

Examiners' Report IGCSE Arabic (4308)

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4308 ARABIC - CHIEF EXAMINER'S REPORT

Paper 01

The paper was divided into three parts.

Part one was a 425 words extract from an Arabic newspaper about the publication history of newspapers in the Arab world. The candidate's task was to answer five questions in their own style about the text content. The first four questions targeted specific parts of the text, while the fifth question tested the candidates' ability to give a historical account based on information given in the text. The total marks allocated for this part was 30 marks divided evenly between the five questions.

Part two was based on a book written by a famous Arab writer. The candidates' task was to reflect on the writer's views and ideas, by answering two questions designed to test general reading, comprehension and understanding of the text. There were 10 marks allocated to each of questions.

Part three was grammar test. This part was divided into four questions, examined candidate's ability in the use and analysis of specific grammatical points included in the syllabus. The total mark total was 20 which was divided evenly between its four questions.

It was noticed that there has been tremendous efforts spent by candidates in preparing themselves to this Arabic IGCSE exam, as well as by teachers in preparing their candidates through teaching, guiding and advising.

Part one

In questions 2, 3 and 4 most candidates were successful with the exception of a few who did not use their own initiative and own style. And therefore were not able to access the full mark range.

Question 1 and 5 required from the candidates to read the whole text thoroughly and answer in their own words. Many did so with great success, as far as question 1 is concerned a substantial number of students relied on arbitrary copying from text in answering question 5, which could not be rewarded.

Part two

Question one required candidates to identify the areas which make reference to freedom of individuals in the society. In their own words they had to give a comprehensive account, using the text as a reference. There were examples of outstanding answers, however many varied between those who copied the related areas in the text, and those who were unsuccessful and confused this question with question two of this section.

Question two was about the beauty, health and sports. This question proved to be very popular because it is of interest to young people. A great number of the candidates were very successful in giving a good account based on evidence from the text. Others diverted away from the subject, ignoring text evidence and listed their own personal views, which limited the marks they could receive.

Part three

Question 1 was a direct test of the candidate's ability and efficiency in using words and phrases which are grammatically correct. As native speakers, most candidates used their intuition to answer this question.

Question 4 proved to be popular because it is one of the most popular methods of testing in Arabic schools.

These two questions required a good and thorough study of the grammatical elements and subjects specified on the syllabus. Answers varied between those who were able to give a thorough and comprehensive answer and between those who were able to answer satisfactorily parts of the questions, with the exception of the very few who seemed to have very little knowledge of grammar.

Paper 02

It is in this paper where the candidates showed their language ability and strength. Many students produced very beautiful essays that were easy and enjoyable to read. Students demonstrated an excellent command of Arabic. However, there were those who relied on some pre-learnt sentences and phrases which failed to contribute substantially to the general meaning of their essays. Not to mention that many of these pre-learnt material were used by few candidates from various centres, especially in answering question 6.

The candidates in this paper were asked to choose two topics out of six, and to write around 300 words about each of them. The maximum mark for each was 30. The marks were awarded for content and communication (18 marks), language application (6 marks) and accuracy of writing (6 marks).

Questions 3 and 4 were most of the candidates' joy. Most were able to reflect on his or her everyday habits and attitudes. When answering question 3 some candidates looked at the role of the man and the role of the woman as a husband and a wife without going any further to show their role in the society in general to show their role in the society in general.

Question 6 required from candidates to write an essay with reference to the picture they were given. A small number candidates chose to ignore the picture, and wrote a story about something else. Candidates should be aware of this issue and be trained to give a good account of what the picture might refer to in the form of an essay.

Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
	73	66	59	53	40	28	16	4

Note: Grade boundaries may vary from year to year and from subject to subject, depending on the demands of the question paper.
