

# Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

## Summer 2010

IGCSE

### IGCSE Arabic (4308) Paper 1

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## Paper 1

As in previous years, this year's exam paper consisted of three sections which were to be attempted in 2 hours and 15 minutes. The three sections were designed to assess candidates' reading comprehension, writing ability and knowledge of grammar respectively.

### Section 1

Section one was an article published in 'Hayati' magazine issue no.11, 21 February 2007. The text was about the first Bahraini female pilot who joined Gulf Air. This section was designed to test candidates' reading comprehension through five questions which covered a variety of bullet points.

The length of the passage was adequate to the task. Candidates with different reading and understanding abilities were able to perform this task in the required time. The text was followed by five questions which required candidates to respond with answers based on information in the text in their own words and style.

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

The rest of the questions were properly answered by candidates. The majority showed a good understanding of the questions, were able to locate the right answers from the text, use their own style and words and hence secured good marks.

Very few candidates found it difficult to use their own words and/or organise their thoughts. They copied wording from the passage and/or gave answers that were not directly related to the text and therefore could not score the full mark.

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 made up of a short passage called 'Start with the Easiest' published on 'Muntadayat Tunisia' Website in 2008. The story was about a prisoner in the Emperor's jail who was given one chance by the Emperor to find his way out of prison before dawn otherwise he is kept in jail for the rest of his life. The prisoner fails to find his way out as he spends all night looking for the difficult ways. In the morning, the Emperor tells him that the door of the prison cell was actually open. The moral of the story is to start with the easiest route or solution before trying the difficult ones. 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 a straightforward test of candidates' reading comprehension and ability to respond in good language and style. They were asked to summarise the prisoner's feelings throughout the story.

Question 2 required a much deeper understanding of 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 story in line with the spirit of the given text. Many of the less able candidates understood the question but were unable to write a story in line with the theme of the given text. Some other candidates wrote a related story but missed out on the second part of the question which asked for the lesson learnt from the story 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' responses showed great improvement on the last exam series. Many answers were thorough and reflected a higher level of teaching and preparation. Very few candidates were weak in grammar.

## Grade Boundaries

Overall Mark boundaries

Max Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
100	75	68	61	55	42	30	18	6

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