# Examiners' Report <br> Principal Examiner Feedback 

## January 2018

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced
Subsidiary In Arabic Paper WAA01/01

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## Paper Introduction

This is the second examination of this paper of this specification.
This paper was set to cover all areas of the specification. It consists of 3 sections testing reading, grammar and writing.

Generally, most candidates coped well. Passages were set to be current and of interest to candidates. All passages were from authentic Arabic sources and were chosen to suit candidates of all levels of language.

## Question 1

The topic is current. It is about hybrid cars and candidates are required to match two parts of a sentence. They should choose the correct parts to complete five sentences summarising what is an original text. Each completed sentence is worth 1 mark. Students did well in this question and an average student's score was $3 / 5$, but some seemed unfamiliar with this type of question or did it without looking at the meaning and ended up giving a response which did not make sense.

## Question 2

This is a reading multiple-choice question where students should choose the correct answer for each statement. It consists of 5 questions with one mark each. The topic is food and drink (benefits of drinking tea \& coffee).

## Question 3

This question relates to passage 3, (my language). The topic is education. It is a reading comprehension question. Candidates are given 20 words in the box to choose 10 to fill the gaps correctly. This requires understanding of the meaning of the words given, as well as the general meaning of the text. This question carries 10 marks.

Passage 4, (Djerba the dream island). The topic is (the world around us); tourism. This passage is more complex, and is a good question to differentiate. It is used for question 4 - reading comprehension and question 5 - grammar.

## Question 4

This is a short answers question, where candidates are required to respond to 5 short questions (a-e) using their own words each part worth 2 marks. It required knowledge, deep understanding of the text and good language

## Question 5

This is connected to the previous passage used for reading comprehension. In this question candidates need to demonstrate their ability to manipulate grammatical structures in Arabic by changing the structure of sentences that appear in a previous exercise and reforming the sentence around a given word without changing the meaning. This question carries 10 marks, one for each sentence.

## Question 6

This question is linked to Passage 5. The text is from the topic of youth culture and concern (generations). This passage was used for vocalization. The purpose was to use enough language structures to test candidates' knowledge of grammar as well as pronunciation. Students will be assessed on their ability to apply Arabic vowels correctly on the underlined words only. The question carries 5 marks.

## Question 7

This is a multiple-choice grammar question. This is linked to passage 6, (kindergarten), which is also current, with familiar vocabulary used in daily life. The topic is education. Candidates need to apply their knowledge of grammatical structures in Arabic by selecting the most appropriate word form to fit the gaps.

## Question 8

This is a continuous writing question. Candidates are given a stimulus and 4 bullet points to help them answer the question. The question was about a festival for Arabic culture in a foreign country. Candidates are required to write (240-280) words about the topic. They must choose a country where they hold the festival, giving the reason for choosing the country, give details of the events and how to advertise for them. They should also say what problems they might face and how they could solve them. This question is marked for contents and quality of language, where there are 15 marks for each.

## Question Performance

## Question 3

Most candidates managed to answer this question correctly. This type of question seems to be familiar to the students, hence majority of candidates responded well to this question with only very few mistakes. All parts were mostly quite well done. Except a few candidates used the word مدع يات instead of the word

|  |  | املا الفراغ بالكلدة المثاسبه من الكلمات الكالهة: |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| يكبوغا | الفّوية | بكاوبها | 盛 | السحجدامها |
| الحفظ | 年 | العطبة | منظمات | الثقاثر |
| تعنی | على | الالكمل | b/al | انتغالها |
| 2061 | من | الث4) | زمن | جها |


(a) الميج أن بيدأ من للراسل






 .الاتانيّين....... (0) بين الطلاب ي الكساب للهارات اللفوية.

## Examiner Comment

This is a good example. Students managed to get all the gaps filled with the correct words, scored full mark.

## Examiner Tip

Read all the words in the box and read the text before you start to answer in order to get the correct meaning. You also need to take in consideration the grammar.

## Question 4

In general a lot of the candidates answered correctly. Most of the candidates demonstrate a good understanding.

Most candidates responded correctly to the question. However in responding to Q4(b) Some candidates copied 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.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { اجب عن الأسملة الثلالية باللية العرية. ليس بالضرورة كتابة الجمل كاملة. }
\end{aligned}
$$

(1)
(i)


(1)
(ii)

(2)

(1)
(i)

(1)
(ii)

(1)
(i)

(1)
(ii)


(1)
(i)

(1)
(ii)


Examiner Comment
An excellent answer. Student scored full mark. Answers are very clear and precise.

## Examiner Tip

It is important to note that all answers to the questions come in order unless it is a deduction question. No answer will be used twice. Lifting from the text will not be rewarded if it is too long or does not make sense.

## Question 5

This is the most challenging question where only few candidates got a full mark. Many candidates responded correctly to Q5a; However, they did struggle with 5 g and 5 j . Weaker candidates also struggled with $5 \mathrm{c}, 5 \mathrm{f}, 5 \mathrm{~h}$. The reason behind that could be their weakness in grammar, or they have not familiarised themselves with the new exam.

In this question students need to use the word between
brackets. Candidates should know that in Q5h they have to add ب to أنَّ

اجب عن جميع الأسللة في هذا الفسّم
سوال رقم •
 الناحي اللغوبة إيضناً.
( ${ }^{(2)}$
(مثال) تتصل بالقارة عري طهق شُيلدت منذ العهد الرومايـ.

(1)



(1)

教 ( واحدة)

العادات والثقاليد يُمـتناد منها لتعرين الساتع بالمزيرة.
(1)

左 ( O S ) (d)
(1)
 ( ارتباط) (e) (1)

(f) (f) المعالم التاريخية لما اتصال بالحضارات التق سادت حوض البحر الموسط.






## Examiner Comment

This candidate demonstrated a good knowledge of grammar and managed to manipulate the sentences using the words correctly. Other aspects of the language are also correct.

## Examiner Tip

Make sure that the meaning stays the same. You might need to add words for the sentence to be correct when using the new word. The structure will also change.

## Question 6

Most of the students managed to put the right vocalisation. It was understood by most of them; however, very few managed to get the full mark. In some cases, candidates used more than one sign. Majority were able to score $50 \%$ or more of the available marks. Few candidates tended to vocalise the last letter in the word and get it right which suggests that they are capable to vocalise positively the other letters, but they didn't, so lost marks unnecessarily.

## Question 8

The question 8 , was clearly interesting for the students, you can tell from the way they responded that this is a topic that they are passionate about. Most of the students presented bright ideas and they reflected their knowledge about the subject and covered all points in the question however, a few of them did not answer in detail or not cover all the points and therefore they were unable to gain higher marks.

Many candidates scored high marks for Communication but lost marks on Quality of Language, through poor spelling, misuse of pronouns, and repetition of vocabulary. Very strangely, some candidates were very good in communicating their ideas and got a high mark on quality of language, however they did not expand on the subject content i.e. activities and therefore they missed marks on content part.

Many candidates wrote a long introduction compared to the other points. A few did not understand the question and therefore did not mention how they will participate in the event or suggest holding it in an Arabic country. On average, many candidates answer Q8 successfully.

In general candidates this year in comparison to last session, appear to be weak in developing ideas and seem to have a lot of difficulties in communicating their ideas and made mistakes both in grammar and sentence structure.

SECTION C: Writing

مهرجان الثةافة المريهة
بجهل كثير من الناس الثقافة اللربية

بالرغم من وجود الفضائهات ووسايلل التواصل
صؤال رقم

العريه، تلقوم بتنظيه أتت وأصدقاوك.
يجب أن يشمل موضوعك الثقاط التالهة:

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(30)



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## Examiner Comment

This is an excellent essay. The candidate covered all the bullet points. Candidates showed ability to express ideas in logical sequence. They used a wide range of vocabulary and grammatical structure. Language is mostly correct and appropriate for the task

## Examiner Tip

Read the stimulus, read the question carefully and understand what is required. Read the bullet points and make sure you covered them all.

## Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice, which is consistent with advice in previous sessions.

- For question 1, matching question, read all 8 phrases given for matching before you start. You need to take both meaning and grammar into consideration.
- For all reading comprehension questions, read the text carefully, then read all the questions. For question 4, note that all answers to the questions come in order unless it is a deduction question. No answer will be used twice. Lifting from the text will not be rewarded if it is too long or does not make sense.
- Multiple-choice questions needs good attention, whether they are reading or grammar. Eliminate the wrong ones first then think of reasons for your choice.
- Practice exercises similar to Q5, as many candidates did not know how to restructure the sentences using the given word.
- If you change your mind about any answer cross it neatly and choose the correct one or write your answer.
- Allow checking time within the 2 hours 30 minutes, especially for the written (Q8), continuous writing.
- Candidates need to pay attention to spelling and grammar, especially in the essay question.

