

Examiners' Report November 2008

IGCSE

IGCSE Arabic (4308)

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November 2008

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4308 Paper 01

General Comments.

This paper was divided into three parts.

Part 1 (30 marks)

Questions 1 - 3

The vast majority scored very well.

Question 4 and question 5

These questions were good differentiators as they required a good understanding of the text in order to score full marks. Full marks were awarded to the stronger candidates who showed a good understanding of the text and were able to justify their answers without listing the answers from the text. Candidates that attempted to extract full sentences from the text were not awarded full marks.

Question 6

Candidates in this question were expected to show clear understanding of the writer's view in the text and to construct the answer clearly in their own words and style. Every candidate who attempted this question was able to score marks. Full marks were awarded to more able candidates who showed good understanding of the text.

Part 2 (10 marks)

Question 1

Few candidates here confused the meaning of 'satisfaction' with 'perfection', and were not able to score high marks. High level candidates were able to explain the importance of values such as 'satisfaction' in their own words. Very few candidates were not able to score marks as they attempted to extract whole sentences from the text.

Question 2

All candidates who attempted this question were able to score some marks as they showed some understanding of the story. Very few candidates attempted to extract sentences from the text instead of using their own words. Unlike previous exams, a greater percentage of candidates were able to give good stories which showed their clear understanding of the text.

Part 3 (marks 20)

Candidates showed greater progress in knowledge of grammar than previous series and most candidates were able to secure good marks.

Question 4 worked as a good discriminator as in previous exams. It showed how higher level candidates could make a perfect grammatical analysis as required by the question.

Teachers' hard work was quite clear through their students good performance and their well organised answers in the answer paper.

4308 Paper 02

General Comments

The candidates in this paper were asked to choose two topics out of six and to write around 300 words per topic. 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). The first five questions are general topics covering different areas of study while the sixth one is a generic picture question which requires the candidate to comment with a story or any other writing style on the details the picture offers.

Candidates this year showed greater interest in questions 1 and 3. High quality and descriptive pieces of writing were produced by those who attempted these two questions. Students wisely went for quality rather than quantity.

It was pleasing to see that students did not use pre-learnt material and instead used their own words scoring high marks. In the past some students have used the picture as a reminder of an event that is totally irrelevant to the picture. Teachers are requested to advise their students to be more specific in their reference to the content and the picture rather than using it as a reminder of an irrelevant event or story.

General advice to candidates:

Write the number of the question you are answering. Organise your answers in the order of the question paper. If you want to add to what you have already written on a separate section of the answer book, please write a note to direct the examiner to the number of the page where it was written.

Write clearly and you should not use tippex/correction fluid to correct mistakes. Instead you may strike a line through your mistakes. If your handwriting is large you should write on every other line. Do not use many colours when writing as this will not affect you grading. Use blue or black pen only.

- When you write the letter (و) do not leave a space between it and the word after it. As in the following example:

الرجل وصديقه, وليس الرجل و صديقه

In this paper you are always asked to answer two questions. When confronted with a choice, take a moment to decide which topic will best enable you to show what you know in focused way. Choosing more than one two questions might be wasting your time and may not be in your favour.

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.

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