

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

June 2011

International GCSE Arabic (4AR0)
Paper 2

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General Comments

The candidates in this paper 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).

Questions were set to cover a variety of areas of study, and writing styles. Candidates' responses and choices of answers were more precise and focused than in previous series.

Candidates' performance:

Questions 1, 3 and 4 were very popular among the candidates. The scoring of marks here was much higher than those of previous years. Candidates attempted all questions, however the least popular question was the picture question, but those who attempted it were more focused and performed better than in previous years. Candidates seemed to have benefited substantially from previous exams. This was shown in their answers to writing questions, which may have been brought about by candidates reading and understanding of texts from previous papers. However candidates are advised to:

- a) enrich their general knowledge through reading different styles of writings from books, magazines, newspapers, internet as well as acquiring knowledge from other media sources.
- b) read and understand previous paper 1 International GCSE exam passages which normally carry valuable information that can be very helpful when answering writing questions.
- c) read the model sample answers of previous years' writing questions in the official Edexcel International GCSE Arabic – First Language student book published in June 2011.

Candidates should be familiar with the format of the question paper. Many candidates used the blank pages to finish their answers when they had run out of writing space. Centres should advise candidates to ask for additional writing sheets rather than write their responses on 'blank pages'.

Therefore candidates are advised to:

- a) adhere to writing on the designated lined pages in the answer book.
- b) clearly mark the question of their choice and answer it in the specified area (lined pages) ensuring that there isn't any answer of any other question in the same area. For example, answering question 1 as well as question 2 in the same lined pages that are specified for question 1 only.
- c) ask for extra lined paper from invigilators should the specified area not be enough for an answer.
- d) avoid writing on pages where it says 'blank page'.

It is important that candidates equip themselves with sufficient information in preparation for the writing exam. Teachers may wish to consult the new Edexcel International GCSE Arabic – First Language student book published in June 2011:

<http://www.pearsonschoolsandfecolleges.co.uk/Secondary/ModernLanguages/IGCSE/EdexcelIGCSEArabic1stLanguage/EdexcelIGCSEArabic1stLanguage.aspx>

Grade Boundaries

The modern foreign languages specifications share a common design, but the assessments in different languages are not identical. Grade boundaries at unit level reflect these differences in assessments, ensuring that candidate outcomes across these specifications are comparable at specification level.

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link: <http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>

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