

NOTICE TO CENTRES

November 2011

7094 O level Bangladesh Studies 0449 IGCSE Bangladesh Studies

The attention of Centres is drawn to the following changes that start with the May/June 2012 examination:

Paper 1

Part (c) questions

Scripts from previous exams show that some candidates are not sure about the difference between Part (b) and (c) questions. How should their answers be different? To make this clear, there is now a heading at the start of each question type to reflect the skills demanded by the mark scheme for each:

Part (a): This question tests your knowledge.

Part (b): This question tests your knowledge and understanding.

Part (c): This question tests your understanding and judgement.

To help further, Part (c) questions have been split in two and their wording revised to make the requirements even clearer. An example is given overleaf.

No changes have been made to the teaching syllabus or the examination requirements. The mark schemes have been adjusted to fit the new (i) and (ii) sub-questions in Part (c) questions, but the criteria remain the same.

Paper 2

Candidates will write their answers on the question paper, not on separate paper or answer booklets. Space for each answer is provided between each question. Candidates write their answers on the dotted lines printed in those spaces. The number of dotted lines varies according to the needs of each question. More than enough space is provided for each answer.

To see what such a question paper looks like, please look on the Teacher Support Site at 0460 IGCSE Geography question papers for May/June 2011 (0460/11 – 13, 0460/21 – 23, 0460/41-43).

No changes have been made to the teaching syllabus or the examination requirements. The mark schemes remain the same.

PTO

Paper 1 Part (c) questions: example of the new layout

In May/June 2011, Question 2(c) was:

Part (c)

Which do you think were the most important in the development of Muslim rule in Bengal in this period? Explain your answer by writing about **all three** choices. [10]

- The Sufis
- The Iliyas Shahi Dynasty
- The Hussain Shahi Dynasty

Some candidates do not write about all three choices, which limits their mark to Level 2/7. Very few give a reason for the one they judge to be the most important, which stops them gaining a mark in Level 3 (9 or 10 marks).

Had this question had been set for 2012, it would have read:

Part (c): This question tests your understanding and judgement.

(i) Explain why **each** of the following was important in the development of Muslim rule in Bengal in this period. [10]

- The Sufis
- The Iliyas Shahi Dynasty
- The Hussain Shahi Dynasty [8]

(ii) Explain which one of these was the **most** important, and why. [2]

As you can see, the new wording has not changed at all what a candidate has to do. What it has done is separate out the two different tasks set by the question. In consequence, candidates should find Part (c) questions more accessible.

All four Part (c)(i) questions will be worth 8 marks. The levels mark scheme still applies.

For Part (c)(ii) questions, Questions 2, 3 and 4 will be worth 2 marks – as in the example above. In the compulsory Question 1, however, Part (c)(ii) will be worth 4.

Any questions about this Notice should be addressed to the Product Manager, Bangladesh Studies via international@cie.org.uk or Telephone +44 (0)1223 553554 or Fax +44 (0)1223 553558. Questions can also be asked at the syllabus training in Bangladesh 30th and 31st March 2012. Thank you.