



Pearson
Edexcel

Examiners' Report
Principal Examiner Feedback

November 2020

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE
In Arabic (4AA1) Paper 02: Writing

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Publications Code 4AA1_02_2011_ER

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Section 1 – Question/Item Analysis

- Candidates are expected to answer two out of three guided questions. The questions are aided with guided bullet points, which paved the way for candidates to write beautiful essays. In general, all questions were accessible, the three questions were clear and self-explanatory. A majority of candidates wrote correct form of genre (speech/address and article), however question 1 proved to be the most popular.
- Bullet points helped candidates to focus on the main points required by the questions, helped to give them areas to write about, extend their descriptive ideas, and to add the reasons for each point they wrote about.
- A majority of candidates produced essays with good communication, good level of accuracy and most of them successfully managed to use a variety of lexis terms and structures.

Question 1:

This question asked candidates about the benefits of eating a balanced healthy diet. It was answered by the majority of candidates in this examination series. It was clear and interesting for the candidates who answered it; one can tell from the way they responded that this is a topic where students could express themselves well. A majority of candidates presented ideas about the importance of healthy eating and how it can affect our lives. They wrote about reducing the risk of future diseases that can cause psychological and physical problems, especially for children.

There were a few exemplary pieces that achieved a full mark; particularly for the knowledge of language and the sentence structure. Although candidates predominantly were stuck to the bullet points suggested, some chose to explore more benefits of being healthy by avoiding smoking and paying frequent visits to the gym. By focusing on the importance and benefits of sport and physical activity, which is not a requirement by the question, they gave eating healthy lesser discussion. This has slightly affected their final marks.

A majority of candidates mentioned their personal experiences about a balanced diet. Others explained about the importance of family role and how vital it was to integrate healthy food into the early life of children. Others emphasised on the role of media and technology to encourage healthy eating.

A majority of candidates demonstrated various good vocabularies related to their topic, good grammatical level, and accuracy. Some candidates did not answer the question in detail and covered only some of the points therefore, they were unable to achieve high marks. Others scored good marks for communication, but lost marks on quality of language, due to poor spelling.

Question 2:

This question was the second most popular, where candidates were asked to write about a speech to “encourage local residents to donate in order to help those in need”; A majority of candidates understood the task and produced good responses where they covered all the points required by the question. Other candidates wrote highly creative pieces about the topic in a very convincing manner. Generally, candidates seem to understand the structure of a speech and how it ought to be conveyed, except for a few who talked about a separate topic. There was much more diversity in terms of ideas. There were many answers to this question that were very moving and very emotional. Candidates successfully used a persuasive language to encourage and convince others to join the charity that helps the mostly needy people. Some explained the importance of donation and zakat in Muslim lives, as it should be part of everyone’s life and the importance it has in religion. Some mentioned families’ role and how vital it was to set good examples for their children and society. An exceedingly small number of candidates only discussed the topic briefly but did not answer all the question requirements.

The majority of candidates had no used good Arabic and correct grammar in their answers. They demonstrated various good vocabularies related to their project and provided excellent ideas and plans. They used the correct format required (speech), nevertheless, some were inconsistent in terms of addressing the audience.

Question 3:

This was the least popular question for this examination series, where candidates had to write about an invention which served humanity. Those candidates who answered it produced particularly good responses. It seemed that they found this question interesting and relevant. They showed their good understanding of the modern technologies and the positive impact it created on everybody's life. Some of the candidates were exceptionally good at describing how television, the Internet, and cell phones work, and the benefits they offered to humans, using relevant technical vocabulary. They used highly accurate grammar and sentence structure. A few candidates however, found difficulties to do so and failed to provide good responses. Overall, the majority demonstrated that they understood the topic fully, and produced excellent essays.

It was noticeably clear that candidates enjoyed answering this question and wrote about different types of inventions. The responses were extremely focused and allowed candidates to express their writing in a clearly interconnected essays using beautiful linguistic compositions. The majority knowing exactly what they were writing about, which was reflected in the fluency and spontaneous expressions. The majority of candidates stated the various advantages, where quite few candidates talked also about the disadvantage of it, which is really not required of them to write about.

Section 2 – Paper Analysis

It is believed that the assessment this series is of the same standard and level of difficulty as previous assessments. From the information provided above on how candidates have answered the questions, all questions were accessible. Many candidates showed extremely high level of performance where bullet points helped them to focus on the main points required by the questions. It helped give them areas to write about, extend their descriptive ideas, and add the reasons for each point they wrote about. The less able candidates as seemed to run out of ideas, they often resorted to repeat themselves, use irrelevant quotations from the Quran, or Arabic poetry.

1 Question/Item Analysis

As far as the level of comparability between the current series assessment and that of previous series, it is of a similar level of difficulty. There are no differences in the two assessments,

The questions across the two assessments (Autumn 2020 and June 2019) series, had more of less remarkably similar level of demands. As regards, the mark scheme applied, it is generic with slight adaptation to each question.

Current series			
Qu./Item	Specification Topic	Assessment Objective	Feature – with reasons
1	Health	This question performed very well. It was clear and almost all candidates who answered it found it straightforward. Some fell into writing about sport activity as part of a	Most popular question. Candidates responded very well to this question, often giving good information to support their opinion. Most candidates were able to express their opinion regarding the importance of following a balanced diet and the benefits it has in one's health.

		healthy diet, which was not a requirement of the question.	Candidates had the ability to expand their ideas by talking also about the importance of sports in their daily life and how important it is to eat healthy to maintain and to have a fit body. This was the most popular question in this series because it deals with an ongoing topic in their society therefore students felt that they could express themselves well. A few candidates' responses were at a minimal level which was not easy to read.
2	Culture	This was another clear and straightforward question. Candidates were asked to write a speech, which is a desirable form of writing for students.	Second most popular question. It was often answered with a great level of detail by many candidates. They had to write a speech motivating their peers to donate to local charity organizations. Many wrote an excellent speech about the topic in a very convincing manner. Students excel in speech writing.
3	Technology	The least popular, yet the topic is greatly desired by candidates. Despite the clarity of the question, some fell into writing about the disadvantages of the invention, which was not a requirement by the question.	Candidates had to write about an invention which served humanity. A majority of candidates gave an exceptionally good response in this question. Some candidates lacked the focus on the subject drifting away from the purpose of the question resulting in giving insufficient information or description about the invention. A very few candidates were impeded from expressing their opinions which had minimal response and not easy to read.

