

External Assessment Report 2013

Higher Urdu

General Comments

Candidates performed very well in both papers.

Areas in which the candidates performed well

- Reading and Listening questions were done well by most candidates.
- There was an improvement in writing, with some candidates producing essays of a very high standard.
- Performance was positively impacted by better preparation in exam techniques.

Areas which candidates found demanding

- In Question 5a) of the reading paper, a minority of candidates answered from the introductory two sentences instead of the full text and lost marks. Those who referred to the full text did well.
- Some candidates showed a lack of awareness of exam techniques (e.g. answering on only part of the passage and attempting only the first and last words of the translation).

Advice to centres on the preparation of future candidates

- Candidates should be trained to make better use of line numbers indicating where answers can be found.
- Candidates should be reminded to translate the full passage, not just the opening and closing sentences.
- Answers to reading and listening questions must be written in English.
- Centres are reminded to follow the guidelines and to discuss exam techniques with candidates.
- Transliteration is not acceptable at Higher level.
- Candidates should be reminded to write in pen in the exam.