



ZUEB SSC A- English Language

Paper 1: Reading and Writing Exam

Total 60Marks

Duration: 2 Hours

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Do not start this paper until you are told to do so.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided.
- You must ask any questions now as you cannot speak during the Test.
- Answer ALL questions.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets.
- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

Question 1

Read the article about street food in Pakistan and then answer the following questions.

The Hidden World of Pakistani Street Food

Walk through any bustling street in Karachi, Lahore, or Islamabad after sunset, and you'll discover a culinary universe that most tourists never experience. Pakistani street food isn't just about satisfying hunger – it's a cultural institution that brings together people from all walks of life around steaming carts and humble stalls.

The origins of Pakistan's street food culture can be traced back to the Mughal era, when traveling merchants needed quick, affordable meals. Today's vendors are the inheritors of centuries-old recipes, many passed down through generations. Take the legendary gol gappay wallah near Anarkali Bazaar in Lahore – his family has been perfecting the same tangy water recipe for over sixty years.

But street food in Pakistan faces serious challenges. Health authorities regularly express concerns about hygiene standards, with many vendors lacking access to clean water or proper refrigeration. Dr. Ayesha Malik, a public health expert from Aga Khan University, conducted a study showing that 40% of street food samples contained harmful bacteria. However, she also found that established vendors who had been in business for over five years showed significantly better hygiene practices than newcomers.

The economic impact cannot be ignored either. Street food vendors support an estimated 2.3 million families across Pakistan, according to government statistics. During the COVID-19 lockdowns, many vendors lost their livelihoods overnight. Rashid Ahmed, who has been selling samosas outside Karachi University for fifteen years, told us: "The pandemic taught us that street food is more than just business – it's how we survive and feed our children."

Technology is slowly changing the landscape. Food delivery apps like Foodpanda and Careem Now have started including verified street vendors, allowing them to reach customers during lockdowns and expand their customer base. Some younger vendors are embracing social media, with Instagram accounts showcasing their specialties to attract food bloggers and young customers.

Yet traditionalists worry that this modernization might destroy the authentic street food experience. The haggling, the community atmosphere, the chance encounters – these elements can't be replicated through an app. As food critic Mariam Khan writes: "When we order gol gappay on our phones, we gain convenience but lose the soul of street food culture."

The future remains uncertain, but one thing is clear: Pakistani street food represents far more than cheap meals. It embodies the resilience, creativity, and community spirit that defines urban Pakistan.

Answer the question given below

1. What is the main idea of the passage? Write one full sentence.
..... [2]
2. Who conducted the study on street food hygiene standards?
..... [1]
3. What proportion of street food samples contained harmful bacteria?
..... [1]
4. What was significant about the vendors who had been in business for over five years?
Write one full sentence.
..... [2]
5. (a) How many families depend on street food vending for survival?
..... [1]

(b) Why does Rashid Ahmed say street food is more than just business? Write one full sentence.
..... [2]
6. In which city is the gol gappay vendor mentioned in the passage?
..... [1]
7. What does the final paragraph suggest Pakistani street food represents? Write one full sentence.
..... [2]

12 marks

Question 2

The text below about Pakistani cricket has six paragraphs numbered A-F. Read the text, then answer questions (i) to (xii) that follow.

The Golden Era of Pakistani Cricket

A Pakistani cricket has produced some of the most unpredictable and entertaining moments in the sport's history. The team's reputation for being capable of beating anyone on their day, while equally capable of losing to weaker opponents, has earned them the nickname "cornered tigers." This unpredictability reached its peak during the 1992 World Cup campaign, when Imran Khan's team went from nearly being eliminated in the group stages to lifting the trophy at Melbourne Cricket Ground.

B The foundation of Pakistani cricket success lies in its fast bowling tradition. From the legendary Sarfraz Nawaz in the 1970s to modern stars like Shaheen Afridi, Pakistan has consistently produced pace bowlers who can terrorize opposing batsmen. Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis formed perhaps the greatest fast bowling partnership in cricket history during the 1990s, with their reverse swing bowling becoming a Pakistani specialty that teams worldwide now try to master.

C However, Pakistani cricket has also been plagued by controversies that have damaged its reputation. The spot-fixing scandal of 2010, involving Mohammad Amir, Mohammad Asif, and captain Salman Butt, shocked the cricket world and resulted in lengthy bans for all three players. More recently, the team has struggled with inconsistent leadership, with frequent changes in captaincy creating instability in team dynamics and long-term planning.

D The Pakistan Super League (PSL), launched in 2016, has brought new energy to domestic cricket. Initially held entirely in the UAE due to security concerns, the tournament gradually moved matches to Pakistan, culminating in the entire 2021 edition being played on home soil. The PSL has not only provided a platform for local talent to shine alongside international stars but has also helped improve Pakistan's image as a safe destination for international cricket.

E Young Pakistani cricketers today face different challenges compared to previous generations. While facilities and coaching have improved significantly, the competition for places in the national team remains fierce. Players like Babar Azam and Shaheen Afridi represent a new generation that combines traditional Pakistani flair with modern professionalism. These players are more fitness-conscious and technically sound than their predecessors, having benefited from improved training methods and sports science.

F Despite all the ups and downs, Pakistani cricket continues to capture imaginations worldwide. The team's ability to produce match-winning performances from seemingly impossible situations – like their Champions Trophy victory in 2017 – ensures that Pakistan remains one of the most watched teams in international cricket. As former captain Misbah-ul-Haq once said: "Pakistani cricket is like our country – full of potential, full of talent, and always surprising."

(i) to (xii)

Which paragraph, A-F, tells us or includes the following? Writing ONE LETTER ONLY.

- (i) A comparison between different generations of players [1]
- (ii) Pakistan's nickname in cricket [1]
- (iii) Names of two current Pakistani cricketers [1]
- (iv) A specific cricket tournament victory [1]
- (v) Information about where PSL matches were initially played [1]
- (vi) A quote from a former Pakistani captain [1]
- (vii) The year when a major scandal occurred [1]
- (viii) Pakistan's traditional bowling strength [1]
- (ix) Problems with team leadership [1]
- (x) The launch year of PSL [1]
- (xi) A bowling technique associated with Pakistan [1]
- (xii) The venue where Pakistan won the 1992 World Cup [1]

12 marks

Question 3

Read the article about traffic management in Pakistani cities. Then, write a précis of the passage.

Solving Pakistan's Urban Traffic Crisis

Pakistan's major cities are drowning in traffic chaos that costs the economy billions of rupees annually and severely impacts citizens' quality of life. The root causes of this crisis are multiple and interconnected, requiring comprehensive solutions rather than quick fixes.

Rapid urbanization has overwhelmed existing infrastructure in cities like Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad. The population of these metropolitan areas has doubled in the past two decades, but road networks have expanded by less than 30%. This mismatch between population growth and infrastructure development creates inevitable bottlenecks, especially during peak hours when millions of commuters travel simultaneously.

Poor urban planning has worsened the situation significantly. Commercial areas, residential zones, and industrial districts were developed without considering traffic flow patterns. Major

shopping centers and office complexes were built without adequate parking facilities, forcing vehicles to occupy road space. Additionally, the absence of proper public transport systems means that private vehicle ownership has increased dramatically, with families often owning multiple cars and motorcycles.

Traffic law enforcement remains weak across Pakistani cities. Traffic violations such as illegal parking, wrong-way driving, and ignoring traffic signals are rarely penalized effectively. The traffic police force is understaffed and often lacks the authority to implement strict measures. Corruption in the system means that violators can easily avoid consequences, encouraging more people to break rules.

The solution requires immediate government action on multiple fronts. First, massive investment in public transportation is essential. Cities need efficient bus rapid transit systems, metro networks, and improved railway connections to reduce dependence on private vehicles. Second, strict enforcement of traffic laws must be implemented through technology such as automated ticketing systems and surveillance cameras. Third, urban planning policies should mandate proper parking facilities for all new developments and restrict vehicle access in congested areas during peak hours.

Finally, public awareness campaigns are crucial to change citizen behavior. Many traffic problems stem from lack of civic sense and disregard for rules. Educational programs in schools and media campaigns can help create a culture of responsible driving and respect for traffic regulations. Only through coordinated efforts involving government, citizens, and private sector can Pakistan's cities hope to resolve their traffic nightmares and create livable urban environments for future generations.

Your precis should be about 110 words long (and no more than 120 words). You should use your own words and maintain the tone and meaning of the original passage. You will receive up to 7 marks for content and up to 5 marks for the style and accuracy of your language.

Write your precis below:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

12 marks

Question 4

Write an article for your school magazine about the importance of learning local languages.

Background: In Pakistan, many young people are losing touch with their regional languages like Punjabi, Sindhi, Balochi, and Pashto, focusing only on Urdu and English.

Here are some viewpoints to consider:

- Regional languages preserve cultural heritage and family traditions
- English and Urdu are more useful for career advancement
- Local languages help maintain connections with older generations
- Modern education systems don't emphasize regional languages enough

Write an article expressing your views on this topic. You should acknowledge different perspectives but clearly state your own opinion.

Your article should be between 140-180 words.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

12 marks

Question 5

Write an email to a friend.

In your email, you should:

- Explain what kind of quiz competition it is
- Describe your role in the team
- Say how you felt about reaching the finals
- Mention what happened during the final round

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page, typical of notebook or legal stationery. There are no margins, text, or other markings present.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

12 marks