

# Examiners' Report June 2017

## GCSE Arabic 5AR04 01





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### Introduction

The paper was well balanced, offering opportunities to candidates of all abilities to perform well. There was a good range of tasks covering both topics, Media, Travel and Culture and Sport, Leisure and Work. Section B tasks were more demanding and stretching candidates aiming to achieve top grades. Section A tasks were very accessible to the majority of candidates. It was felt that candidates were at ease in making their choice of essay. It was clear that all abilities were represented, ranging from the very confident with excellent mastery of Arabic to performances showing lack of understanding the basics.

This examination paper was designed to accommodate a wide range of candidate profiles, and rewards work from grades G to A\*. It consisted of two tasks; short writing task and longer writing task. Candidates were asked to choose one question in each task out of a choice of four. They were required to write 30-70 words in task one (Section A), and a minimum of 120 words in task two (Section B). Both tasks required writing in Arabic where candidates had one hour to complete this paper. This paper carried a maximum of 50 marks.

Section A (Short writing task):

Candidates were required to produce a short writing task in Arabic (30-70 words) in response to a choice of four questions that related to two prescribed themes:

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) only. The maximum mark for this task was 20.

Section B (Longer writing task):

Candidates were required to produce a longer writing task in Arabic (a minimum of 120 words) in response to a choice of four questions that related to two prescribed themes:

- 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 was 30.

The questions in this examination paper were carefully selected to give candidates a wide choice of tasks through which they could express their knowledge of the Arabic language. In general, the performance of the candidates was of a high standard. Most of the questions proved accessible for a considerable number of candidates and there was no indication that English words or phrases in the question paper presented any difficulty for the majority of candidates.

#### Question 1 (a)

Question 1(a): This question required candidates to plan a group holiday

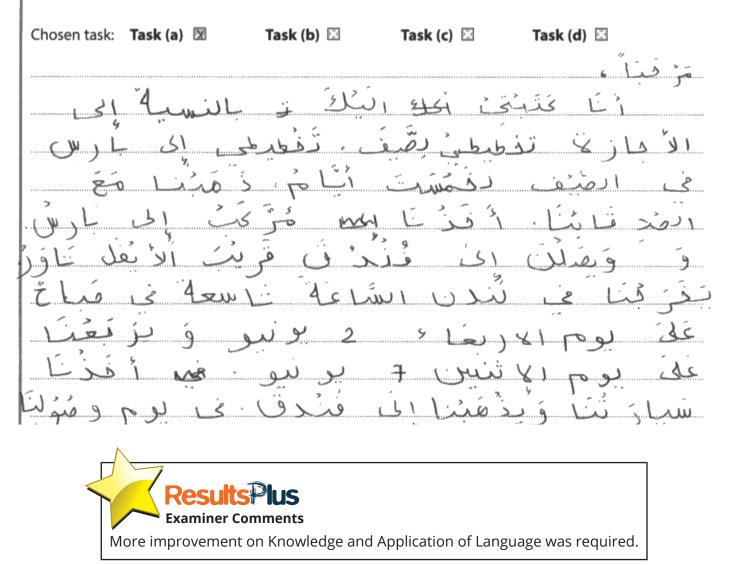
This question was the second most popular task in Section A. Although the topic was very familiar and one would expect that GCSE candidates of Arabic would have had a lot of practice on holiday essays, some candidates preferred to use some pre-learnt phrases from their past holiday experience(s). The majority of candidates managed to produce a good description of their planned holidays. There were many excellent responses with more able candidates clearly understanding all the requirements. They emailed their plan to the group detailing the suggested activities, adding how much they liked or disliked, for that matter, the planning process.

A good number of candidates went on to give a lot of details in their planning but some kept their description to a minimum and sometimes not to include all the details required for example what they liked/did not like about the planning. It was disappointing to see a good number of them missing marks for not mentioning the people they had met on their holidays. Some candidates omitted details on destination or accommodation, where transport requirement was mentioned casually within the writing. Their answers often lacked focus and caused them to totally miss some requirements of the question. Others answered incorrectly by mentioning that they enjoyed the holiday itself rather than the planning process.

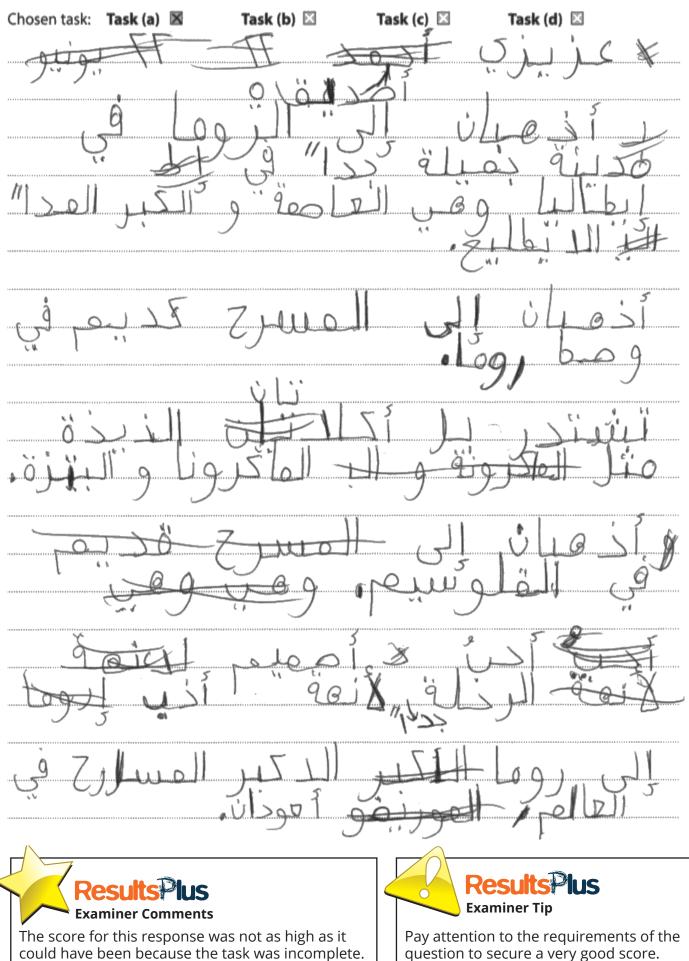
This question like all holiday questions, was rarely left unanswered. But the less able candidates struggled with one or two bullet points. Candidates who didn't understand the question and only knew the meaning of some keywords such as (Holiday), wrote about their own holiday to their friends. They wrote about a holiday they had in the past, or a mixture of a past holiday experience or one that they are going to have in the future. These candidates did not gain high scores.

This candidate managed to mention some of the information required by the question but failed to mention all of them. Their essay contained a mixture of verb tenses, when the expected is future tense, yet they obtained a good mark, CC: 8 and KL: 7.

## Indicate which task you are answering by marking a cross in the box 🗵. If you change your mind, put a line through the box 🔀 and then indicate your new task with a cross 🕅.



The following candidate managed to mention some of the information required by the question. They failed to mention all the requirements, hence they lost some marks. Their score was CC:7 and KL:5.



The candidate used future tense to describe a group holiday they are planning for friends.

Chosen task: Task (a) 🕅 Task (b) 🖾 Task (c) 🖂 Task (d) 🖾 اصريقائح أنت وأسرتك نكون بضد وسلام أصبع القادم أنَ أرف لُمُ فَلَر أَنَ كَلْنَا ر أخى ساطان بنطدرنا آول برد آول م hoi 150 ب إلى 🖽 العرب فندف برج يعد ذالك ستذهب ، صد ( الغرف أغدامنا ീ الع دل **می العالم نانی یوم** 100 ىرج و مي رم النال مي السنيما للتسبو نغ elimiter its aus Examiner Tip **Examiner Comments** Perfect answer for the question, Very successful: Candidate managed to Candidate obtained CC:10, KL:9. provide all the information required by

the question.

#### Question 1 (b)

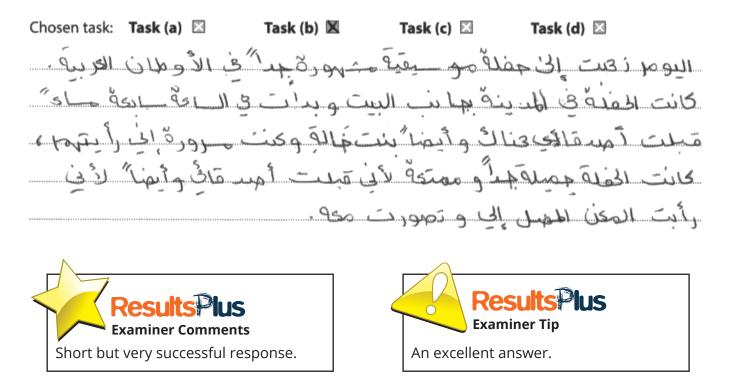
Question 1(b): Describing an Arab cultural event.

This question was the least popular in section A. However, the candidates who answered it were able to meet almost all the requirements. Even the least able candidates managed to gain some marks. It proved to be quite challenging for those who opted to write about any Arab event. Despite being the least popular question of this year's paper, it was answered very well by all candidates who attempted it. Many candidates gained full marks. They described weddings, birthdays, musical festivals and some culture awareness parties.

Less able candidates missed out on scoring high marks, as there was no attempt to answer the last requirement of the question, regarding people they met. They focused more on friends they accompanied to the festival.

Section A required candidates to write short writing tasks that were not expected to exceed 70 words. This candidate's response was short but to the point.

They managed to obtain full mark; CC:10 KL:10.



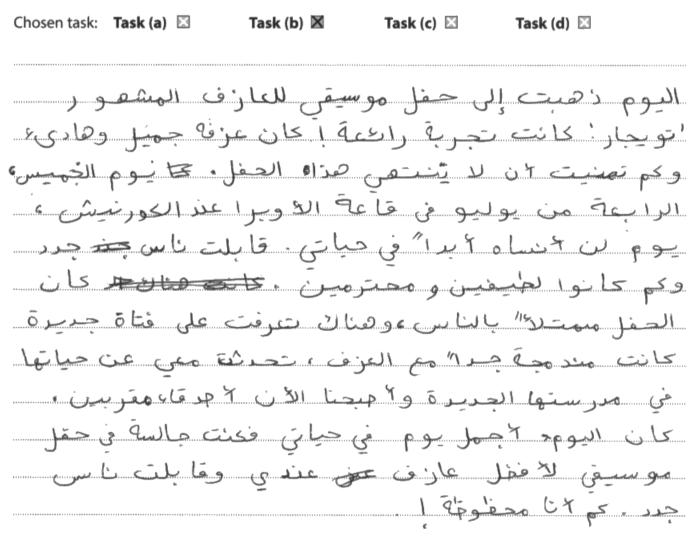
There were some spelling difficulty with this response, which interfered with the communication. Therefore this candidate lost some marks and scored CC: 7 and KL: 6.

Chosen task: Task (a) 🛛 Task (b) 🗷 Task (c) 🖾 Task (d) 🖾 آذهبت الله الله الله حفلت أفتيتاع معلم فيلم
مديد علميد بلاية مرمون الطبان رأيت أللك
تَرْهِينُ إلير حفك أفتيتاع شلم فيلم مديد علمية بالله المرك المتلك رأيت أللك ألتنبر ألفيلم في أحديقاءي هوناك. وفع أفتيتاع ألفيلم في ألد بنة ألموجا ويرن على يوم ألست عند المسلم ألسفة مسلماته 1
e ALÖ
في مفلت افتيتاع ألفيلم رأيت مديقاني
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لقد كان جميلًا جدا.
Results Plus Examiner Comments Results Plus Examiner Tip

Another example where the response was not very successful, but was able to gain some marks.

Work on improving spelling.

The candidate answered all the requirements of the question, including who they met, how they much they liked the event and why.



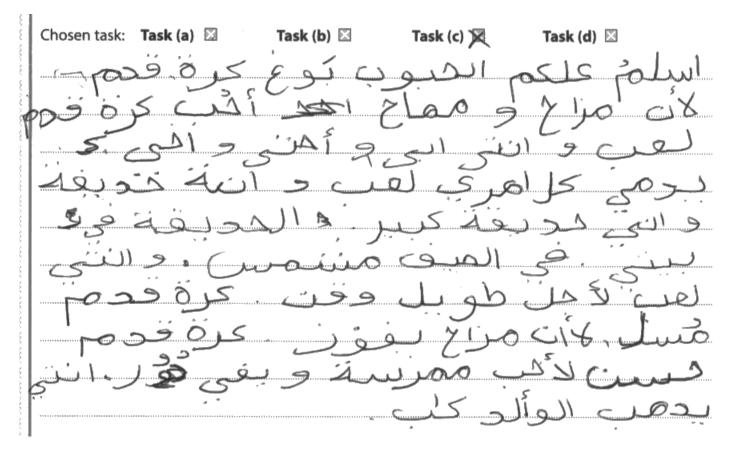


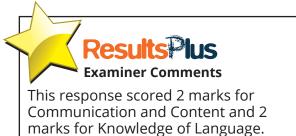
#### Question 1 (c)

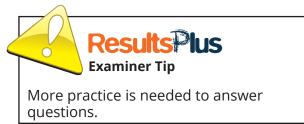
Question 1(c) : Your favourite hobby.

This was by far the most popular task in section A. One can understand that candidates were happy to talk about something they like doing in their free time. For the majority, marks were high for full descriptive accounts whereas others scored fewer marks as they found it difficult to go beyond basic individual words around the subject of activities.

However, the least able candidates managed to hit the main points and gained some marks. It was quite obvious that the most popular hobby for the majority of the candidates was football therefore, almost every candidate managed to expand and explore in their sentences and use some complex and compound sentences. As for the reason for their hobby preference, they wrote nice and sincere reason(s). Few candidates did not mention where they practice their hobbies as required in the question.

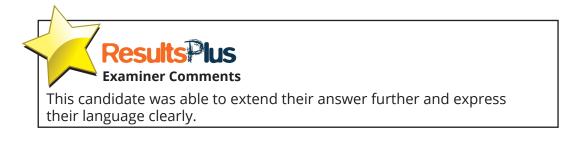






The candidate mentioned more than one hobby and forgot to mention all the requirements of the question. Therefore they lost 2 marks in Communication and content but obtained full mark in Knowledge of language.

Chosen task: 🛛 <b>Task (a)</b> 🖾	Task (b) 🖾	Task (c) 🕱	Task (d) 🗵
ف العِقَبَ لفعل ا شياء	ينا الكثير م	نا العاكي له	کہا تیاہم ض کم
الوقت الثمينة عي	سعيون هذا	الأشفاص م	محشيرة لاكن بعف
استفيد من وقتي لذلك	مت المع أن	م أما إنا ختر	أثباء غير مفيدة
مستر لأن الريا مَهَ حي	الرباغة بشكل	م من مما ربة	أمامل قررالمستطل
تجسب عربيا منتي العفطة	على صدة الا	يات للتفاط	من أحد الله الأسا س
برياضات المشهورة			
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ف القرال 6 لطاليا	ج تعلم غن	فوايت الأفرى	و الداريس كم اما
ال ولا ي الله يتسبح	ب من عُنون القَرّ	لِ نادي لتعلم ة	اردت از اشترد م
ار ، ما الله وأخير أ حوايت	مشاورة الغيريوا	فوالتعلم عن علريق	بي العظ فكان البيل ا
خوز اللغوية وأعلم منها	الكثير من ال	have an stin	الثالثة مي قراءة الك
قرأ كتبتك	کرن تواياي ا	الم أ ترضا إن	التثير من العبر والدى



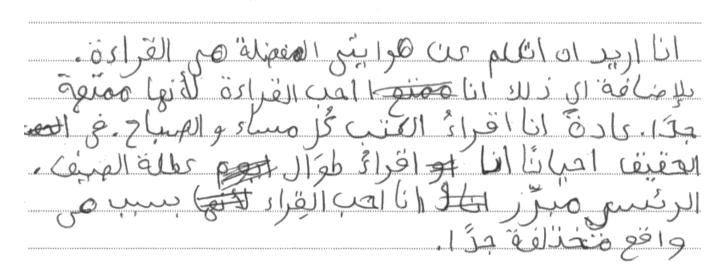
This response was short but there was a good command of language and good on Content and Communication. This candidate scored 9 marks for Content and Communication and 8 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language.

Chosen task: Task (a) 🖾

Task (b) 🗵

Task (c) 🕅

Task (d) 🖾







#### Question 1 (d)

Question 1(d): Describing a sport match.

As per question 1(b), this task was not a popular choice by most candidates. For most candidates who answered it, they applied all requirement of this question. They wrote good details of their experience and feeling(s) about their team losing the match. The majority expanded on vocabularies and gave nice explanation to why they felt angry or sad.

The less able candidates found it difficult to describe the match, given that this was a short essay, some were unable to express their feelings adequately.

Despite the missing information the candidate was able to obtain a fair score. CC:6 & KL:4.

Chosen task:	Task (a) 🛛	Task (b) 🖾	Task (c) 🗵	Task (d) 🗷	-
	Ķ	je je je	- 10 - 2007 h		
قد مع وتصحط		ي مبات		انا واست	
الدىسمى	می دور ا یق ایسیا	اورابا کے	ي ي بطونه بار مديد	ایتیستر سیتر بار دود ا	0 
پ و س	_ والهد فر مصل يق	ریال صربے یق مانا کشت	ا-0 دي يب في القر	میں تمنی ل	رو <del>تاریخ</del>
	والميار.	pues lo los	جنل حجبر د	ا فريقي المغ	15
	Results Plus			Results Plus kaminer Tip	
Candidate	es should practice	writing essays.	Work on sp	pelling and handwriting	g.

A very successful answer; it satisfied all the requirements of the question and had excellent command of Arabic language, obtaining full marks.

Chosen task: Task (a) 🖾 Task (b) 🖾 Task (c) 🖾 Task (d) 📓 الممد II àl ia, ä الحد ġ Elmal & Talding Inda Ø \_\_\_\_\_\_ ......Q ép: è اللحبية. في )91 \_\_\_\_ بعر ġ ġ  $c^{\prime}$ 1 30 - Site 121 cit. ~ Cil Ja فبخ ä c1 . 11 m ġ eal. 1 **Examiner Comments** 

This is a good example to use as reading material for candidates.

The response lost marks as a result of the deviation. It is important to read well into the question before answering in order not to lose marks. This candidate scored 6 marks for Communication and Content and 5 marks for Knowledge of Language.

Task (d) 🕅 Task (b) 🖾 Chosen task: Task (a) Task (c) 🖾 ຄູ່ ເ Manchesteru 0 Uni Kul husca С JUL Manchus , Monthis ki (iniki 

Results Lus Examiner Comments Read well into the questions before answering so you know what is actually required. This was an excellent answer. The response had all the information and details required. The candidate had satisfactory command of the language and beautiful hand writing.

Chosen task: Task (a) 😹 Task (b) 🖾 Task (c) 🖾 Task (d) 器× م متم فلون قبل الم قليلة، ذهبت إن ارئ فريقي المفعدل بليرين الكرة القدم، ذهبت مع مديقته رتاج وكنا متحمسين حداً. كان شوع في اللعبة كانت سريعة و متحمسه و فريقنا كان افعنك من الغريق الاخر ، لاكن في اخر دقائق ، افعل لاعب قد تعور وقالوا ان لع يكن عنه إن يكفل اللعب و بعد ما حل ذلك الغريق للالاف السَّدد بدأ أن بخسر لان المفار لع بدن لديم الفار الاعب، فخسروا ، كان شريء حذبنه وانا و صد يقتى خراج الحفاس فسا دينا اعتدرنا وي فأثرين ولاي عذا شماع من تدوقه ديد أن ذفت افتل لاعب



#### Question 2 (a)

Question 2(a): Interview with a famous person.

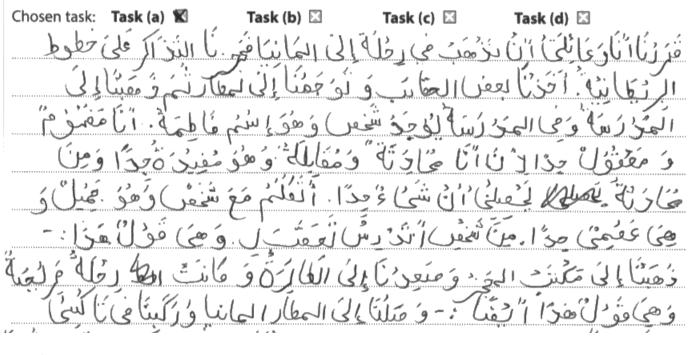
This was the least popular task in section B.

The Majority of candidates who answered this question wrote rather very descriptive interviews, displayed sincere feelings and discussed what they gained talking to a famous celebrities. They were rather mature and discussed the advantages and disadvantages of their interview. A lot of them mentioned a famous star, and also talked about the normal lives these famous people have. The majority mentioned that they learnt to be determined and achieve one goal in life with hard work.

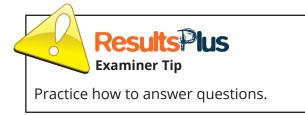
However less able candidates failed to refer to any interview conducted and they wrote about their favourite personality or celebrity. These answers were short and limited, and so failed to satisfy the word count criteria.

Candidate failed to answer the question and wrote a completely different answer to this question. They failed to communicate, which made it difficult to understand the candidate's response.

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







This was an excellent response that scored full marks.

Chosen task: Task (a) 🕅 Task (b) 🔛 Task (c) 🔝 Task (d) 🖾 طبيعية , تند ما أتاني انعال من 1 تتنى كمية تحير . ير العمل , يطلب 🐲 صنى ٢ ن ٢ قابل ٢ حد ٢ شهر كرة القرم م ففر حتى كانت عارمة لأننى لم الم الفرصة من ف اكتم حوعد المعابلة وكنت قلعًا جدًا ركن سرمان ما ذهب القلق عند ما بدات الله بالكلام معه مكانت شع مية لطيفة و , وكان يعلم أنى قلة رفقام بالكلام معى ريكى يبعد عنى الظف مبدأت اللقاء بأستلة عن حياته الكروية. ومسيرته في النادي العالى ركانت أجربته متميزة وجيرة رولقد عرفت من اللقاى الم به يشخص يعب الفكاصة ولديه حسَّ غكامي ما نهيت اللقاء و شكرته على أجويته وسن على الموافقة لحفور اللقاء رو بشکر الی هو ۲یشًا کلی سی مقابلته



This was a perfect answer. Candidate obtained full marks.

Chosen task: Task (a) 🛛 Task (b) 🖾 Task (c) 🖸 Task (d) 🖾 Toolo . يَقَ ر 9 9:43 14-13 91 5 Pu 100 ec ( 11 رعزا Δ انذ وتقت زواح على in 1 0 9 9 - ule 22120 ō 212 9 Λ Up: ilell 4 19 الينيفي في في 9:10 2-



Candidate used dialect in their response, which made them lose marks. They scored 2 marks for Accuracy, 4 marks for Communication and Content and 3 marks for Knowledge of Language.

Chosen task:	Task (a) 📓	Task (b) 🖾	Task (c) 🖾	Task (d) 🖾	
ييري الميتيا المعريون المح طرق	الهيل ال ق اقمال درت لي م	لئا هر م فرحن موه	ب و بيعب ت ممتنع	الحمد الس میں الحمد الحمد کی کی مراجع الحمد مراجع الحمد مراجع الحمد مراجع الحمد	انې انې مع في ا
	Over	<b>Results</b> Examiner Com	nents		

#### Question 2 (b)

Question 2(b): An article about large families.

This was a very popular question. Many managed to "draw on their own family experience". Most candidates liked this question as it related to the majority of them. They showed their awareness, and point of views about having large families and wrote a good article stating the advantage and disadvantage of having or being in a large family.

A few candidates made rather sincere comparison between their friends being in a small family to others in a large one. Some candidates were confused between family and extended family and spoke about aunts, uncles and cousins. The advantages and disadvantages were different, so those who wrote about large families highlighted problems with siblings, such as accommodation and the cost of bringing up a large number of children in the family. Others who wrote about uncles and aunts as part of their family highlighting different problems such as interference, control and jealousy. Despite all of these differences, all candidates agreed that the Arab society is characterised by large families.

It was obvious that candidates were familiar with the topic and many managed to talk about both the benefits and disadvantages of large families. Generally speaking, despite the many disadvantages of a being part of a big family, candidates were all for having a big family themselves in the future. They expanded well in their articles, using various simple and adequate levels of language.

This candidate gave a valid experience in addition to the advantages and disadvantages required by the question. This response scored full mark.

Chosen task:	Task (a) 🛛	Task (b) 🕅	Task (c) 🖾	Task (d) 🖾	
9 <u>1</u> 4	مانناس	فرب الاسمه	ر کے حم	ے التھایتے ب طراح کھلاکھ الد م الت ایس ال	9
	*	ItsPlus r Comments say, demonstrating	excellent handwrit	ng.	

The response included good, relevant material and scored reasonably well. The candidate lost some marks in Communication and Content for not mentioning certain requirements.

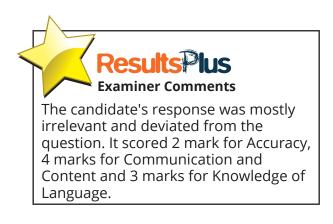
This response scored 3 marks for Accuracy, 13 marks for Communication and Content and 8 marks for Knowledge of Language.

مثل اقر ، الطام 12 Lefe Servine 112 0 اطعام امولاً كثير حداً اعرق مائله کیرہ والدن لیس لے ملا تخبراً لا لا طعام عل العاله و الدري مقول انه نادم Alto Deo ان لا تحتوى على از تصدحت 2 ا ا Zugo lie there I log I witer 2/2/2016. QJJ الكاتب سيهل العبار Hogging . ILIELD ILZUNG **PecultsPlus Examiner Tip Examiner Comments** Despite scoring well, response was read Work on spelling and handwriting.

with difficulty.

الأنس الكبيرة عي أحد حين الدول العربية العربية ... الحن هذه الميزة لعا الكثير من السلبيات والأيجابيات . التي ستستطيع الثعرف عليها عي هذه المقالة .

al's wind his and which it istu Usi 501 J. 52 il while ارد 1 Loba VI 24 21 ...<u>9</u>. 91 د*اج خي* ف وتحتاج الح .....Ő., < 3 کون منالغ الک ار العاد ا م 2 5 العادرين ح





Using past papers when preparing for the exam would benefit candidates.

Perfect essay, which can be used as a sample answer. It scored full mark.

Chosen task: 🏾 Task (a) 🖾 👘 🏹	ask (b) 🗵	Task (c) 🖾	Task (d) 🖾
لعرب التفاعز ماالة بنك	آستر حبالا ا	و عنه ٢	مما هو مده
, on mo sec in	حليق العرب	مع أعتادت	وهي عادة وتر
ころていらいで	لم الله عدان	eto & q	اله سرة العرب
quilão igles Los			
ap الذآتور يزير من	لا بناء حظ	ن آسَرَة ا	الأسرة واذ أ
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يتم الغرب تجعلها	i au	NOWI 5	40 quia
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أد عس محايه	July J	JI ier	الزيراعة في
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اله الكبرة وهي	وراح العا	in or	in inlas



#### Question 2 (c)

Question 2(c): Organising a sports day.

This was an excellent question and as popular as the sports themselves. It was chosen by a good number of candidates as they were asked to talk about organising a sports day. However a few failed to apply all the requirements of the question. Their planning for the sport day was mixed with the importance of the sports, or expressed their love for sport and the enjoyment people have whether watching or playing it. They talked about the importance of sport especially in football more than organising it.

The question was however more demanding for some as the task was to organise the day rather than just describing it. More able candidates came up with a very detailed programme for the sport day. The programme contained dates, times, events taking into account First Aid and Health and Safety issues. There were good examples of expressing feelings and emotions about how they had felt in organising it. Many candidates achieved full marks by producing excellent essays.

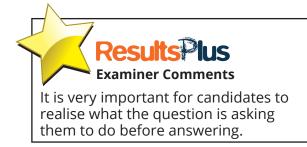
Less able candidates wrote about their favourite sports, missed out on being the organiser of the programme so their answer failed to address the question.

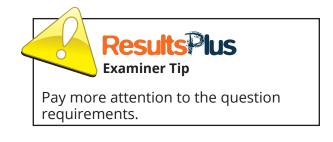
Despite the untidy essay, this response managed to score full marks. It satisfied all the requirements of the question.



This was an example of a pre-learnt essay. The candidate did not score well. The response scored 1 mark for Accuracy, 2 marks for Content and Communication and 1 mark for Knowledge of Language.

Chosen task: Task (a) 🖾 Task (b) 🖾 Task (c) 🖾 Task (d) 🔛 Ju 5 gu g jí Li Li Lin inc 2215. Jil wow lif آدير و آدر في قاتا ط رقم الا ول (رافي ا 0 0 69 11,91 Wa Q 9 -0 1009 9196 COD 71 617 9 09 0





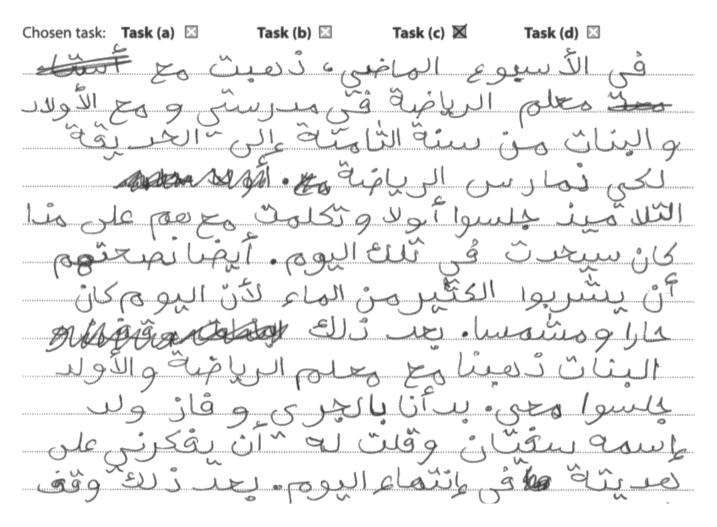
This candidate's response was too brief, therefore they were unable to secure high marks.

Chosen task:	Task (a) 🛛	Task (b) 🖾	Task (c) 🕅	Task (d) 🖾
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This was a very good answer where the candidate gave most of the information required. They had satisfactory command of the language which obtained 4 marks Accuracy, 10 for Knowledge of Language and 15 for Content and Communication.





#### Question 2(d)

Question 2(d): Suggestions to improve school facilities.

This task was the second most popular task in section B. It was about a request from the head teacher asking for suggestions to improve the facilities at school. A good number of candidates who chose this question produced a fair description of school facilities. Candidates demonstrated a clear demand of their own wishes to see changes in their own school. It was interesting to notice that they all have more or less the same wishes, whether in providing more computers, change lunch menus to healthy ones, or providing better sport halls. They also explained the importance and the impact these changes would have on their study.

It is worth mentioning that alongside the more traditional changes in technology and sporting facilities, canteens and food, there were ideas about efforts to recruiting good teachers and establishing extra-curricular clubs to engage candidates. There were very high standard answers to this question. Some excellent suggestions for improved or added facilities included access for the disabled and swimming facilities and the use of technology. Some other suggestions were basic and not ambitious like having white boards instead of black ones.

Chosen task:	+ =		🛛 🛛 🖾 🖾		
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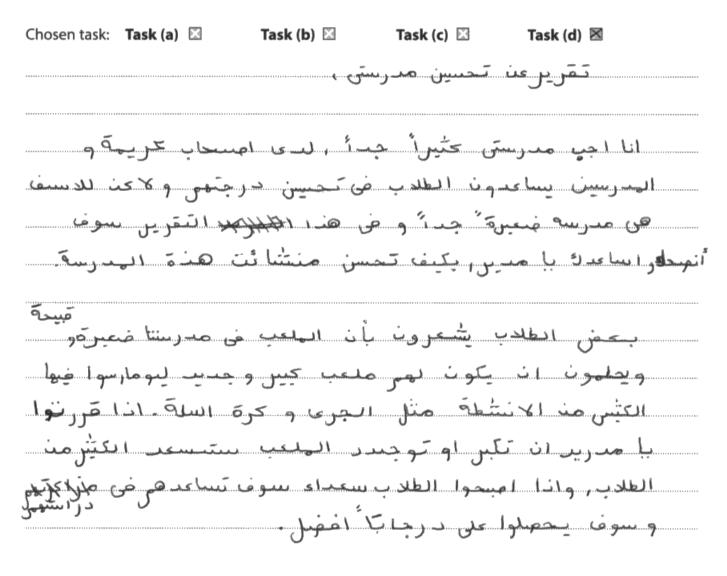


This was very successful answer. The essay satisfied all the requirements of the question and had excellent command of Arabic language, obtaining full marks.

Chosen task:	Task (a) 🛛	Task (b) 🖾	Task (c) 🖾	Task (d) 🔟
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Very good command of language, where this candidate managed to address and comment on most of the question requirements. The score was 4 marks for Application, 13 marks for Content and Communication and 7 marks for Knowledge of Language.





question and was able to communicate almost all the requirements of the question.



### **Paper Summary**

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

- Candidates seemed to be more familiar with the layout of questions than previous years. However, they are reminded to read well into the questions before answering, so that they do not lose any of the information required by the questions.
- Candidates should not write pre-learnt past papers when answering the exam questions. Candidates are advised to avoid doing that as they will not secure full marks.
- Each question consists of a number of requirements. Candidates are advised that when the requirement of a question is presented in the plural form, then they are expected to produce more than one answer for that particular requirement to secure full marks.
- Candidates should use past papers when preparing for the exam.
- The use of English words should be avoided.

## **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





Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru Welsh Assembly Government



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