

Examiners' Report

GCE O Level Gujarati (7616)

June 2006

delivered locally, recognised globally

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7616 GUJARATI, CHIEF EXAMINER'S REPORT

The 7616 Gujarati paper, as in previous sessions, consisted of a 3 hour paper with 4 questions to test the candidates' ability to express themselves fluently, using the correct grammatical expression and usage, creativity and free original style, whilst taking special notes of feature like spelling and gender which may distort the sense and meaning if wrongly applied.

On the whole the candidates shown a good ability and understanding in dealing with the paper. Many of them have expressed themselves well, scoring commendable marks. However, some candidates seemed to have lacked the skills and knowledge necessary to translate Gujarati passage into English (Q1). Usage of the language and agreement of the verb with relevant nouns, adjectives etc., play a crucial role in conveying the meaning in Gujarati. Spelling mistakes in Gujarati and confusing the meanings of words meant that many candidates lost marks.

Translation passages are set to assess the flexibility of both languages and reaction to language in certain contexts. The skill involves transferring one language to another without distorting the text. Giving the literal word to word translation is not always necessary. We would like to see candidates using the fervour and flavour of the relevant languages to show they have really understood the passage. As mentioned above, the various centres should take special care to achieve this.

The Chief Examiner was happy to report, however, that on the whole the general standard across the candidates is commendable. There is an evidence of fluent flow in the essay writing and adequate mastery over the translation passages, especially from English into Gujarati (Q2).

Question 1

The following words proved to be challenging to a number of candidates:

Teeka or Tikaa :	criticism
Chhod:	a small plant
Kaalji:	care

Question 2

Candidates, most of them were comfortable with the passage and seemed to enjoy translating it. Candidates performed very well and produced some interesting and amusing translations. However, it was noted that candidates used colloquial expressions that are not accepted in standard Gujarati because of the context. On the whole, the standard of candidates work was similar to last year.

Question 3

These sentences test grammatical features. Most of the candidates did well on this question.

Question 4

Candidates were asked to write an essay on one of the four given topics. Marks are awarded on candidates' ability to shape the essay/letter writing, with originality. Evidence of organisation of thoughts and ideas are positively marked, along with the language appropriateness, style and neat presentation. As usual, letter writing was a popular choice. Candidates produced interesting accounts, well planned with detail. Those who performed well for question 1 or question 2, could have had attempted topic (b) as a challenge.

Answers to topics (a) and (c) 'The natural beauty of your country' and 'A man is known by the company he keeps' – were written with deep understanding and feeling. Some personal experiences were vividly described. However, some of the candidates who attempted (a) 'The natural beauty of your country' had misinterpreted 'the natural beauty' as the 'wild life', and therefore found it hard to get full marks. They were not penalised for this mistake.

Those who attempted topic (b), presented a well planned essay with thought provoking ideas and concern about 'peace' and 'understanding' in the world and how 'young people the youth of today can/may work towards it'. Very pleasing and encouraging.

Teachers should aim for 'standard Gujarati' and help candidates to understand the salient feature of the language (why, what and how). There need to be awareness for the correct spelling and grammatical constructions, with plenty of examples.

7616 GUJARATI - GRADE BOUNDARIES

Grade	A	B	C	D	E
Lowest mark for award of grade	60	45	31	26	20

Note: Grade boundaries may vary from year to year and from subject to subject, depending on the demands of the question paper.
