

Examiners' Report Summer 2009

IGCSE

IGCSE Arabic (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.com.

If you have any subject specific questions about the content of this Examiners' Report that require the help of a subject specialist, you may find our Ask The Expert email service helpful.

Ask The Expert can be accessed online at the following link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/Aboutus/contact-us/>

Alternately, you can speak directly to a subject specialist at Edexcel on our dedicated Modern Foreign Languages telephone line: **+44 844 576 0035**

(If you are calling from outside the UK please dial + 44 1204 770 696 and state that you would like to speak to the Modern Foreign Languages subject specialist).

Summer 2009

All the material in this publication is copyright
© Edexcel Ltd 2009

Contents

1.	Paper 1 Examiners' Report	5
2.	Paper 2 Examiners' Report	9
3.	Statistics	11

Paper 1

The paper comprised three sections which were to be attempted in 2 hours 15 minutes. As in previous exams, the testing pattern was designed to assess candidates' reading comprehension, writing and knowledge of grammar.

Section 1

Section 1 was a passage extracted from an article by Ahmed bin Rashid Al-Jabri which was published in The Educational Development magazine. The main theme of the text was a moral message regarding a common issue related to school bus drivers. This section was designed to test candidates' reading comprehension through seven questions which covered a variety of bullet points. The text was followed by seven questions which required candidates to respond with answers based on text information and in their own words and style.

The most common questions were **question 1** and **5** where most candidates were able to locate the right answers from the text and hence secured good marks.

Question 2 was set in two parts, and many candidates were able to respond this question correctly. The key word question was "يَنْعَطِشُ" , and many less able candidates found the word challenging.

In **question 3** and **4** the most candidates were able to respond in their own style and words, rather than lifting from the text.

On **question 6**, higher level candidates performed very well. However, some students provided irrelevant information losing valuable marks.

Question 7 was a good differentiator. Candidates of C grade low failed to understand the meaning of the word "يَتَحَسَّرُ" , and lost marks for this question.

The overall performance and responses to the questions were good, and showed good improvement and better preparation than in previous exam series.

Section 2

This section was based on a short passage about a story of a woman who went through two different experiences in her life. Candidates were required to answer two questions about the text. The questions were designed to test candidates' level of reading ability as well as their writing skills.

Question 1 was very accessible for candidates. This question tested their reading comprehension and ability to respond in good language and style.

Question 2 required a much deeper understanding of the text where candidates had to write a short story based on the theme and the message of the text. The most successful candidates were those who managed to write a short realistic story in line with the spirit of the given text. Many of the less able candidates understood the question but were only able to rewrite the given text applying it to themselves, their families or their friends, and therefore were not able to secure the 10 marks allocated to the question.

Section 3

This section was designed to test candidates' knowledge of Arabic grammar. It contained four questions to cover a wide range of grammatical areas. Candidates' answers showed great improvement on last years exam series. Many answers were thorough and reflected a higher level of teaching and preparation.

Recommendations to students:

1. The best approach in answering section 1, paper 1, would have been to have read the text, read the questions and then read through the passage to locate the answers.
2. Since reading passages are drawn from many different disciplines and sources, you may not be familiar with the material in every passage. Do not be discouraged if you encounter unfamiliar material. Questions are to be answered on the basis of the information provided in the passage, and you are not expected to rely on outside knowledge of a particular topic.

3. You should analyse each passage carefully before answering the accompanying questions. As with any kind of close and thoughtful reading, look for clues that will help you understand less explicit aspects of the passage. Try to separate main ideas from supporting ideas or evidence. Try also to separate the author's own ideas or attitudes from information he or she is presenting.
4. Note transitions from one idea to the next, and examine the relationships among the different ideas or parts of the passage. For example, are they contrasting? Are they complementary? Consider the points the author makes, the conclusions drawn, and how and why those points are made or conclusions are drawn.
5. Read each question carefully and be certain that you understand exactly what is being asked.

Answer the questions on the basis of the information provided in the passage. Do not rely on outside knowledge. Your own views or opinions may sometimes conflict with the views expressed or the information provided in the passage. Be sure that you work within the context of the passage.

Paper 2

This paper was designed to test candidates' writing skills. However, candidates were expected to have sufficient knowledge to read and understand questions. As in previous exam series candidates 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). The most successful candidates were those who were able to answer two questions, and were able to develop good and realistic ideas in presenting their own opinions in response to each of the questions.

The most popular question among candidates was **question 4**. Many candidates cleverly linked their answers to measures that can be taken to protect the environment, and managed to score good marks.

Question 2 was one of those questions which require careful reading and understanding. Candidates were asked to explain the statement:

"المال وسيلة وليس غاية في ذاته ، فإن كانت النفس طماعة استعبدتها ، وإن كانت خيرة أسعدها"

And then they should talk about the role of money in Man's life. A considerable number of candidates who attempted this question created their own title and wrote their essay accordingly, distancing themselves from the required task. Thus they did not satisfy the requirement of the question.

The best essays written by candidates appeared to be among those responding to **questions 1 and 3**. These essays were characterised by clear and defined structure, clarity of thought, well supported ideas, good presentation and use of appropriate style.

In comparison to previous exam series, there were less candidates who attempted **question 6**. However, the standard of the produced essays in response to this question was higher than in previous exams.

Advice to candidates

1. Write the number of the question you are giving an answer to. Organise your answers in the order of the question paper. If you want to add to what you have already written on a separate sheet or somewhere else in your writing book, write a note to direct the examiner to the number of the page where it is written.
2. Read the exam instructions carefully. In this paper you are always asked to answer two questions. Take a moment to decide which topic will best enable you to show what you know in a focused way. Choosing more than one topic might be wasting your time and may not be in your favour.
3. Do not apologise for making mistakes. For example e.g., (I worked really hard but I could not write properly because I don't feel well). Such remarks will not help you as the examiner assesses your work rather than your intentions.
4. Write clearly and you should not use correctional 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 your grading. Use blue or black pen only.
5. Do not write in the margin of the paper.

Note the amount of time you have to write your answer. Allow some time at the beginning to plan your answer and time at the end to proofread and correct errors.

Statistics

4308

Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Boundary Mark	75	68	61	54	42	30	18	6

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/
or International Regional Offices at www.edexcel-international.org/sfc/academic/regional/

For more information on Edexcel qualifications, please visit www.edexcel-international.org/quals
Alternatively, you can contact Customer Services at 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