



Pearson
Edexcel

Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

January 2019

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced
Subsidiary

In Arabic (WAA01) Unit 1: Understanding
and Written response

Edexcel and BTEC Qualifications

Edexcel and BTEC qualifications are awarded by Pearson, the UK's largest awarding body. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers. For further information visit our qualifications websites at www.edexcel.com or www.btec.co.uk. Alternatively, you can get in touch with us using the details on our contact us page at www.edexcel.com/contactus.

Pearson: helping people progress, everywhere

Pearson aspires to be the world's leading learning company. Our aim is to help everyone progress in their lives through education. We believe in every kind of learning, for all kinds of people, wherever they are in the world. We've been involved in education for over 150 years, and by working across 70 countries, in 100 languages, we have built an international reputation for our commitment to high standards and raising achievement through innovation in education. Find out more about how we can help you and your students at: www.pearson.com/uk

January 2019

Publications Code WAA0_01_1901_ER

All the material in this publication is copyright

© Pearson Education Ltd 2019

WAA01 1901 EXAMINER REPORT

Introduction:

This is the 4th exam of the WAA01. The paper is fair and comparable to previous exam of this specification. It was clear that students are more familiar with this type of exam and their exam techniques improved noticeably. The quality of language was much better than previous seasons, and so was the performance generally. The students seem to benefit from accessing past papers and the SAM.

In general candidates did much better in the 1901 series than in the 2018 summer exam. The most common mistakes are related to verb conjugation and the lack of knowledge of basic Arabic grammar.

Question 3:

This is a gap filling question. Candidates were given a text with gaps to be filled using words from the words provided. The text is about environment, which is one of the topics in the spec. Many candidates responded positively to this question with few mistakes. Most candidates managed to answer this question correctly and got the full marks, yet some candidates seem not to have the knowledge of grammar or the vocabulary because they used words to fill the gaps which do not make any sense, for example; use a verb when they should use a noun.

Question 4:

This is a comprehension question where candidates read a text and answer short question. The text was clear, and questions were to the point. Candidates did generally well in this question. However, in question 4 (c), we noticed that some candidates tended to copy the whole paragraph which includes the right answer; such behaviour suggests that the concerned candidate was not sure about the right answer and would not want to take the risk while pushing the examiner to allocate the full mark for him/her. (in this case no mark would be awarded).

In 4(c) many candidates answered 4 (i) as "نشاط الفريق وحماسته" as one point, then tried to add whatever possible answer for 4(ii). Only a few candidates mentioned (فكرة صاحب المشروع), though it is the most obvious as it is the starting point.

Some candidates did not answer questions 4(d) and 4(e) correctly. With regards to 4(d) most of the candidates were not able to distinguish between the two ways of payment and missed one mark.

Question 5:

This is a grammar question based on text 4 used for the comprehension. Candidates had to use the word given between brackets to re-write the sentence in a correct grammatical form without changing the meaning of the sentence. This is a high-level question and the most challenging question which unfortunately revealed that many candidates if not most had problems with grammar and how-to re-word the sentence without losing its original meaning. Only a few of them got a full mark. Many candidates responded correctly to 5(d) and 5(j); however, they struggled with many other questions. I do think that the reason behind it could be their weakness in grammar and writing style, i.e.

- اختيار الزبون (خروفا) instead of خروفٍ
- يقوم الزبائن باختيار الخروف وحجزه ولكن (لايدفع أو لايدفعوا) instead of لايدفعون ثمنه.

In 5a many candidates did not use the verb in its passive form as required.

5e many candidates did not manipulate the sentence correctly and the verb تم was left in the masculine form after the plural (الشروط) instead of (تمت الموافقة).

5f- many candidates used negative particles incorrectly with the verb.

5g- most candidates failed to apply the grammar of كان correctly instead of writing لم يكن هناك إقبالاً they often wrote لم يكن هناك إقبالاً

5i- many had many mistakes in this sentence like using a feminine verb (ترفع) referring to the word ازدياد الطلب instead of (يرفع الأسهم)

Question 6:

This is another grammar question which should be familiar to students, as this type of testing is used in the GCE exams. Seems to be understood by most of them; however, candidates need to be advised on how to put the vowel on the right place on the letter, not to forget to vocalise the “ ٱ ” too. Few candidates tended to vocalise the last letter in the word only and get it right which suggests that they are capable of vocalising positively the other letters. Some candidates got one or two marks by guessing.

Question 8:

Candidates had to write an article (240- 280 words), about the benefits and the problems that we encounter today in using the mobile phone’s camera. Normally, this would be the most challenging question in the paper because it requires the candidates to use connective and impactful phrases whilst making the essay continuous and coherent. In this exam candidates seem to relate well to the topic of the question. Candidates had to make sure that they had covered all the bullet points mentioned in the question to attain the highest possible marks in this question. Most candidates covered all or most of the needed information but unfortunately some only covered a few of the required information. In this series - unlike the 2018 summer exam - not many candidates made the mistake of writing above the required number of words (240-280). This for sure was an improvement from last year’s exam.

On average, many candidates answer Q8 successfully, however some candidates were very good in communicating their ideas and got a high mark on quality of language, but they did not expand on the subject content i.e. Advantages and Disadvantages of using a mobile phone camera; therefore, they missed marks on content and communication part.

Advice to centres:

- 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.