

Examiners' Report Summer 2009

GCE

GCE Arabic (8AR01/9AR01)

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Unit 1 Understanding and Written Response

General

The paper was fair and comparable to the legacy syllabus 6011 as the paper structure is the same and questions very similar. Candidates performed well generally.

We still have the same problem with language quality despite the relative improvement this year. The problem of illegibility is continuing, either because candidates' handwriting was very small or it was faint. This is especially problematic with (epen). Centres are advised to remind the candidates to write clearly and to write in black pen. Centres are also reminded to use past papers, mark scheme and examiner's reports. Paying attention to rubric is strongly recommended.

A big number of candidates wrote on the last page or on an extra sheet. This was difficult to access through (epen) as it was not scanned.

Section A

Question 1 Passage 1

Majority of the candidates answered well, at least getting 3/5. A few struggled with this question and chosen option f.

Question 2

A good exercise to find synonyms, it reflected the comprehension of the students. However some students did not realise that they have to find the words in the text, or that, words must be similar in structure to the words given; for example if a noun is given, they should find a noun. There was some confusion in 2c and 2d. Candidates gave (تجاوز) instead of (يبلغ) and chose (كبيرة) instead of (هائلة). For part b) a lot of student wrote (العالم) instead of (عالميا).

Questions 3 Passage 2

This question was well answered. However we still have some candidates who vocalized the last letter or guess the vocalization. Some vocalized the whole text. This could be because they did not read the instructions or misunderstood it.

Questions 4 Passage 3

The majority of candidates responded correctly, choosing the right words. A few used TV instead of internet.

Question 5

There was some confusion by candidates, especially in Q5b & Q5e. It showed that some students could not draw conclusion when there is more than one opinion. That may suggest that candidates need to practise different types of texts.

QL

Grammar and spelling are improving. However some candidates lost marks because they copied straight from the text. Some were so poor that they copied wrong.

Section B: Translation

Passage 4 Questions 6

The translation was appropriate to the level of the students, so most did well in this. The part that students made mistakes on was the translation of e learning. Although distant learning was understood in Arabic, many used the term (far learning) instead. Many missed the sentence about the needs of students being met. However most students gained high marks in the question. Very few got marks below the average.

Section C: Continuous writing

Question 7

Candidates related well to this topic and responded very well. Candidates reflected their day to day experience and gave their own independent views. They responded well; covered the first point and justified their answer. They also gave reasons including unemployment, education etc, which showed their awareness of Arab culture. However in most responses, the third point was only partially covered as they didn't give reasons with their answer. The language quality in this question was average. It was noticed that some students though answered well, but used colloquial language.

Statistics

Unit 1 Understanding and Written Response

Grade	Max. Mark	A	B	C	D	E
Raw boundary mark	90	72	61	50	39	28
Uniform boundary mark	100	80	70	60	50	40

Notes

Maximum Mark (Raw): the mark corresponding to the sum total of the marks shown on the mark scheme.

Boundary mark: the minimum mark required by a candidate to qualify for a given grade.

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