

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

January 2012

International GCSE Arabic (4AR0)
Paper 01

Edexcel and BTEC Qualifications

Edexcel and BTEC qualifications come from Pearson, the world's leading learning company. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers. For further information, please call our GCE line on 0844 576 0025, our GCSE team on 0844 576 0027, or visit our qualifications website at www.edexcel.com. For information about our BTEC qualifications, please call 0844 576 0026, or visit our website at www.btec.co.uk.

If you have any subject specific questions about this specification 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/>

Alternatively, you can speak directly to a subject specialist at Pearson about Edexcel qualifications on our dedicated MFL subject specialist telephone line: 0844 576 0035

Pearson: helping people progress, everywhere

Our aim is to help everyone progress in their lives through education. We believe in every kind of learning, for all kinds of people, wherever they are in the world. We've been involved in education for over 150 years, and by working across 70 countries, in 100 languages, we have built an international reputation for raising achievement through innovation in education. Find out more about how we can help you and your students at: www.pearson.com/uk

January 2012

Publications Code UG030180

All the material in this publication is copyright

© Pearson Education Ltd 2012

The January series saw a smaller entry compared to previous examination series. The Unit 1 paper comprises three sections designed to test candidates' reading comprehension, writing and knowledge of grammar.

Section 1 (Reading)

The main theme of the reading comprehension related to women's struggle to gain freedom and achieve their goals. The length of the passage was adequate for candidates with different reading speeds and comprehension skills. The text was designed to test candidates' reading comprehension through six questions which required candidates to respond using their own words and write style, based on specific information found in the text.

The majority of candidates provided relevant responses to the questions. They showed a good understanding of the nature of the questions and they were able to identify the correct detail from the text. Candidates who had predominately use their own writing style and vocabulary were more successful.

However, a small number of candidates found it difficult to organise their thoughts. They gave answers that were not directly related to the text, especially in Q1c. They improvised on their comprehension of the text by using their own ideas and thoughts. As a consequence, candidates were less successful in achieving good marks.

The overall performance and responses to the questions in this section were good. Candidates tended to performed very well in Q1e and 1f, as these two questions required them to use their own style and opinions relating to women's struggle and their fight for freedom.

Section 2 (Writing)

Section two of the assessment is divided into two parts. Part One required candidates to answer two questions on the given text. The questions were designed to test candidates' reading comprehension, as well as their writing skills.

Q1 of this section was a less challenging task designed to test candidates' reading comprehension and ability to summarise the text in good language and style.

Part Two of this section required a more thorough understanding of the text from Part One. Candidates are required to produce a piece of writing based on the theme of the text.

The more successful candidates were those who managed to write a short story about love leading to success and wealth, which corresponded directly with the spirit of the text. Candidates who were less successful were unable to produce a piece of writing based on the theme of the text. Consequently, they were unable to access the full range of the marking criteria for this task.

Section 3 (Grammatical usage)

This section was designed to test candidates' knowledge of Arabic grammar. It contained four questions which covered a wide range of grammatical concepts. It was encouraging to note that candidate performance in this section showed great improvement. Many answers were thorough and reflected a higher level of teaching and preparation. It was also very encouraging that few candidates showed a weakness in their understanding and application of grammatical features in Arabic.

Further copies of this publication are available from
Edexcel Publications, Adamsway, Mansfield, Notts, NG18 4FN

Telephone 01623 467467
Fax 01623 450481
Email publication.orders@edexcel.com

Order Code UG030180

January 2012

For more information on Edexcel qualifications, please visit
www.edexcel.com/quals

Pearson Education Limited. Registered company number 872828
with its registered office at Edinburgh Gate, Harlow, Essex CM20 2JE

Ofqual



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government



Rewarding Learning