

# Examiners' Report Summer 2008

IGCSE

## IGCSE Arabic (First Language) (4308)

Edexcel is one of the leading examining and awarding bodies in the UK and throughout the world. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers.

Through a network of UK and overseas offices, Edexcel's centres receive the support they need to help them deliver their education and training programmes to learners.

For further information please call our Customer Services on + 44 1204 770 696, or visit our website at [www.edexcel-international.org.uk](http://www.edexcel-international.org.uk).

Summer 2008

All the material in this publication is copyright  
© Edexcel Ltd 2008



## Contents

1.	Paper 1 Examiners' Report	5
2.	Paper 2 Examiners' Report	7
3.	Statistics	8

## Paper 1 - Reading and Writing

### General Comments.

The paper was divided into three parts.

Part one was a text extract from an Arabic newspaper about the importance of the Arabic language. The candidate's task was to answer six questions in their own words and style about the text content. The first five questions were directly questioning certain parts of the text, while the sixth question tested the candidate's ability to show a clear general grasp of the text be able to respond to tasks accordingly by giving own view and opinion with justifications. The total mark allocated for this part was 30.

The second part was a long fiction story based on the Arabic book *One Thousands and One Nights*. The candidate's task was to reflect on the event of the story by answering two questions which were designed to test his or hers general reading comprehension and understanding of the text. There were 10 marks allocated for each of the two questions.

Part three was a test of grammar. This part was presented into five questions which were designed to test the candidate's ability in the use and analysis of some of the grammatical points included in the syllabus. The mark total for this part was 20. Questions 1 and 5 have 5 marks each, questions 3 and 4 have 3 marks each and question 4 has 4 marks.

It can be said that most of the candidates were well prepared. Candidates showed better understanding of grammar, by giving precise answers. Some candidates who didn't do well in part one and two, managed to secure a passing mark in this part (i) Questions/parts of questions which worked well.



## Paper 2 - Continuous Writing

### General Comments

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 30 marks were awarded to content and communication (18 marks), language application (6 marks) and accuracy of writing (6 marks).

As in previous years, the principle strength of the candidates this year laid in the variety, interest and imaginative treatment of the topics chosen, which was a clear indication of their commitment to pre-exam preparation. Some candidates showed considerable ability to integrate material from a variety of sources and developed a coherent argument. Quite a large number of essays were very well written showing an extremely sophisticated form of expression, as was seen in Questions 1, 2 and 4.

The most popular question amongst candidates was question one. Most candidates were able to write a letter to an editor of an Arabic magazine describing what they did during their free time. Very few did not realise that they were supposed to write a letter, and fewer numbers resorted to pre-learnt stories or dialogues that were mostly irrelevant to the answer of the question.

The second most popular question was question 4. Many candidates in this question gave good account of the advantages of travelling. Few candidates went on giving the disadvantages of travelling which was not required and could not score well.

Question 6 proved to be the least popular and very few of those who tried it fell into the trap of describing what they could see in the picture. Small number of candidates, as in the previous exam, used the picture to remind them of pre-learnt stories which were mostly irrelevant to the question and were not able to gain good marks.

In general, candidates were better prepared for this paper than last year's.

## Statistics

4308

Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Boundary Mark	74	67	60	54	41	29	17	5

### Note:

**Boundary mark:** the minimum mark required by a candidate to qualify for a given grade.





Further copies of this publication are available from  
Edexcel UK Regional Offices at [www.edexcel.org.uk/sfc/feschools/regional/](http://www.edexcel.org.uk/sfc/feschools/regional/)  
or International Regional Offices at [www.edexcel-international.org/sfc/academic/regional/](http://www.edexcel-international.org/sfc/academic/regional/)

For more information on Edexcel qualifications, please visit [www.edexcel-international.org/quals](http://www.edexcel-international.org/quals)  
Alternatively, you can contact Customer Services at [www.edexcel.org.uk/ask](http://www.edexcel.org.uk/ask) or on + 44 1204 770 696

Edexcel Limited. Registered in England and Wales no.4496750  
Registered Office: One90 High Holborn, London, WC1V 7BH