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FOREWORD

This booklet contains reports written by Examiners on the work of candidates in certain papers. **Its contents are primarily for the information of the subject teachers concerned.**

ARABIC

GCE Advanced Subsidiary Level

Paper 8680/02
Reading and Writing

General comments

The performance of candidates this session was somewhat better than last year, particularly with regard to **Section 2** of the question paper. However, candidates still require more practice in extracting words from the text which correspond to the meaning given, and the use of the dual case. They also need to develop their ability to express themselves in a grammatically correct way using a wide range of suitable vocabulary. A number of candidates copied out sections of the passages in their responses to **Questions 3, 4 and 5**.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

A large number of candidates did not achieve good marks for this question. Many gave a meaning for each word which was not extracted from the first passage, as required by the question rubric. Examples of common errors are as follows:

أ- تساؤلاته ب- المهمات ت- المؤتمرات العائلية ث- العلاقة ج- السلوكيات الغربية

Question 2

Candidates generally did better in this question than in **Question 1**. However, few candidates managed to score full marks. Examples of incorrect answers include the following:

ب- واتساع الزمنية المخصصة لليث في المساحتين . ج- وبذلك تخلاف إلى هذا الجهاز وظيفتان أخرى

Question 3

Candidates were required to answer in their own words a series of questions which tested their comprehension of Passage One. Many candidates provided correct answers, but imitated the style of the passage. Others wrote in their own style but made grammatical or spelling mistakes. An example of a good answer to parts **(a)** and **(b)** is the following:

أ- المؤثر المباشر في الأطفال قبل هزو التلفاز للمنازل كان الأم والأب / أو : الوالدان كانا المؤثر المباشر في الأطفال قبل هزو التلفاز للمنازل.

ب- مما يدل على قلق الكاتب بسبب التلفاز أن الأسرة صارت مختصرة الشكل، كما أن العلاقة التي كانت بين الأطفال وأبائهم تعددت وتقلصت ، وانحسرت المؤتمرات العائلية حتى صارت نادرة.

Question 4

This question tested candidates' comprehension of Passage Two. It was well answered by the majority of candidates, although many imitated the author's style. Candidates should therefore practice answering such questions in their own style in order to gain the full number of marks available for quality of language. An example of a good answer to this question is the following:

أ- ترى الكتابة المظرة ظاهراً مع التلغاف لأن المشكلات التي تصاحبه أعظم وأكثر من منافعها.
 ب- إن أعضاء الأسرة يستيقظون في الوقت الذي عليهم أن يناموا، لجرد انتظارهم لمشاهدة البرامج المحببة لديهم كما فقدت النشاطات العائلية التي تجمع بين الأفراد، وخسارة الأعمال المفيدة لأنه لا وقت لها فالتلغاف احتل كل الوقت.

Some candidates lost marks because their answers were simply illegible, or irrelevant to the question. Others would have achieved higher marks if they had written the information in their own words, rather than copying out extracts from the passage.

Question 5

Candidates were required to answer both parts of this question in no more than 140 words, although some wrote as much as 300 words. There was a wide range in the quality of answers, from excellent to very poor. The answers which scored high marks were those in which the candidate had extracted ideas from both passages and summarised this information in his/her own style of writing and choice of words, as required by the question rubric.

Some candidates wrote only about the negative effects of television on family life and did not mention any benefits. Others copied out sections from both passages and so lost the marks available for quality of language and style of writing. Many of those candidates who tried to answer in their own words made a large number of grammatical and spelling mistakes and so, again, lost the marks available for quality and style of writing. Examples of such errors follow:

لايستطيع الوالدين أو أحد منهما جلوساً مع الأبناء.
 عليهم أن يشاهدوا البرامج مفيد فقط الذي فيه علوم ومعلومات لفكرتهم.
 لابد على الوالدين أن يضع النظام.

Paper 8680/03

Essay

General comments

In order for candidates to improve their writing skills they should be given practice in writing in a variety of forms, for example writing letters, diaries and essays on different topics and themes.

Candidates should aim at accuracy in the use of grammatical rules and structures. There were many mistakes in the use of gender, singular, plural and dual verbs.

Candidates should widen their vocabulary through extensive reading and writing assignments.

Comments on specific questions**Question 1**

Contemporary aspects of your country

The topic focused on the problem of water shortage and candidates who chose this topic wrote well on the whole.

Question 2

Law and order

Few candidates chose to write about this topic.

Question 3

The media

This was a very popular title. This topic prompted some interesting responses from candidates, writing about the negative and positive aspects of watching TV.

Question 4

The developing world

Few candidates chose this topic and answers on the whole were adequate.

Question 5

Health and fitness

This was another popular title. A large number of candidates were aware of health matters and wrote well about the reasons for, and cure of, certain diseases.

Question 6

The family

This was the most popular title on the paper. Candidates were asked to write about the family in the past, present and future. Most candidates expressed themselves vividly and freely when writing about their own family background.