

Candidate Style Answers

GCSE Persian

OCR GCSE in Persian: J735

Unit: A824 (Writing)

These candidate style answers are designed to accompany the OCR GCSE Persian specification for teaching from September 2009.

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A824 (Writing)

OCR has produced these candidate style answers to support teachers in interpreting the assessment criteria for the new GCSE specifications and to bridge the gap between new specification release and availability of exemplar candidate work.

This content has been produced by senior OCR examiners, with the support of the Qualification Manager, to illustrate how the sample assessment questions might be answered and provide some commentary on what factors contribute to an overall grading. The candidate style answers are not written in a way that is intended to replicate student work but to demonstrate what a “good” or “excellent” response might include, supported by examiner commentary and conclusions.

As these responses have not been through full moderation and do not replicate student work, they have not been graded and are instead, banded “medium” or “high” to give an indication of the level of each response.

Please note that this resource is provided for advice and guidance only and does not in any way constitute an indication of grade boundaries or endorsed answers.

Question 4 Travel and the wider world

Your school website aims to celebrate the different cultures represented in the school.

You have been asked to write about ‘**The most important day of the year**’.

You should:

- (a) give factual information **and** explain ideas and points of view (your own or those of others);
- (b) use a variety of vocabulary, different types of sentences and different verb tenses.

<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner’s commentary</i>
<p>(۱) سلام. من مهران هستم. شانزده سال دارم و با پدر و مادرم در غرب لندن زندگی می‌کنم. نزدیک به پنج سال پیش از ایران به انگلستان مهاجرت کردیم. اخیراً پدرم برای همه‌ی ما گذرنامه‌ی انگلیسی هم گرفت تا سفر به دیگر کشورهای اروپایی آسان‌تر شود. ممکن است برای شما عجیب باشد، اما من هنوز به گذرنامه‌ی ایرانی‌ام بیشتر احساس نزدیکی می‌کنم. شاید به این دلیل باشد که مرا به یاد زادگاهم می‌اندازد و خاطرات خوش کودکی‌ام را در من زنده می‌کند. مگر</p>	<p>High level answer (1) <i>Communication:</i> In the first paragraph, this 16-year-old candidate gives some factual information about herself and her family. She refers to their emigration from Iran to England 5 years ago, and their recent acquisition of British passports. Then, she poignantly (and symbolically) mentions her warmer sentiments for her Iranian passport, perhaps because it reminds her of pleasant childhood memories. She further justifies her feeling by comparing the lively celebrations of Iranian New Year inside Iran with a ‘spartan’ version held here in her lonesome London home, away from relatives.</p>

می‌شود شور و شادی جشن‌ها و دید و باز دیدهای پر نشاط نوروزی ایران را با سفره‌ی سوت‌و‌کور هفت‌سین در پس‌کوچه‌های لندن مقایسه کرد!

(۲) در ایران، روز اول فروردین (که اغلب مطابق است با ۲۱ ماه مارس) ما و بقیه‌ی خویشاوندان به دیدن پدر بزرگ و مادر بزرگ می‌رفتیم. عمه‌ها، عموها، خاله‌ها، دایی‌ها و دختران و پسرانشان همگی می‌آمدند. جمع شدن حدود پنجاه تن از اعضای فامیل در یک جا هیجان عجیبی را در همه، به خصوص بچه‌ها، ایجاد می‌کرد، مخصوصاً وقتی دست بزرگ‌ترها به داخل جیبشان فرو می‌رفت تا اسکناس‌های نو و تانخورده را بیرون بیاورند و به کوچک‌ترها عیدی بدهند. راستش شخصاً هدیه‌ی نقدی را به کادوی آماده ترجیح می‌دهم چون با آن هر چه که بخواهم می‌توانم بخرم.

(۳) از وقتی که به انگلستان آمده‌ایم نه عیدی گرفته‌ام و نه رنگ اقوام و بستگانم را دیده‌ام. حتی پدر و مادرم به مناسبت نوروز، به جای اینکه پول بدهند، برایم هدیه می‌خرند، که شاید تحت تأثیر فرهنگ جامعه‌ی میزبان باشد.

(۴) به نظر من نوروز و کلیه‌ی آداب و رسوم آن باید حفظ شود زیرا اول فروردین به عنوان مهم‌ترین روز سال برای همه‌ی ایرانیان، از مرزهای مذهبی، قومی و زبانی عبور می‌کند و پیروان ادیان

Quality of Language:

She begins with simple, one-verb sentences. Then she confidently moves on to more complex structures (present and past tenses, comparative adjective, subjunctive, different clause types) and idioms, crowned with a rhetorical question at the end, which also displays her knowledge of relevant specialised vocabulary. She also uses an array of alliterations for added aesthetic effect.

(2)

Communication:

Here, she reminisces about what used to happen at Iranian New Year's Day celebration (21st March), when the entire extended family gathered in her grandparents' home. She particularly refers to the tradition of older people giving 'cash gifts' to younger ones. She expresses her preference for such cash bonuses and justifies it by saying that she can use them to buy whatever she likes.

Quality of Language:

She adds a further tense (past habitual) and more clause types with longer embeddings. She uses more specialised vocabulary referring to members of extended family. It is noteworthy that she tries to avoid using the same word twice; she uses a synonym instead, e.g. gift and present.

(3)

Communication:

She further describes the situation from her own angle, with a mild grumble about not having received such 'cash bonuses' nor even seen the sight of any relatives since their move to England. For added dramatisation of her 'plight', she makes an implicit criticism of her own parents for buying her New Year's presents (instead of giving her their traditional cash gifts). She adds that this may have been influenced by the host (i.e. British) culture.

Quality of Language:

She adds one more tense to her repertoire, i.e. the Present Perfect.

(4)

Communication:

Here she addresses the question set by the examiner more directly by saying that Iranian New Year's Day is the most important day for *all* Iranians because it is a unifying factor for all people in Iran regardless of their religious, ethnic

<p>مختلف، اعضای قوم‌های گوناگون و متکلمان زبان‌های متفاوت در ایران را به یکدیگر پیوند می‌دهد.</p> <p>(۵) در بریتانیا نیز بسیاری از مردم بومی، وجود جوامع متنوع از سراسر جهان را در این کشور، نعمتی ارزشمند تلقی می‌کنند. همان گونه که چینی‌ها و هندی‌ها اعیاد خود را گرامی می‌دارند، ایرانیان مقیم بریتانیا نیز باید نوز باستانی را جشن بگیرند تا هم در جهت حفظ و انتقال این میراث بزرگ فرهنگی به فرزندان‌شان کوشیده باشند و هم فرهنگ بومی کشور میزبان را غنی‌تر سازند. (357 words)</p>	<p>or linguistic backgrounds.</p> <p><i>Quality of Language:</i> She uses an even more complex structure with great accuracy. In fact the entire paragraph consists of a single sentence. This may be frowned upon by some linguists, but if it is done with sufficient accuracy and clarity, it should be acceptable.</p> <p>(5) <i>Communication:</i> In this last paragraph, she broadens the lens. She refers to the variety of world cultures being represented in Britain, celebrating their respective important days of the year, which is appreciated by many natives. She concludes by stating that Iranians, too, should celebrate their New Year's Day, with two clear objectives: to preserve and pass on this great cultural heritage to their children; and further to enrich the native culture of their host country.</p> <p><i>Quality of Language:</i> More impressive vocabulary and structures are used here.</p>
<p>Concluding remarks:</p> <p><i>Communication</i> Most parts of the essay are directly or indirectly relevant to the topic. Where she appears to be digressing, as in paragraph (1), she is attempting to create a context and approach the topic from an appropriate 'launching pad'. Obviously, she has chosen to focus on certain aspects of Iranian New Year's celebration. The information she has provided in this respect is clearly expressed, and the ideas she has developed are adequately justified.</p> <p><i>Quality of Language</i> She confidently and accurately uses a wide range of vocabulary and structures. She scores quite highly in 'type-token ratio', as shown below. This is, in part, thanks to her obvious attempt to use a variety of synonyms, thus avoiding repetition of the same lexical item.</p> <p>Unique words = 219 Total words = 375 Type-token ratio: $219 \times 100 \div 375 = 58\%$</p>	

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<i>Candidate style answer</i>	<i>Examiner's commentary</i>
<p>(۱) اسم من علی است. شانزده ساله هستم. من و پدر و مادرم در لندن زندگی می‌کنیم. ما ایرانی هستیم، اما من در ایران به مدرسه نرفتم. مدرسه را در انگلستان شروع کردم.</p>	<p>Medium level answer</p> <p>(1) <i>Communication:</i> In the first paragraph, this 16-year-old candidate gives factual information about himself and his family, who live in London. He was born in Iran, but went to school in England.</p> <p><i>Quality of Language:</i> He uses basic vocabulary and sentence structures – simple present and past tenses.</p>
<p>(۲) مهم‌ترین روز سال برای من روز اول سال ایرانی است، یعنی اول فروردین یا ۲۱ مارس. من این روز را خیلی دوست دارم. بیشتر از هر چیز از لحظه‌ی عوض شدن سال خوشم می‌آید. همینکه سال نو شروع می‌شود، من و پدر و مادرم همدیگر را می‌بوسیم و سال نو را به هم تبریک می‌گوییم.</p>	<p>(2) <i>Communication:</i> Unlike the High level candidate, he gets to the point straight away without any attempt at 'contextualisation'. He, too, identifies the first day of Iranian New Year (21st March) as the most important day of the year. In a slightly fragmented / incoherent way, he appears to be trying to justify this by saying that his favourite moment is when the year changes, upon which all members of the family exchange kisses and New Year's greetings.</p> <p><i>Quality of Language:</i> Only one complex sentence is used at the end of the paragraph. Use of a few conjunctions or coherence devices would have reduced fragmentation and increased coherence – particularly with the middle two sentences.</p>
<p>(۳) به نظر من خوبی‌های دیگر این روز این‌ها هستند: - لباس نو می‌پوشم. - از پدر و مادرم عیدی می‌گیرم. - به منزل فامیل می‌رویم و من با بچه‌های آن‌ها بازی می‌کنم. - شیرینی، آجیل و غذاهای خوش‌مزه می‌خورم.</p>	<p>(3) <i>Communication:</i> He further justifies his preference for this 'day' by listing some of the other good points: wearing new clothes, getting 'cash gifts' from his parents, visiting relatives and playing with their children, eating sweets, nuts and delicious food.</p> <p><i>Quality of Language:</i> Basic vocabulary and structures. Only one compound sentence used.</p>

<p>(۴) یک چیز جالب دیگر، سفره‌ی هفت سین است. مادرم می‌گوید: "ما ایرانی هستیم و این را نباید فراموش کنیم." به همین دلیل هر سال این سفره را درست می‌کند و همیشه سعی می‌کند خانه‌مان را هم مثل خانه‌های ایران درست کند.</p> <p>(۵) پدرم می‌گوید: "جشن نوروز خوب است چون افراد فامیل و دوستان حد اقل سالی یک بار همدیگر را می‌بینند!" من با این حرف پدرم موافقم. ما در لندن فامیل و دوست و آشنا زیاد داریم اما بعضی از آن‌ها را فقط سالی یک بار می‌بینیم. اگر عید نوروز نبود، شاید آن‌ها را از این هم کمتر می‌دیدیم! (229 words)</p>	<p>(4) <i>Communication:</i> He provides one more justification for his preferred day, i.e. the ceremonial New Year's Table laid by his mother every year. He finds this interesting and gives his mother's reason for doing this ritual every year.</p> <p><i>Quality of Language:</i> He uses direct speech quoting his mother's opinion. He finishes this paragraph with a compound sentence. He uses one specialised lexical item, i.e. the ceremonial New Year's Table. He uses the same verb ('to make') twice in the same sentence. He makes good use of the subjunctive in two sentences.</p> <p>(5) <i>Communication:</i> He expresses agreement with his father's view regarding the socialisation aspect of the New Year's celebration – family and friends see each other at least once a year!</p> <p><i>Quality of Language:</i> Again, he uses direct speech to quote his father's viewpoint. Within the quotes, he uses a complex sentence. He also uses one compound sentence and, commendably, a conditional sentence.</p>
<p>Concluding remarks:</p> <p><i>Communication</i> The candidate has responded adequately to the task. He has expressed his own opinion and those of others in support of his preferred day of the year. Unlike the High Level candidate, who focuses on one or two aspects of the New Year's Day and delves deeper into them, the Medium Level candidate covers more aspects but on a sketchier basis.</p> <p><i>Quality of Language</i> He uses a limited range of vocabulary and structures. Compared to the High Level candidate, he scores a significantly lower 'type-token ratio', as shown below. This is, in part, due to frequent repetition of certain lexical items. Furthermore, he seems to prefer 'direct speech' to 'reported speech', probably because the former is more straightforward and requires less grammatical / structural manipulation. He has used only two complex sentences in the entire essay.</p> <p>Unique words = 113 Total words = 229 Type-token ratio: $113 \times 100 \div 229 = 49\%$</p>	