

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

June 2011

GCSE Arabic (5AR03) Paper 1

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Reading and Understanding

The question paper comprises nine questions. Five marks were allocated to all the questions with the exception of question 9 which was marked out of a total of ten marks.

Questions covered a variety of topics from different areas of study. The questions were in English except for the relevant question material which was in the target language.

To show reading comprehension ability, candidates were asked to respond to a variety of question types by either putting a cross in the correct box as in questions 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, filling in a form in English as in question 2 or answering questions about an Arabic text in English as in question 9.

In comparison to the previous specification, rubrics and instructions to candidates are in English. Question 9 required candidates to respond to questions in English about an Arabic text as in the previous specification.

The candidates are strongly advised to read the text in Arabic very carefully and make sure they understand all the information in it. When they are answering they should make sure that they are able to understand the question in English or the target language very well. This way, they will be able to obtain a good mark.

With the exception of a very few who had some difficulties understanding the task in English, candidates responded well to demands according to their actual ability.

To avoid losing marks unnecessarily, candidates are advised to observe the following points:

- If the question requires a letter of a correct item to be selected, avoid giving more than one. No marks are awarded to answers with more than one letter in their answer.
- If you make a mistake, place a clear line through your incorrect answer and write your correct answer next to it.
- No marks are awarded to an answer with more than one cross in a multiple choice question.
- In a 'true or false' question candidates are asked to place crosses in front of five correct answers only. Any extra crosses will result in losing a number of marks based on the number of the extra crosses. For example, if a candidate placed six crosses in front of six items and he /she had four correct answers out of the six, the examiner will award three marks after deducting one mark for the extra cross.
- Question 9 requires candidates to respond in English, therefore any answer in the target language will not be marked and hence no marks awarded to it. Also, the candidates should be aware of the two part question and attempt to answer both.

Grade Boundaries

The modern foreign languages specifications share a common design, but the assessments in different languages are not identical. Grade boundaries at unit level reflect these differences in assessments, ensuring that candidate outcomes across these specifications are comparable at specification level.

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link: <http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>

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