

NEPAL STUDIES

Paper 8024/01
Multiple Choice

Question Number	Key	Question Number	Key
1	C	16	D
2	D	17	A
3	B	18	A
4	C	19	A
5	A	20	C
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6	D	21	A
7	C	22	A
8	D	23	B
9	C	24	A
10	C	25	C
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11	D	26	C
12	A	27	B
13	B	28	B
14	B	29	A
15	A	30	D

Key messages

- There was comparable performance between the different question types. Those questions which tested the candidates' ability to interpret and analyse information, issues and perspectives were answered as well as those which tested knowledge and understanding.
- Questions linked to each of the geography and history contexts performed well, compared with the economics context. Candidate performance on the questions on issues in contemporary Nepal generally exceeded those on the individual contexts.
- Candidates should take time to read each question carefully before choosing their answer. This includes making sure they understand all the potential implications of any quotations as well as the detail on any graphs and diagrams (e.g. scales).

General comments

55 candidates took this paper and the mean mark was 17.0. Most scored 14 marks or above reflecting a sound understanding across all contexts.

The questions for which 80 per cent of candidates or more selected the correct answer were **1, 2, 7, 12, 15, 24, 25** and **27**. **Question 1** (96%), **Question 2** (87%), **Question 15** (87%) and **Question 25** (93%) had the highest rates of success. **Question 5, 17, 22, 28,** and **30** proved most difficult, with **Question 9** achieving well below the test's intended targets.

The performance on graph based questions was variable e.g. the Venn diagram (**Question 7**) was interpreted well, but the line graph (**Question 23**) less so. This is also the case for the analysis of texts where **Question 25** performed well but **Question 30** did not.

Comments on specific questions

In **Question 5**, 53% of candidates chose option **B**, rather than option **A** which correctly represented the population structure of Nepal. The number of children (0–14 years) was underestimated and the number of elderly (65+ years) was overestimated. It indicated that candidates may need to develop a more secure understanding of the nature of a compound bar graph, where the total (in this case percentage population) is split into categories which are cumulative from left to right (0–100).

Question 17 asked about the art form in which the 14th festival celebrating mountain regions held in Kathmandu, was portrayed. More candidates chose option **B**, landscape painting (45%) rather than option **D**, film (24%) which was the correct medium suggesting a degree of uncertainty or guessing amongst candidates.

In **Question 22** 1% answered it correctly choosing Option **A**. Leisure trips purchased by Indian tourists in Nepal fall into the ‘exports of services category’ in the current account of Nepal’s balance of payments, as tourism is an intangible action and is classed as a service. If money is received it is recorded as an export (or credit) and thus option **A** was the correct response. Most candidates chose option **D**; however remittances made by Nepali workers based abroad are not classed as inflows of income but as transfers.

Question 28 was answered correctly by 22% of the candidates (option **B**) but 51% elected for option **C**. This indicates that candidates may need to develop a secure understanding of what constitutes a ‘physical factor’ when discussing the causes of air pollution. Only ‘located in a hollow surrounded by mountains’ and ‘temperature inversions in winter’ were physical factors. The remainder were human factors.

The responses to **Question 30** were evenly spread across the options suggesting a degree of uncertainty or guessing amongst candidates. King Gyanendra’s quote from 1st February 2005, referred to the dismissal of the all-party government, option **A**, part of Key Issue 5 – What political challenges does Nepal face?

NEPAL STUDIES

Paper 8024/02

Written Paper

Key messages

In **Section A** questions may require candidates to draw inferences from a cartoon, picture or set of data. First, they must identify a valid inference from the material and then develop that point. The link to the material must be clear. Some candidates lost marks in this exam by writing answers about the topic in general, basing their answers on ideas which could not be supported from the source material or data.

Candidates should support their answers with specific details and examples. This is particularly true of answers to **Section A** part (c) and **Section B** questions. They should also aim to cover a range of issues, either to achieve a balance between factors or to consider positive against negative impacts, depending on the question.

General comments

It is important that candidates manage their time carefully. A considerable proportion wrote very good responses to one of the **Section A** questions and then wrote hurried responses to the remaining questions. Working out a time plan would help candidates to ensure they spend an appropriate amount of time on each response.

Answers to **Section B** questions sometimes lacked range in terms of the issues discussed and depth in exemplification. While it is not expected that every aspect of the topic will be discussed, responses should aim to cover more than one issue or factor. The best answers seen in the extended responses were supported by reference to specific examples. Some answers contained little more than generalisations. Taking time to plan answers allows candidates to consider the full implications of the question and produce a better organised and more effectively supported response.

Some questions contain a short statement which acts as a prompt to encourage discussion. It is acceptable to disagree with the statement and conclude that it does not accurately represent a situation, but it is important to take a balanced approach before reaching a conclusion. The best responses weigh up the argument on both sides before reaching a supported conclusion.

A few of those who attempted **Section A, Question 3** quickly found themselves in difficulties with part (b). It is certainly helpful if candidates spend a few minutes reading through the questions and consider their options carefully. There were very few rubric infringements, and this suggests that candidates are taking a measured approach.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

- (a) This question was answered well. SAARC was known by all candidates. Responses to (ii) were sound and many showed good understanding of the role of Nepal in the United Nations. To gain full marks it was possible to list four separate areas where Nepal was active in the UN or to give two areas and develop these with supporting detail. Most wrote about Nepal's extensive role in UN peacekeeping and the best answers gave examples of countries where Nepal's troops have been deployed and showed the range of work Nepal was involved in, including police and administrative support. Others included Nepal's term on the Security Council and some wrote about Nepal's

contribution to the Non-Aligned movement. The best answers gave detailed support, for instance including detail on Nepal's provision of aid to refugees from Bhutan, rather than simply stating that Nepal provides aid. Some answers explained how Nepal gains from membership of the UN, in terms of aid or through initiatives such as the Sustainable Development Goals, but this was not fully focused on the issue in the question.

- (b) There were many effective responses to **Question (i)** with candidates drawing inferences from the cartoon about Nepal's position between her two powerful neighbours. Some answers made a likeness between the image and the well-known saying that Nepal was 'a yam between two boulders' and used this to good effect. Responses saw that Nepal was trapped between India and China, or somehow dependent on them, and that Nepal needed their support. The best answers used details from the cartoon to support their points. Some responses used the date of the cartoon to comment that Nepal needed support in view of the April 2015 earthquake. Other responses claimed the source was about the blockade of 2015 although this was not valid as the blockade had not started when the cartoon was produced. A small number of weaker answers wrote about Nepal's relationship with her neighbours without reference to the cartoon. The benefits of Nepal's relationship with China were well known and many good responses to part **(ii)** were seen. Most answers gave examples of China providing aid for infrastructure projects, helping Nepal deal with fuel shortages during the blockade and the benefits of trade between the two nations. A smaller number also considered the impact of tourism. The best answers were illustrated with specific examples. There were few weak answers, those seen usually lacking consideration of two separate ways in which Nepal has benefited.
- (c) Most responses demonstrated a sound understanding of the relationship between India and Nepal and illustrated their answers with specific examples of tension between the two countries. The most commonly seen features were the blockade of 2015, disputes over territory, such as Susta and Sikkim, and tension arising over water rights. Others also considered tension arising from apparently one-sided agreements over trade and political disputes. All responses gave some evidence in support of the statement in the question. The best went further by trying to balance their answer, showing that there were two sides to the relationship. Trade with India was discussed as vital to Nepal's economy and many cited the support given to Nepal by India in the aftermath of the 2015 earthquake. The most effective answers reached a supported conclusion, generally arguing (although not exclusively so) that despite tension, there were positive features to Nepal's relationship with India. There were very few weak answers, and these generally resulted from a lack of range in terms of the issues covered or from being assertive and lacking in examples.

Question 2

- (a) Most answered **(i)** correctly, understanding that internal migration took place within a country. In part **(ii)** it was necessary to explain two push and pull factors causing urban to rural migration to Kathmandu. Among the most commonly seen pull factors were improved job opportunities and access to better educational facilities. Push factors included better access to facilities and services such as healthcare and discrimination was considered in some responses. Some responses were weaker because they gave the same factors as push and pull, citing 'lack of jobs' for example, as both a push and pull factor. Separate factors were required in each case. Some responses became confused about push factors and wrote instead about the impact of the polluted environment in Kathmandu which was more likely to drive people away than to attract them.
- (b) Almost all responses to **(i)** identified an issue about the difference in access to facilities in urban and rural households. The most frequently seen example was to explain the difference between households using firewood for cooking. The best responses went further than identifying the contrast and developed the point by explaining that rural households had less access to kerosene which was more often used for cooking in urban areas. Some commented on the difference in the percentage of flushing toilets and explained the likely impact on health of the lack of sanitation. The best responses took a contrast and developed an explanation from it, while weaker responses tended to identify contrasts without development. Many responses to **(ii)** made a good attempt at identifying two challenges facing the authorities in meeting the needs of those living in Kathmandu. To be valid, the challenges had to be inferred from the photographs and some responses lost marks by writing about features which were not shown. Water pollution was the most commonly described issue, along with waste disposal and overcrowding. Where answers were weaker it was sometimes as a result of writing about 'pollution' in general terms rather than about 'water or air pollution, both of which could be developed from the photographs.

- (c) The best responses covered a range of factors in support of the idea that Nepal is urbanising too rapidly. Many answers considered issues such as overcrowding, poor quality housing, congestion and traffic problems and discussed the impact these features could have on the health and well-being of urban populations. Some discussed inadequate urban planning and the lack of infrastructure in settlements which have grown up around the main urban areas. A small number of responses also considered the need for building regulations to provide earthquake-proof buildings which can be overlooked if development takes place too rapidly. The best answers were balanced and there were two main arguments that such responses put forward. Some argued that urbanisation was important because it represents development, and this is what Nepal needs. They generally concluded that while Nepal is urbanising rapidly, this was a positive feature. Other responses argued that it was not urbanisation which was the problem but the lack of sustainable planning and control. Either of these approaches was creditworthy and the best responses gave specific examples to support their arguments. Weaker responses tended to focus on either the benefits or drawbacks of urban development and some lacked examples.

Question 3

- (a) Parts of this question caused difficulty for some candidates. Part (i) was not well known and many understood 'marginal land' to mean 'the land on the edge of the village'. Better responses understood that the land was described as 'marginal' because it was poor quality and would not support food production. Responses to (ii) were generally relevant and most candidates were aware that being landless meant that people could be exploited for low wages, be lacking in social status and therefore rights and insecure in terms of livelihood, wealth, employment and security.
- (b) Most candidates recognised the crop shown in Fig. 3.1 as tea. Many answers to part (ii) successfully identified and explained an advantage of the farming method shown. Higher quality crops through careful harvesting and labour-intensive farming giving rise to employment opportunities were the most commonly seen benefits. Disadvantages included a lower yield and slow processing as the operation must be carried out by hand. Where answers were weak it was generally because of identifying an advantage or disadvantage without offering developed support or an explanation. Answers to (iii) showed some understanding of why some regions of Nepal face a food deficit but, in common with part (ii) some lost marks through a lack of explanation. Generally, candidates argued that a food deficit came about because of land in some areas being unsuitable for farming and infrastructure being inadequate for supplies or access to development programmes. A few candidates were unsure of the meaning of the term 'food deficit' and therefore found this question challenging.
- (c) The most effective responses showed a good understanding of the issues around land reform in Nepal. Some discussion of the 1964 Land Act was seen, and some candidates were aware of issues connected to unequal distribution of land and why reform was challenging to implement. The very best answers contained references to specific legislation or specific social issues which make land reform problematic to enforce. A lack of exemplification was the main characteristic of weaker responses which tended to address the question in the most general terms. Some responses demonstrated confusion about the topic and wrote instead about conservation and projects to improve soil quality and prevent erosion.

Section B

Question 4

- (a) The best responses showed how changing patterns of work were affecting women's lives in Nepal. The most frequently encountered issues included migration by men leaving women to take on different roles from what has traditionally been expected, changing patterns of family life, such as marrying later and having fewer children, and the impact of developing educational opportunities for women. A few of the most effective responses differentiated between the experience of women in rural and urban areas and, to a lesser extent, in terms of region within Nepal. While most responses addressed changes in women's lives, it was less common to see answers which made effective links between both elements of the question. This was the main weakness in answers. Some weaker responses took the question as an opportunity to write about the position of women in society, often focusing on gender inequality instead.
- (b) The most effective responses understood that the abolition of child labour was important for Nepal but also considered that children working was still an important source of income for some families

in some areas. The most frequently discussed aspects were that children worked less frequently in Nepal, largely because of increased educational opportunities. Balanced answers generally recognised that poverty, illness or crisis in families, and barriers to education meant that some children still worked. The very best responses showed a nuanced approach which differentiated between areas of Nepal, seeing that in rural communities children continue to help with harvesting and caring for animals while their counterparts in urban areas were less likely to be employed. Most answers considered that child labour was less prevalent in Nepal, but some were unbalanced and lacked detail.

Question 5

- (a) The best responses offered a range of ways in which modern communication technology could be used to help protect Nepal's diverse cultural and linguistic traditions. Most answers pointed out the opportunities afforded by social media platforms as a way of sharing information about different cultural practices. Some considered the use of radio and television as a method to promote linguistic diversity with programmes being made and broadcast in specific languages. Some discussed other ways that digital technology could be used to record and preserve cultural traditions. A few supported their answers with reference to specific examples, such as different radio or TV programmes or the Himalaya Language Project to show how technology was already being used. Weaker answers lacked exemplification, and some offered a narrow range of suggestions, focusing almost entirely on social media as a way forward.
- (b) Good knowledge of the potential damage to tangible heritage from urban development enabled some candidates to write well-informed responses, using a range of examples. Many responses discussed how air pollution, congestion, road building and housing development could be a threat by causing structural problems and damage to buildings. The best responses considered whether urban development was the most serious threat. The likelihood of earthquakes was seen in some responses as a more significant factor. A few addressed the 'unchecked' issue in the question and argued that with centralised planning and greater control could mean that urbanisation did not need to be a threat. Some responses wrote generally about urban conditions, including littering and air pollution, without showing how these issues threatened buildings beyond making them unpleasant for tourists to visit. A small minority showed a hazy understanding of tangible heritage and wrote limited responses as a result.

Question 6

- (a) Most responses reflected a sound understanding of the reasons why many Nepali people work abroad. The most frequently discussed issues included the desire to work abroad for financial reasons, either to support the family at home in Nepal or to enjoy a better standard of living. Most understood that this was driven by a lack of employment opportunities in Nepal. Many responses also considered the impact of higher education with some arguing that higher educated Nepalis had no choice but to look for work abroad as there is a lack of suitable opportunities in Nepal, others explaining that many candidates go abroad to study and then decide to stay because they prefer the lifestyle. Some answers considered that working abroad brought benefits such as regulated hours, sick pay and paid holidays, although this is not always the case. A few also considered working abroad as a way of achieving freedom from discrimination. Answers were generally well-informed, but some were weaker due to a lack of range in the reasons offered.
- (b) Responses to this question were generally well-informed and many showed a good awareness of the different features of the political elite highlighted in the question. Responses often showed awareness of how upper caste, Hindu, hill region males had come to dominate politics in Nepal. A good proportion addressed the current situation and showed how the picture is changing, especially since the introduction of the new constitution. Some very well-argued and balanced answers were seen which showed awareness of how the new electoral system was meant to redress issues about representation and there was good awareness of the increased role of women in politics. The most commonly seen conclusion was that although politics in Nepal is still dominated by the traditional elites, it is moving towards a more representative system, many pointing out that change will take time. Weaker answers tended to write about inequality in Nepal without a clear focus on the political system. Others wrote about the political system but showed limited awareness of how things were changing, thereby leaving their answers unbalanced.