



Smart Revision QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

LANGUAGES OF PAKISTAN

Q: What steps to foster the growth of Urdu has the government taken? [4]

ANS: The government has taken steps to foster the growth of Urdu. It is the medium of instructions in many educational institutions in Pakistan. A dictionary of office terms in Urdu has been published and steps have been taken to move away from English as the language of administration. Urdu is the medium for radio and television programmes. Urdu plays and films are very popular. Urdu novels, poetry, magazines and newspapers are widely read.

Q: Why did Pakistan choose Urdu as its national language in 1947? [7]

ANS: One of the reasons why Urdu became the national language in Pakistan is its long history. It was widely used in Mughal period and dates back as far as the sultans of Delhi. In its early stages it was used by the Muslim armies and became widely spoken and understood in many parts of the sub-continent. So it was natural that such a well-known and established language would be chosen.

Another reason for Urdu being chosen was its high status. Some of the finest early poets such as Amir Khusrou wrote in Urdu and Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's school at Aligarh became a centre for Urdu study. Many religious books, including the Quran, were translated into Urdu. So it was considered an important language with a rich literary tradition.

Perhaps the major reason for Urdu being chosen was the fact that it was so closely associated with the Pakistan Movement. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan supported it and the Muslim league was formed not only to defend Muslim interests, but also to protect Urdu. The Quaid-e-Azam was particularly keen to promote Urdu as he saw it was it as a unifying force. Since Pakistan was a new country, it was very appropriate to pick a language which had played a part in unifying Muslims.

Q: How successful has been the promotion of local languages in Pakistan since 1947? Give reasons for your answer. [14]

ANS: Since 1947, the Pakistan government has taken strong measures for the development and promotion of its regional languages, Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashto and



Balochi, though some others like Brohi, Persian, Kashmiri and Siraiki are also spoken.

Punjabi, which is widely understood in Punjab, Azad Kashmir and few areas of N.W.F.P, has been promoted by the Govt. through media. Punjabi films, dramas and theatres have been become very popular. Newspaper, journals and magazines have also been very significant in promoting Punjabi culture & literature. New poets and writers like Munir Niazi, Ahmad Rahi, S.Kunjahi, Ashfaq Ahmad, Bano Qudsia and others have produce master pieces of poetry and writings in Punjabi. The Holy Quran has also been translated into Punjabi by M.Ali Faiq. Punjabi is taught up to MA level in Punjab University and Punjab Academy has translated and produced many books in Punjabi. This way round its promotion is quite significant.

Pashto, language spoken in N.W.F.P, has also been given due important in promotion and development. Peshawar University was established after 3 year of independence where Pashto is taught up to MA level. Pashto Academy was set up in 1954 which has prepared a well-renowned dictionary under Maulana A.Qadir. Pashto dramas and films have also gained importance. Pashto papers, journals and books have also helped Pashto language to promote. New writers & poets have also added to this contribution by producing classic poetry and stories Pashto typewriter has also been prepared. Hence Pashto has greatly been promoted over the year.

Sindhi, spoken in Sindh, have also been nourished and nurtured through promotion and development since 1947. Sindhi literary board was set up in 1948 which had produced many books with coordination of poets like F.N Bux and G. Allone. Sindhi library in Karachi has helped Sindhi literature spread. Many folk writings have also been produced. Bazm-e-Talib-ul-Muola have been set up which translates books into Sindhi. Sindhiology Dept. in Jamshoro University and development & promotion of Sindhi literature and culture through modern means. Example: TV, radio, newspapers e.t.c.

Balochi language which was at its decline before partition was given special attention for its promotion. Radio Pak Karachi now also broadcast in Balochi. Quetta TV centre have been producing marvelous dramas to help, develop and translate many books to Balochi and new poets like Atta Shad and writers have greatly contributed towards its promotion.

Thus, Pakistan has been very successful in promotion of its local languages. These languages have developed a lot due to Government policies designed for this

purpose. On the other hand, poets & writers have also aided in this promotion and development.

Q: How successful has Pakistan been in promoting its regional languages? [14]

ANS: Since 1947, the Pakistan government has taken strong measures for the development and promotion of its regional languages, Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashto and Balochi, though some others like Brohi, Persian, Kashmiri and Siraiki are also spoken.

Punjabi, which is widely understood in Punjab, Azad Kashmir and few areas of N.W.F.P, has been promoted by the Govt. through media. Punjabi films, dramas and theatres have become very popular. Newspaper, journals and magazines have also been very significant in promoting Punjabi culture & literature. New poets and writers like Munir Niazi, Ahmad Rahi, S.Kunjahi, Ashfaq Ahmad, Bano Qudsia and others have produced master pieces of poetry and writings in Punjabi. The Holy Quran has also been translated into Punjabi by M.Ali Faiq.

Punjabi is taught up to MA level in Punjab University and Punjab Academy has translated and produced many books in Punjabi. This way round its promotion is quite significant.

Pashto, language spoken in N.W.F.P, has also been given due importance in promotion and development. Peshawar University was established after 3 years of independence where Pashto is taught up to MA level. Pashto Academy was set up in 1954 which has prepared a well-renowned dictionary under Maulana A.Qadir. Pashto dramas and films have also gained importance. Pashto papers, journals and books have also helped Pashto language to promote. New writers & poets have also added to this contribution by producing classic poetry and stories. Pashto typewriter has also been prepared. Hence Pashto has greatly been promoted over the years.

Sindhi, spoken in Sindh, has also been nourished and nurtured through promotion and development since 1947. Sindhi literary board was set up in 1948 which had produced many books with coordination of poets like F.N Bux and G. Allone. Sindhi library in Karachi has helped Sindhi literature spread. Many folk writings have also been produced. Bazm-e-Talib-ul-Mualla have been set up which translates books into Sindhi. Sindhiology Dept. in Jamshoro University and development & promotion of Sindhi literature and culture through modern means. Example: TV, radio, newspapers e.t.c.

Balochi language which was at its decline before partition was given special attention for its promotion. Radio Pak Karachi now also broadcasts in Balochi.

Quetta TV centre have been producing marvelous dramas to help, develop and translate many books to Balochi and new poets like Atta Shad and writers have greatly contributed towards its promotion.

Thus, Pakistan has been very successful in promotion of its regional languages. These languages have developed a lot due to Government policies designed for this purpose. On the other hand, poets & writers have also aided in this promotion and development.

Q: The promotion of regional languages in Pakistan between 1947 and 1988 has been more successful than the promotion of Urdu. Do you agree or disagree? Explain your answer. [14]

ANS: I agree with the statement that the promotion of regional languages was more successful than the promotion of Urdu. Four important languages are Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashto and Balochi. Soon after the partition, the government as well as the learned elite in each province made efforts for the progress of regional languages.

In 1948, Sindhi Adabi board was set up and organizations such as Bazm-e-Talib-ul-Muola and Sachal Sarmast Academy were founded. A number of compilations, translations and works of great Sindhi writers were published. In N.W.F.P, Pashto academy was founded in 1954 which prepared Pashto dictionary. Pashto literature received great attention after independence. Several magazines and newspapers are printed in Sindhi & Pashto and have wide circulation.

Punjabi is an old widely spoken language. Its popularity has been increasing through the media of TV, radio and films. After independence Punjabi, Sindhi and Pashto languages are taught up to degree and masters' level and Ph.D degrees have been awarded for research in these languages. Balochi has also made progress and magazines are printed in this language.

Urdu is the national language and is the medium of communication connecting all parts of Pakistan. Pakistan constitution of 1973 clearly states that Urdu is the national language of Pakistan and arrangements should be made for it being used for official and other purposes within 15 years. But the civil bureaucracy of the country has not allowed Urdu to replace English for official purposes. The popularity of English has eclipsed the promotion of Urdu. English continues to be the office and court language and the language of educated people. English medium schools do not give importance to Urdu which it deserves as national language.

For the promotion of Urdu, Anjuman Taraqqi-i-Urdu, National Language Authority and Urdu Science College board have done good work. Urdu Science College was established in 1964 which was given the status of university in 2002.

Therefore, it is correct to say that Urdu have received more attention and promotion than the promotion of regional languages.

Q: “Urdu was promoted the most than regional languages”. Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer. [14]

ANS: I agree with the statement that the Urdu was promoted more than the regional languages. Urdu carries immense importance for all Pakistan since it has been considered to be the language of all Muslims for 300 years. It was the language associated with the Pakistan movement throughout its struggle with the British & Hindus. After independence it was felt that the language was the uniting force behind the nation and the government is committed to using at all levels in society. Urdu is the national language and is the medium of communication connecting all parts of Pakistan. Pakistan constitution of 1973 clearly states that Urdu is the national language of Pakistan and arrangements should be made for it being used for official and other purposes within 15 years.

For the promotion of Urdu, Anjuman Taraqqi-i-Urdu, National Language Authority and Urdu Science College board have done good work. Urdu Science College was established in 1964 which was given the status of university in 2002.

Punjabi, which is widely understood in Punjab, Azad Kashmir and few areas of N.W.F.P, has been promoted by the Govt. through media. Punjabi films, dramas and theatres have been become very popular. Newspaper, journals and magazines have also been very significant in promoting Punjabi culture & literature. New poets and writers like Munir Niazi, Ahmad Rahi, S.Kunjahi, Ashfaq Ahmad, Bano Qudsia and others have produce master pieces of poetry and writings in Punjabi. The Holy Quran has also been translated into Punjabi by M.Ali Faiq.

Punjabi is taught up to MA level in Punjab University and Punjab Academy has translated and produced many books in Punjabi. This way round its promotion is quite significant.

Pashto, language spoken in N.W.F.P, has also been given due important in promotion and development. Peshawar University was established after 3 year of independence where Pashto is taught up to MA level. Pashto Academy was set up in 1954 which has prepared a well-renowned dictionary under Maulana A.Qadir. Pashto dramas and films have also gained importance. Pashto papers, journals and books have also helped Pashto language to promote. New writers & poets have also added to this contribution by producing classic poetry and stories Pashto typewriter has also been prepared. Hence Pashto has greatly been promoted over the year.

Sindhi, spoken in Sindh, have also been nourished and nurtured through promotion and development since 1947. Sindhi literary board was set up in 1948 which had produced many books with coordination of poets like F.N Bux and G. Allone. Sindhi library in Karachi has helped Sindhi literature spread. Many folk writings have also been produced. Bazm-e-Talib-ul-Muola have been set up which translates books into Sindhi. Sindhiology Dept. in Jamshoro University and development & promotion of Sindhi literature and culture through modern means. Example: TV, radio, newspapers e.t.c.

Balochi language which was at its decline before partition was given special attention for its promotion. Radio Pak Karachi now also broadcast in Balochi. Quetta TV centre have been producing marvelous dramas to help, develop and translate many books to Balochi and new poets like Atta Shad and writers have greatly contributed towards its promotion.

Q: Describe the development & literary achievements of one particular language of Pakistan. [7-14]

ANS: Urdu is the national language of Pakistan. It is said that it first originated in North-West India when Persian, Turkish and Punjabi interacted with the local dialects of Delhi and the surrounding areas.

Urdu language developed a rich literary background which helped to promote its use. Poetry has been significantly prevalent in Urdu for centuries. Some finest early poets like Amir Khusraou wrote in Urdu and Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's school at Aligarh became a centre for the study of Urdu. The Holy Quran has also been translated into Urdu by Shah Abdul Qadir. Due to the efforts of poets and writers, Urdu has spread widely.

Urdu carries immense importance for all Pakistan since it has been considered to be the language of Muslims for 300 years. It is the language associated with the Pakistan movement through out its struggle with the British and Hindus. After independence it was felt that the language was uniting force behind the nation and the government is committed to using at levels in the society.

Q: Described how the Urdu language developed up to the beginning of twentieth century? [7-14]

ANS: It has long been considered that Urdu the language of the Muslims of the sub-continent, developed by combining many other languages. It became widely used in the Mughal period, but dates back as far as the era of the sultans of Delhi. It is said that it first originated in North-West India when Persian, Turkish and

Punjabi interacted with the local dialects of Delhi and the surrounding areas. We also know that at the end of thirteenth century the Muslims armies were using a common language to help people from different areas and languages to understand in many different regions of the subcontinent. As Muslims travelled abroad they spread their language further.

Urdu language developed a rich literary background which helped to promote its use. Poetry has been significantly prevalent in Urdu for centuries. Amir Khusrou (1253-1325) occupies a prominent position in its early development. The language received a boost when Emperor Muhammad Shah and Bahadur Shah Zafar took an interest in promoting it. The latter being a great poet himself. Famous poets of this period are Mir, Saada, Dard and Ghalib. Aligarh Muslim University became the centre for the study of Urdu and produced talented writers like Hasrat Mohani, Majaz and Jazbi. In the early twentieth century Dr Allama Iqbal, Dr Nazir Ahmad, Hali and Allama Shibli greatly enriched Urdu prose and poetry, producing numerous literary masterpieces.

Due to the efforts of poets and writers, Urdu has spread widely. Its link to the Islamic religion has also been very important, most notably with the translation of the Quran into Urdu by Shah Abdul Qadir. Many religious books has also been written in Urdu has helped develop unity amongst Muslims.

In the twentieth century Urdu has played a major part in the struggle for independence. The British made English, the official language of the administration, but some of its educational institutions, such as the Fort William College, took an interest in the Urdu language and promoted it.



LANGUAGES OF PAKISTAN

