extremely well, including all the details required. About 31% picked up full marks from question 18.1. On question 18.2, only 25% of students correctly identified the advantages of volunteering at the Saturday lessons for sixth form students from the utterance they heard. Question 19 was another difficult question for the candidates. The topic of this question was studies. Approximately 44% were successful on this question.

Question 20

This question was answered reasonably well. The question was aimed at the lower level of demand and performed as expected, with about 92% scoring on question 20.1, 72% on question 20.2 and 91% on question 20.3. Students were able to understand the scenario of fidgeting in the classroom and cope with the targeted vocabulary.

Questions 21

This question was testing, with students having to understand complex language and then use some inference to get to the correct answer from the context of the sightseeing. On question 21.1 about 52% got both options correct. Candidates found the second part of the question harder and only 18% got both options right. This might be because of some challenging vocabulary such as '*praktik songrokkhito bon* (natural reserve forest)' and '*poribesh rokkhar karjokrom* (activities on

environmental protection)’. These words were in the prescribed vocabulary list but not many students could relate to the set phrases.

Questions 22-24

There was a mixed response to these questions. Questions 23 and 24 were answered very well, with more than 85%, scoring the mark here. There was a relatively poor response to question 22, about just above 54%. This question type tests students’ ability to listen to Bengali informal dialogue and to ascertain attitudes; it is a commonly used question type, particularly at the higher tier. Students should practise the vocabulary that is commonly used to express opinions to do well on this type of question.

Section B

Questions 25-26

As expected in this overlap section, students performed significantly better at the higher tier. On question 25.1, an impressive 72% of candidates got the answer correct whereas, at the foundation tier, only 45% of the candidates achieved the mark on the same question. Similarly, on question 25.2 (about 47%) students performed more strongly on this question at Higher tier. Question 26 showed a similar comparison between higher and foundation candidates; about 71% responded correctly on question 26.1 and 74% on question 26.2 in the higher tier and about 39% in both parts of question 26 in the foundation tier.

Question 27

This question was aimed at the more able students and therefore proved challenging for the majority of students. This was done well. A little more than 60% of the candidates managed to understand the language, which was not easy, well enough to conclude the idea of charity and volunteering. This question tested detailed understanding of the language heard and there were some tricky distractors too.

Questions 28

Students found questions 28.1 and 28.4 more accessible than questions 28.2 and 28.3; about 69% of students got a mark on question 28.1 and on question 28.4, about 63% got it correct. Many candidates could identify *Teegan’s*, a Chinese lady’s education and learning Bengali at the university, but fewer, about 24%, coped with the less straightforward language to deduce *Teegan’s* job responsibility at the Bengali department of a media group from the utterance they had heard. Overall, students are to be congratulated for their success in answering these questions.

Advice to students

- Students must make sure that they make their final answer clear to the examiners, by writing legibly and using the spaces provided.

- If students change their minds about an answer, the final choice must be signalled to the marker and be placed as near as possible to the appropriate space.
- Ensure that students give precise answers avoiding lots of details.
- Try to answer all questions.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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