

A-level Bengali

Preparing to teach

Presentation slides

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This meeting will be recorded

Exam boards have an Ofqual requirement to record event audio.

Recordings are kept for one year and not shared as an accompaniment to session resources.

The recording will begin now.

Welcome



Agenda

- 4.00pm Welcome
- 4.05pm Overview of specification content and structure
- 4.30pm Paper 1 Reading and Writing
- 5.00pm Paper 2 Writing
- 5.30pm Paper 3 Listening and Writing
- 6.00pm Close

Structure of specification

- First teaching in September 2018, first exam June 2020.
- 2-year linear course with all assessment at the end of year 2.
- Same grading system as current qualifications: A*–E.
- Same grammar list as legacy A-level specification – see specification for details.
- No dictionaries are permitted during the assessments.

Assessment Objectives and weightings

AO	Objective	Weighting
AO1	Understand and respond in writing to spoken language drawn from a variety of sources.	20%
AO2	Understand and respond in writing to written language drawn from a variety of sources.	30%
AO3	Manipulate the language accurately, in written form, using a range of lexis and structure	30%
AO4	Show knowledge and understanding of, and respond critically and analytically to, different aspects of the culture and society of countries/communities where the language is spoken.	20%

Specification at a glance

Paper 1: Reading and Writing	Paper 2: Writing	Paper 3: Listening, Reading and Writing
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes• Reading, translation into English, research project• 85 marks• 42.5% of A-level	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written exam: 2 hours• 2 essays on set texts/films• 80 marks• 20% of A-level	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes• Listening, translation into Bengali, multi-skill task• 75 marks• 37.5% of A-level

Subject content - themes

Area of interest: Social issues and trends

- Aspects of Bengali-speaking society: past and current trends
- Aspects of Bengali-speaking society: past and current issues

Area of interest: Political and artistic culture

- Artistic culture in the Bengali-speaking world past and present
- Aspects of political life in Bengali-speaking countries past and present

Theme 1 and sub-themes

Aspects of Bengali-speaking society: past and current trends

Sub-themes:

- **Youth culture**
 - Fashion and trends
 - The role of celebrity
 - Traditional versus modern values
- **The evolution of the digital world in Bengali speaking countries**
 - The internet in daily life
 - Social media – benefits and dangers
 - The digitalisation of Bengali society

Theme 2 and sub-themes

Aspects of Bengali-speaking society: past and current issues

Sub-themes:

- Social diversity and mobility in the Bengali speaking world
 - people on the margins of Bengali society
 - socio-economic issues and inequality
 - universal literacy and mass education
- Impact of migration on the Bengali speaking world
 - reasons for migration
 - advantages and disadvantages for Bengali society
 - changing attitudes to migration and settlement.

Theme 3 and sub-themes

Artistic culture in the Bengali-speaking world past and present

Sub-themes

- Bengali festivals and traditions
 - roots and origins
 - regional diversity
 - social and economic importance
- Bengali cultural life
 - music
 - television
 - cinema.

Theme 4 and sub-themes

Aspects of political life in Bengali-speaking countries past and present

Sub-themes

- **Bengali politics**
 - political parties
 - the electoral process
 - demonstrations and strikes
- **Politics and young people in the Bengali speaking world**
 - young people and their engagement with politics
 - priorities for youth politics
 - values and ideals.

Research topics

Theme 1 Research topic

The role of women in Bengali society

- The changing role of women in society
- The role of women in the family
- The impact of working women on Bengali society.

Theme 2 Research topic

Child labour in Bengali society

- Historical background
- Current situation
- Action to eliminate child labour.

Research topics

Theme 3 Research topic

Tourism in Bengali speaking countries

- The development of a tourist infrastructure
- Popular tourist sites/places of interest
- Regional gastronomy.

Theme 4 Research topic

Emergence of Bangladesh

- Background to the war of independence
- Language movement
- Liberation war of 1971.

Set texts and set films

Students must study one book and one film **or** two books from the following list in the specification. The list remains valid for the lifetime of the specification.

Texts:

- *Golpo Guccho*, Rabindranath Tagore
- *Sanchita*, Kazi Nazrul Islam
- *Laalshalu*, Syed Waliullah

Set texts and set films

Films:

- *Londoni Konya*, Shakur Majid (1998)
- *Amaar Bondhu Rashed*, Morshedul Islam (2011)

No access to books or films during the exam.

Paper 1

What's assessed

- Aspects of Bengali-speaking society: past and current trends.
- Aspects of Bengali-speaking society: past and current issues.
- Artistic culture in the Bengali-speaking world, past and present.
- Aspects of political life in Bengali speaking countries, past and present.
- Grammar.
- Individual research project (one of four sub-themes).

Paper 1

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours and 30 minutes
- 85 marks in total
- 42.5% of A-level

Paper 1

Questions

- Reading and responding to a variety of authentic texts written for different purposes. All questions are in Bengali answered with non-verbal responses or in Bengali, including summary (35 marks)
- Translation into English; a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks)

Paper 1

Individual research project:

- Students are required to choose from the specification one of the four research topics to study during their course.
- In the exam, they will respond in writing to an unseen question, using information from the Bengali written source provided in the question paper as well as the knowledge gained from their individual research.
- No access to research materials or dictionaries is permitted during the exam.
- Students are advised to write a response of approximately 300 words (40 marks).

Guidance for summary tasks (Paper 1 and Paper 3)

- In summary questions in both Reading and Listening, content marks (AO1/AO2) can be gained by lifting text from the original.
- To gain language marks (AO3), manipulation of structures is required but individual words and short phrases from the original can be used.
- It is possible to gain 5 marks for AO3 even if information relating to one bullet point is missing.
- Examiners stop marking at the first natural break (end of clause or sentence) between 90 and 100 words.
- Sample mark schemes exemplify the award of AO3 marks (available on the Assess tab on website).

Paper 1: individual research project

Students must carry out their own individual research, even if more than one student in the class has chosen the same research topic.

The research sources for the project can be visual, audio or written but must include online sources.

Paper 1: individual research project

Teachers may:

- suggest sources of reference, including but not limited to websites, books and magazines
- provide support/guidance on research techniques, including how best to manage the storing and assimilation of knowledge and information that has been researched
- provide guidance on planning and timescales, including deadlines or milestones according to which research outcomes can be monitored and checked.

Paper 1: individual research project

Teachers must not:

- provide the student with material that they have designed specifically for the research project
- download and give the student specific source materials or copied and pasted extracts
- give feedback orally or in writing on any written notes or preparatory work produced by the student.

Paper 1: example materials

- Summary task
- Translation into English task
- Individual research project

Paper 2

What's assessed

- One book and one film **or** two books from the list set in the specification
- Grammar

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 80 marks in total
- 20% of A-level

Paper 2

Questions

- Respond in Bengali to one question on a set text and one question on a set film **or** to two questions on two different set texts.
- All questions will require a critical appreciation.
- Choice of two questions on each text/film.
- No access to texts or films during the exam.
- Students write approximately 300 words per essay.

Paper 2

- The mark schemes require students accessing top bands to consistently use appropriate evidence from the book/film to support their conclusions, develop their arguments, justify their opinions.
- Quotations may be used as evidence but are not required. Students can instead use close reference to the text to justify and support their points.
- The possible content in the mark schemes is neither prescriptive nor exhaustive.

Paper 2: example materials

- Essay on set text
- Essay on set film

Paper 3

What's assessed

- Aspects of Bengali-speaking society: past and current trends
- Aspects of Bengali-speaking society: past and current issues
- Artistic culture in the Bengali-speaking world, past and present
- Aspects of political life in Bengali speaking countries, past and present
- Grammar

Paper 3

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours and 30 minutes
- 75 marks in total
- 37.5% of A-level

Paper 3

Questions

- Listening and responding to a variety of spoken passages from a range of contexts and sources, including a summary task. All questions in Bengali answered with non-verbal responses or in Bengali (35 marks).
- Students have individual control of the recording
- Translation into Bengali; a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks).

Paper 3

- Multi-skill task: listening, reading and responding in writing to an unseen question on a listening passage and a written source based on one of the themes. The written response will require reference to the information in both the listening and written sources. (40 marks).
- Students are advised to write approximately 200 words in Bengali for the multi-skill task essay.

Paper 3: example materials

- Summary task
- Translation into Bengali
- Multi skill task

Get in touch

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You should have been emailed the evaluation form. Please check your inbox (possibly your junk mail folder). If you haven't received it please give your trainer your name, centre name/number and email address so that we can look into it for you.

Thank you.

Thank you

Notes

Contact us

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