



2011 Languages: Punjabi GA 3: Written examination

Written component

GENERAL COMMENTS

Overall, the performance of the majority of students in the 2011 Punjabi written examination was good, but some students did not read the questions properly, especially in Section 2 – Reading and responding. Students must answer all parts of a question to gain full marks; however, many students answered only part of a question and therefore could only receive partial marks. Students are advised to be familiar with and practise the different text types and styles of writing that may be required in Section 3.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Section 1 – Listening and responding

Part A: Answer in English

Question 1a.

Either of:

- she likes travelling by bus
- she can rely on buses.

Almost all students answered this question correctly.

Question 1b.

All of:

- punctuality
- cleanliness
- safety/security
- multipurpose tickets.

Most students answered this question well; however, some students did not answer all parts of the question.

Question 2a.

Month	Traditional reason to avoid weddings
December	<i>Example:</i> Farm work/weeding
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tending wheat crops
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planting rice
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sowing wheat• Picking cotton

A few students achieved full marks, while the majority scored between one and three marks.

Question 2b.

2bi.

Marriage palaces

2bii.

People have more money and time to spend.

Both parts of Question 2b. were answered well.

Question 3a.

He phones for help when a person is taken ill/volunteers to assist when a person is sick.

This question was generally well answered by students.

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Question 3b.

All of:

- by calmly following instructions
- he checked for danger
- he checked for a response from the victim
- he checked for an obstruction in the throat.

Some students lost marks by not answering this question with sufficient details.

Question 4a.

They reflect all aspects of human life.

Only about one third of the students answered this question; most students found it quite challenging.

Question 4b.

The mother-in-law controls the family/daughter-in-law.

Most of the students achieved two or three marks for this question; however, some students did not answer it carefully and ignored key aspects of the content.

Part B: Answer in Punjabi

Question 5a.

Veena:

- is studying law
- has two months' experience
- has good communication skills
- has good computer skills.

Most students answered this question well, while others did not answer all parts of the question. Students needed to give all of the points above for full marks.

Question 5b.

She is practical and immediately asks for her responsibilities.

The majority of students answered this question correctly.

Question 6

- In Australia, 42 languages are available.
- In Canada and Singapore, a second language is compulsory up to primary school.
- There is a policy to learn a second language in primary school.
- Students gain bonus points for tertiary admission.
- Facilities are provided for studies.
- There is professional development for teachers.

Most students answered this question correctly.

Section 2 – Reading and responding

Part A: Answer in English

Question 7a.

- Title: Magician of the east
- By whom: American and European scientists
- Why: Because he proved that plants have feelings

This was a three-mark question. Some students answered it very well while others missed out on marks by not reading the question properly or by not providing enough details.

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Question 7b.

We:

- pluck flowers
- snap branches
- crush leaves with our feet
- cut trees with axes.

The majority of students answered this question fully, but some did not read the question properly and lost marks. All of the points above needed to be given in order to receive full marks.

Question 7c.

7ci.

Humans have (both of):

- a heartbeat
- veins.

Only a few students answered this question correctly.

7cii.

We all need food and water.

Very few students answered this one-mark question correctly.

Question 8a.

To vent his spleen

Most students answered this question correctly.

Question 8b.

All of:

- happiness
- sadness
- anger.

Most students answered this question well and attained two or three marks.

Question 8c.

All of:

- it was planted by his grandfather
- it was like a friend to Ishaan
- they shared memories/he enjoyed its company
- birds woke him up.

Some students achieved full marks for this question, while others lost marks by not answering it fully.

Question 8d.

	Text 7	Text 8
Text type	scientific article	diary entry
Style of writing	objective	personal

This was a two-mark question. Up to 80 per cent of students lost at least one mark by not answering it correctly. This indicates that many students did not seem to have revised aspects of text types and/or features needed when writing in different styles. Students are advised to refer to these sections in the study design.



Part B: Answer in Punjabi

Question 9

The majority of students responded very well to this question; however, some students missed out on marks by not answering all questions or responding to comments in the email. Overall, the responses were good. The majority of students appropriately addressed and ended the email, indicating that they had practised this.

Section 3 – Writing in Punjabi

Question 10

Students had to write an informative article for a young person's magazine, outlining the dangers of social isolation. Some students answered this question very well, comparing young people's reliance on modern technology with communication in the past, whereas others produced mundane information.

Question 11

This question required students to write a formal letter to persuade the head of faculty at a university to offer them a place, given their unusual background. Only a few students chose this persuasive, formal letter, and some of them responded very well and provided persuasive reasons. Conversely, others neglected to use persuasive language as suggested in the study design.

Question 12

Students were asked to write the text of a speech to present to senior students evaluating the advantages and disadvantages of taking a gap year prior to further study to assist a village with an environmental project. Only a few students answered this question.

Question 13

This question asked students to write a narrative account about what happened when they found themselves on a 1970s film set in Punjab after playing with a toy time machine. Some students answered this question well, and some of the stories were very interesting. Others stories, however, seemed to provide pre-rehearsed material leading to the narrative account not flowing naturally.