



GCSE

BENGALI

8638/RF Paper 3 Reading Foundation Tier
Report on the Examination

8638
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General comments

Changes were made to the 2023 papers to reflect the removal of the regulatory requirement to test vocabulary outside of the published vocabulary list.

Many students found this paper to be accessible and seemed to have little difficulty in answering the questions. However, there were a number of students who were unable to answer some questions, and even left questions unattempted due to a lack of understanding of the target language resulting in low or zero marks being achieved. Therefore, it is important that before entering students for the exam, teachers should feel confident that the students have been thoroughly prepared.

Section A

Question 1

A large number of students found 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 quite challenging and frequently did not understand fully. As a result they scored lower marks than had been anticipated for this question.

Question 2

For this question, students were required to complete a number of sentences. For all sub-questions, approximately half of the students scored good marks while the remaining half achieved lower marks than had been expected.

Question 3

40% of the students were able to answer these questions correctly and scored full marks.

Question 4

Approximately 50% of the students answered all questions correctly and scored full marks.

Question 5

On this question about 60 % of the students did well and scored good marks.

Question 6

As in question 5 this question was answered well and with many students scoring good marks.

Question 7

A large number of students were unable to comprehend these questions fully and answered incorrectly; as a result they failed to score many, if any, marks for their answers.

Question 8

For these questions about 50% of the students were able to answer correctly and scored full marks.

Section B

Questions 9 – 11

Approximatley half of the students answered these questions correctly and were able to achieve full marks.

Question 12

Again, approximately 50% of the students were able to answer these questions correctly and scored full marks.

Question 13

For these questions only 40% of students were able to understand the texts and questions sufficiently. The majority of the students were unable to answer these questions fully as a result of a lack of knowledge of the target language.

Section C

Question 14

The students were required to translate a Bengali passage into English. The majority of the students found this question very challenging which suggested an inadequate knowledge of their target language. Only the well-prepared students were able to translate accurately into English and these students were rewarded with good marks.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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