



Examiners' Report June 2014

GCSE Arabic 5AR04 01

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Introduction

The GCSE writing paper tests candidates' Arabic writing skills and encourages them to display their knowledge of the Arabic language in the two tasks that they complete.

It is designed to accommodate a wide range of student profiles.

In general, the candidates' performance was of a high standard. Most of the questions proved accessible for the majority of candidates and there was no indication that English words or phrases on the question paper posed any difficulty for candidates.

The paper consists of Section A (Short writing task) and Section B (Long writing task).

In Section A, candidates were required to write 30 - 70 words to answer one out of four questions that relate to the prescribed themes of:

- 1. Media, Travel and Culture
- 2. Sports, Leisure and Work.

The task was assessed for Content and Communication (10 marks) and Knowledge and Application of Language (10 marks). The maximum mark for this task is 20.

Section B requires candidates to produce a longer written task in Arabic (120-150 words) in response to a choice of one out of four questions that again relate to the prescribed themes of:

- 1. Media, Travel and Culture
- 2. Sports, Leisure and Work.

In this task, candidates were assessed for Content and Communication (15 marks), Knowledge and Application of Language (10 marks) and Accuracy (5 marks). The maximum mark for this task is 30.

Candidates have one hour to complete this paper and it carries a maximum of 50 marks.

Question 1 (a)

Travel has always been a very popular topic. In this year's paper, 60% of candidates answered this question. Candidates were asked to give a brief description of their ideal holiday.

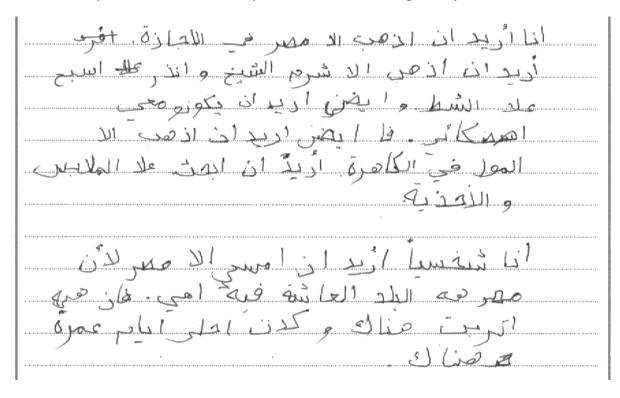
The question requirements are summarised as follows:

- a. A description of ideal holiday
- b. Name of place or country
- c. The places they would visit
- d. Reason(s) for their choice(s)

The wording of the question allowed the candidates to write about their ideal holiday, whether it was in the past or in the future.

This question gave a good opportunity to the less able candidates and they produced some reasonable material here. Only the more able candidates decided to use the future tense when describing an ideal holiday that they wished to experience.

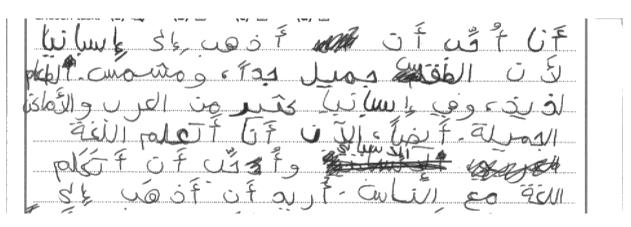
Those who had not travelled abroad were able to describe a holiday at home. Holidays are something that almost all candidates have experienced and this is a popular topic in schools. This may account for so many candidates choosing the question.





This is a very successful response, covering almost all the points required by the question and displaying good command of Arabic language.

Candidates are not marked for accuracy in this section but, by using the future tense, this candidate produced a good piece of work.





A very successful response for content and communication as well as knowledge of language. This candidate obtained full marks.



Always be aware of the presentation of your work.

ايام لتنسه
albe
cos car li an alle
الى المعرب، و الله احب صفر
الى المدين ۴ مركنني الله لين نا
الحو ميرا. الحو ميرا.
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مفر علي بين مرى



This candidate scored 7 for Content and Communication and 5 for Knowledge and Application of Language.



This candidate could have benefited from more practice in answering exam questions.

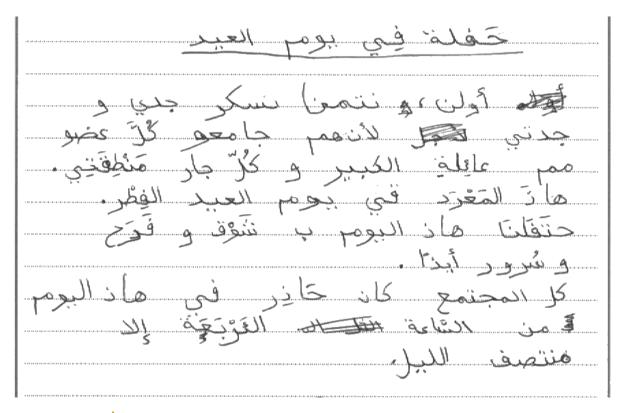
Question 1 (b)

This question was the second most popular in section A. It asked candidates to describe a party or a celebration for a relative. The points required were as follows:

- a. Reason for the celebration
- b. Where?
- c. Description of the celebration.
- d. How much they enjoyed it & why

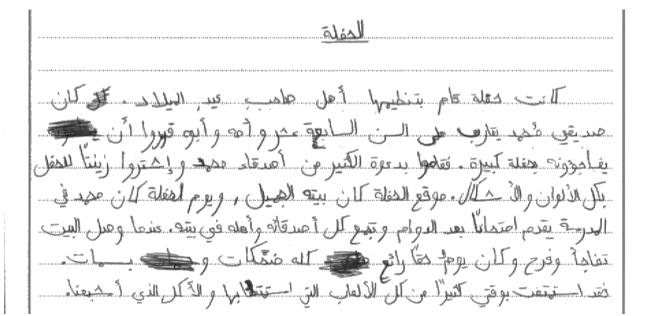
Again, celebrations are one of the topics candidates are generally able to respond to well, as the candidates easily relate this to their own experience of unforgettable weddings or birthday celebrations. There were excellent responses from the majority of candidates and they were able to display an awareness of the vocabulary related to family celebrations. Overall, these were well written and a pleasure to read.

However, this question posed some difficulties to candidates by asking them to write a report, which is a form of writing less common in Arabic teaching. Some neglected to mention if they enjoyed the event, which affected their score.





This response was awarded 7 marks for Communication and Content and 6 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language.





In this question the student obtained a slightly better mark for knowledge of language than for content and communication, as some of the question requirements were missing.



Ensure that you answer all aspects of the question.

في يوم السبت الهاض أنا و عائلت احتفانا

برواج عه من انخطبت قبل شهر و

كانت تريد أن تتبهز لالزواج الزواج كان

في قاعه: "Grand Occasions" في مدينه

بردنجهام أول أنا و دُوات وعاتي و

بنات عهام و دُوت عمانا دفاه الدناء

في البيت طبع كان الجي مدهش و جهيل.

بعد تلك الدفاه بالدسبوع القادم كان الزواج

عزمه ديرة و وكان مسغول جدا"!



In this response, the candidate wrote very good, relevant material and scored very well. It also displays a very good command of the language.



Avoid English words. If you need to include names, translate them.

Question 1 (c)

This was the least popular question in section A. Maybe it was because candidates were expected to have enough knowledge about different ways of staying healthy, and then be able to use the right vocabulary and terminology to express their thoughts. However, most of those who chose to respond to this question were more able and confident candidates who managed to score well here. The question asked for the following:

a. At least 2 ways to stay healthy

b. Their preference

c. Why?

Encouragingly, very few wrote pre-learnt essays about healthy foods, sports and favourite games.

أذا أحب أنعب كرة القدم لأذبها هي رياظة مصرسة و هي لعي
نفدد المحدة العب كرة القدم مع المدقائي في مدرستي و العب
كرة القدم مع أني و أبي في العطرة النهابة الأسبوع أنا أشبع
ألفريني إسباني، ريال مدريد مد (مو أدسن قريق في العالم
الدُ نهر المو فريف منفوق * على الأخراء الأعبى المغظر لمو
كريستيانو رونالدر لأ نهر يسجل أنفان كثيرة و أنا



This candidate scored 8 marks for both Content and Communication and Knowledge and Application of Language.

goly !! mphy dipis عدم الترونين لأنه معنو للفحة.



This candidate shows a very good awareness of vocabulary and command of language. The essay was a pleasure to read and got full marks.

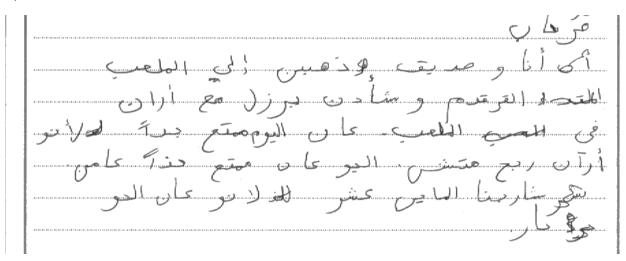
Question 1 (d)

This question was about going to a sporting event. The requirements of the question were as follows:

- a. Email format to a friend
- b. Mention someone they went with
- c. What they saw
- d. How much they enjoyed it
- e. Why?

Very able candidates were able to produce a good level of response, but less able candidates misunderstood the task assuming that they were supposed to write about sports in general.

There was slight confusion as to whether to describe what they saw, rather than describe the sport event, but candidates were not marked down for that.





Overall this was not a fully successful answer.

The student has managed to communicate to some degree; however there is a failure to write the essay in good language.



Candidates should use past papers when preparing for the exam.

النا يوسف علوان الرياحة مهمة حداً لحمة الانسان لانها تنشط القلب مريق المريق عبد الله من السبع دَميت مو قريق كرة الفتم الاساني المريق ا



This response was of a high standard.

This student achieved full marks for Communication and Content and Knowledge and Application of Language.

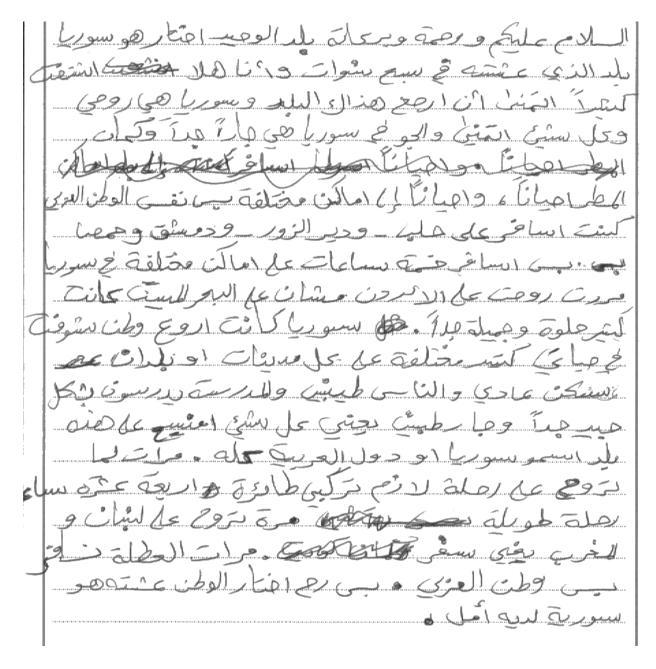
Question 2 (a)

This question required candidates to write about a project to promote tourism in an Arabic country of their choice. The requirements were:

- a. Ways to promote tourism
- b. Which Country?
- c. Their chosen way
- d. Why?

This required extra knowledge from candidates so that they might be able to respond accurately to this question. There were some good essays by candidates who were able to describe different approaches such as the use of internet, TV, radio or the travel agents. However, a good number of candidates, due to their misunderstanding of the task, wrote about tourist attractions, and therefore were not able to score well here.

A few responses answered the question as if it were about a holiday that they had been on, and therefore did not score very well.





The following example missed what the question was asking them to do and wrote about tourism in their own country.

This candidate did not score well for content and communication, knowledge of language or accuracy.



Read the question before answering and ensure you know what is required.

في العطلة العيث معلقة الى العظر مع
أبناء عص - ذهبنا هناك على متن طائرة .
بنينا في بنيت بلترب من الشالي المدة
السبو عين
ير في السيانة الانترتن و المحكمة و الراديو.
فعال هو الدنترنت لانها الناس كنيل ليفضي الوقت على الانترنت و
في اليوم التالث ذهب الى دريقة ديوان و كان بسبح مع عدلقين في البدر.
و كان بسبح مع المدلفين في البدر.
فَنَا عِزْ يَا رِتْ عَدِدُ فَلِيلَ مِنَ الْمَعَالُمُ السَّلِّ لِيلَةً
قَنَا عِزْ بِرْ يِارِتْ عَدِدْ فَلِيلَ مِنَ الْمَالُمِ الْسَيَا لِبِيةً
ير في السيامة كا الناما و لانها الناس المراكلي
الشَّا مِد تَلْفَازِ فِي وقت مُرَاغَى وَ ابِضا الحلان
م يسامحدير في السيالة.
اعلان معم بساء دالناس ذهب الى مذتلف
التلفاء والانت ت الله ين تطريض تا رخي مها ا
التلفاز والانترنت الله نظم المرتبي عكان و تحيية مكان معل الدنيا.
Dil mulse Hilm 1 mig.
الكتاب ايضاً اكلان السيادة و المولية
السيادة.



This response gained 7 marks for content and communication, 4 marks for knowledge of language and 2 for accuracy.

It lost marks for writing about tourism in general and not addressing the issues that the question asked for.



Adding extra words does not always lead to a better score.

العرق العالمي على القصار العلى والمال العديد في العرق في لا عالمان العديد في العرق في لا عالمان العديد في العرق في المرق العالمي العا



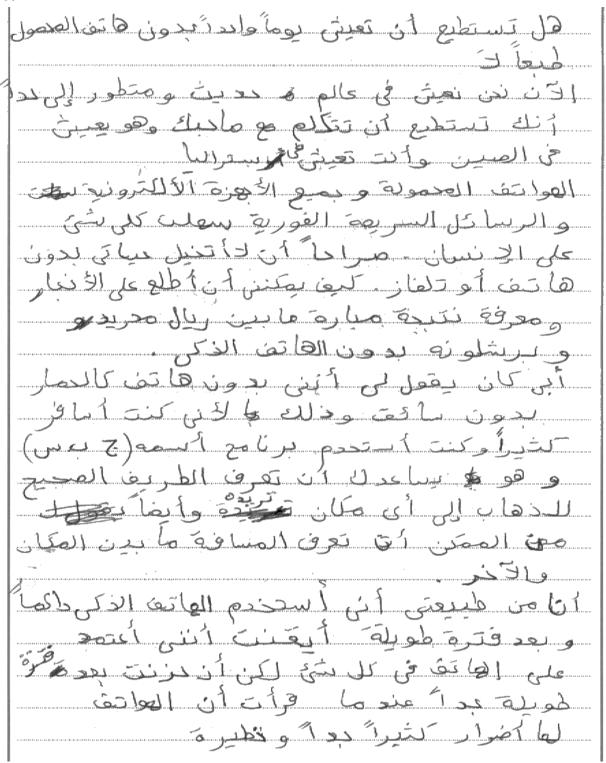
This candidate was concise but to the point, securing full marks. There is an excellent command of Arabic language, satisfying all of the requirements of the question.

Question 2 (b)

In section B, this was the question chosen by the most candidates, as the subject of mobile phones seems to be a popular one. The requirements of the question were as follows:

- a. Own experience with mobiles & text messaging
- b. Benefits or obstacles of that experience
- c. How the application of technology affects their lives

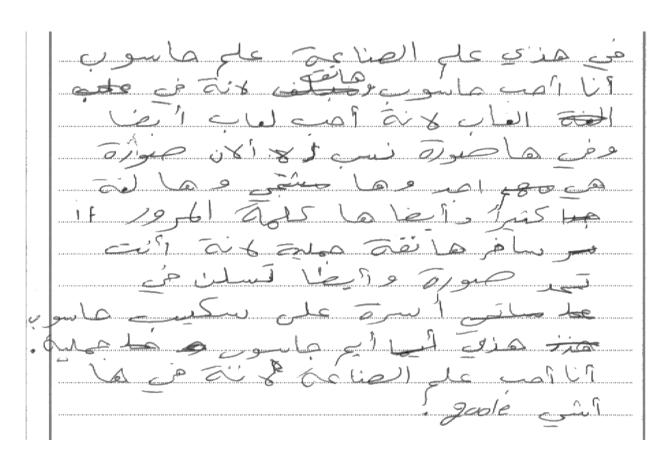
The more able candidates were able to provide good information here. Candidates who used appropriate vocabulary, in well-structured language, were able to secure higher marks. However, the less able candidates were not able to go into depth and describe the influence of technology on their lives. In addition, many of their responses had various spelling mistakes.





This candidate had an excellent command of Arabic language. They managed to include a number of words which describe social networking, were able to communicate fully and write the essay in good language.

This response scored full marks.





This response scored 1 mark for Accuracy, 1 mark for Communication and Content and 1 mark for Knowledge and Application of Language.



Students should read the question properly to be sure of what is required.

الساهم عليكم، ان السهو هورم و سرفا اقتحد على المدام المساه و هرم و سرفا اقتحد على المدام المساه و عرف عمل إلى عالم الله فالم الله فالم المروقات مزعبة بدا بني لي لا المروقة المروقة المروقة المروقة المروقة المروقة المروقة المروقة المروقة التوالية والمراكرة المروقة التوالية والمراكرة لي طبع الأوراق.

المرك المرقة التي حتم السعوا الستفداء هذه المراقة المروضات هو عمر العالم عموالي الألمان و عمر العالم عموالي الملفال تندمه الهالم عموالي الملفال تندمه المراح الم المناف المديدة و المديدة



This candidate has the ability to communicate but needs a little more practice in essay writing, as well as how to answer exam questions.

This response scored 3 marks for Accuracy, 9 marks for Communication and Content and 7 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language.

التقنية الحبيبة



This answer is an example of an excellent response.

The candidate was able to score very well on Communication and Content, displaying confidence in Application of Language and on Accuracy too.

This candidate obtained full marks.

Question 2 (c)

This was the second most popular question after 2b. Candidates were asked to write an article for their school magazine about the 2012 Olympic Games, which were held in London. Most of the candidates who answered it were able to describe the types of sports events that took place in the Olympic Games. Some of them had actually been to some aspect of the games. The question requirements were as follows:

- a. Article style
- b. Different events & descriptions
- c. Their experience of the Olympic games
- d. Inspiration to the younger generation or not?

Many of the responses gave correct, accurate answers with opinions and various personal views as to how the games could inspire the younger generation. Less able candidates treated the question as if it were asking them to describe a sports day, or to write about their favourite sports, and therefore did not respond to the set task accurately.

في أغيطس على الله إحداد النه في الله الله الله الله الله الله في المعلم الميدات كانت ناجعت الله الله الله الله الله الله الله الل
اليوم الذي كال النادي في درطانية بذكرون يحق حرد الدت دود (وهمه محمود) و على ذالك اليوم ثلاث برطانيون فازون الماسليات الذعب و كلاما المعلم النعبي الدادثة كانت مه ها ميش على ذالك اليوم كانت مه ما ميثر و فار مو في ١٢ (طمعة ١٨٥) و ايضا كافان ما متر التا و تعيار فا فار ذلك



A very good answer, just missing out on some of the content and communication marks. It has a fair command of language and so the candidate gained a reasonable mark for that. الأوليا، عاج من هن الحري الأوليا، في حال ها أناني و الأوليا في و المحدد و



This candidate did not miss out any of the question requirements. The essay was a pleasure to read, with beautiful readable handwriting. It obtained full marks.



This is a very good example for candidates to refer to when preparing for the examination.



A very unsuccessful answer, which only managed to write a few words about the Olympics.

This student scored 1 mark for Accuracy, 3 marks for Communication and Content and 2 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language.

Question 2 (d)

This question proved to be more demanding. It required candidates to describe their involvement in a charity programme to raise money for children in need. The following were the main question requirements:

- a. The plan followed to collect money
- b. Who did they contact? (People, organisations...)
- c. Why did they do it and how did they felt about being involved in this experience?

Most of those who responded to this question were candidates who were able to manipulate language, respond fluently and produce good pieces of writing.

The less able students wrote about charities in general and most of them missed out 'the plan' and the people they had to approach for fundraising.

All candidates are expected to understand what 'fund raising' means in Arabic.

الما يمم المالية في مميعة على المالي يومع المالي
عدد العالم عمل بيعثاج مساعدنا عمل الكوميور بيضعهم عمل الاعتبار بيعثاج مساعد الأعلى الدميور بيضعهم عمل الاعتبار العالم المعالم
مناك على الشبكه المراكم المراكم الشبكه
الإنترنت ليشبع الناس أن معلم تعطينا المحابعين المال
ارُّو مساعدنا و لَكُنْ فَي نَشِر الكلمة عن الأطفال من بِعثام
مساعرنا أينا، منا أمِل الناس على الراديول و مانوا مساعونا
بنشر الأطبار عن مذه الأطفال على الرادبول للناس الملك يسمعون



This example missed out on some of the question's requirements but in general it was a good response that scored 12 marks for Content and Communication, 9 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language and 3 marks for accuracy.

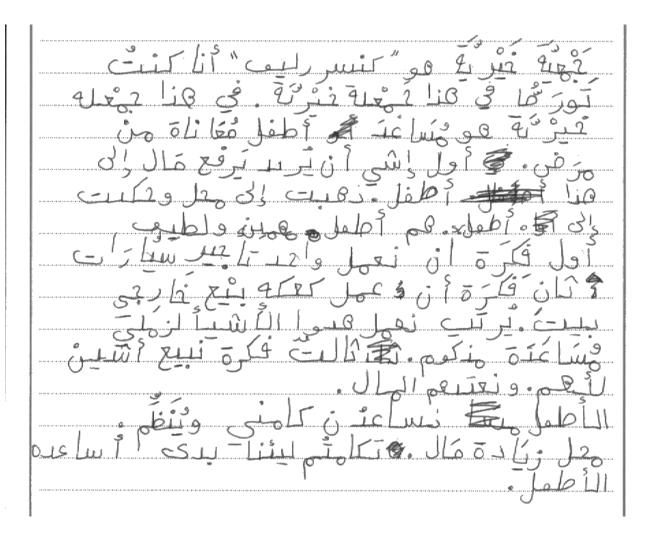
عدة واله ع يك عدة تعلقه كل كم و اللام



Although this was the least attempted question in Section B, some candidates, like this one, obtained full mark.



This is an excellent example that can be shared with candidates as preparation for future examinations.





This is an example of a short response that did not include all the question's requirements.

This response scored 2 marks for Accuracy, 6 marks for Communication and Content and 4 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language.



This student has the ability to communicate but needs more practice in essay writing.

Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- The best essays on this paper were those that responded to the exact requirements of the question.
- The essays that scored the highest marks were characterised by a clear and defined structure, clarity of thought, well supported ideas, good presentation and use of an appropriate style.
- Candidates writing pre-learnt essays will end up with a lower score, as they are not always paying attention to the actual question requirements.
- Candidates are advised to avoid writing English words or literal translations.
- Centres should ensure that their candidates are familiar with past exam papers.

Grade Boundaries

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





