

Examiners' Report /
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2012

GCSE Arabic (5AR01) Paper 01

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Q1: Directions

This question was targeted at grade G. The majority of candidates accessed the marks available, except for Q1(ii), where nearly 26% of candidates answered incorrectly. The correct answer was (A) near the town centre and not (B) far from the town centre or (C) at the town centre.

Q2: Visitor information

This question tested knowledge of the days of the week, numbers (cardinal as in fees, ordinal as in telling the time) and, finally, the word for hotels **فنادق**. In the last item, Q2(d), over 46% of candidates chose the incorrect answer. The "four or five star" definition for hotels which was meant to assist candidates, seemed to confuse lower grade candidates further who gave the incorrect response of, "restaurants".

Q3: School

This multiple choice question combined vocabulary relating to modes of transport, telling the time, school subjects, lunch at school and going back home after school. Nearly 20% of candidates still found it difficult to recognise the Arabic for the time "a quarter to eight". The most accessible item was Q3(i) Sarah goes to school, (B) by car. Only 2.5% of candidates answered this question incorrectly.

Q4: What have they done?

This question, targeted at grade C candidates, proved a very good discriminator. On average, 75% of candidates understood the different activities in the 5 items.

Q5: Shopping

25% of candidates could not recognise the word for "dress" and only 62.5% recognised the word for "coat". Most had little or no difficulty with the word for "colour".

Q6: Pastimes

Candidates had difficulty recognising the terms for the leisure activities "Boxing" and "Chess", and consequently gave incorrect responses.

Q7: Jobs round the house

The majority of candidates answered this question correctly. Predictably, "caring for an elderly relative" proved the most difficult terminology. Only 84% answered correctly for this item compared with 93% for the shopping item and 96% for the gardening item.

Q8: Summer Holidays

This question was targeted at A* grade candidates and discriminated well, with only the higher grade candidates accessing 4 or 5 marks.

Q9: Weekend celebration

90% of candidates understood that Omar had an enjoyable weekend, and many could also determine where he was and with whom. The finer details proved more difficult for many candidates. Why Omar went to his grandfather's house was correctly answered by only 58%. 37% did not pick up that Saleh was Omar's uncle, and 43% could not give a reason why Saleh sent the wedding video and some of the wedding cake to his family back at home. Candidates who scored full marks for this question, 10 out of a possible 10 marks, were generally grade A or A* candidates.

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