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FOREWORD

This booklet contains reports written by Examiners on the work of candidates in certain papers. **Its contents are primarily for the information of the subject teachers concerned.**

ARABIC

GCE Ordinary Level

<p>Papers 3180/01 Composition</p>

General comments

The total candidate entry was 501 from 52 Centres.

The overall performance of the candidates was satisfactory.

Recommendations

Candidates should be made aware of the importance of good grammar, especially parts of speech, the use of articles, pronouns, the use of singular, dual and plural.

Candidates must pay attention to handwriting, paragraphing, spelling and punctuation.

When quoting Quranic verses, lines of poetry or proverbs, candidates must ensure that they quote accurately.

Candidates should be given ample opportunities to practise and improve their writing skills including vocabulary and organised logical thoughts.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Letter, Report, Dialogue or Speech

Candidates were asked to write a composition from a choice of three topics;

- (a) *Write a letter to your brother who is studying abroad to congratulate him on his success in his examinations.*

405 candidates chose this topic, a straightforward, familiar and informal letter. Some candidates did not pay attention to structuring the letter and tended to repeat their expressions and greetings many times.

- (b) *You have witnessed a robbery. Compose a dialogue of an interview between yourself and the police officer who is investigating the crime.*

70 candidates chose this topic and managed to write what went on between the interviewer and the interviewee. However, many candidates did not stick to the required dialogue form of writing, they simply narrated what they had to describe.

- (c) *Write a report on what happened when you visited a Bird Park.*

26 candidates chose this topic and were able to describe a Bird Park with their limited register. Candidates should acquire a wide range of vocabulary in certain areas such as names of animals, plants and flowers, vegetables, etc.

Section B

Essay

- (a) *Write about a day that you will always remember.*

226 candidates chose this interesting topic. As they were expected to write about a significant event, most candidates did well. However, some of them exceeded the required length.

- (b) *Describe a wedding ceremony you attended recently.*

63 candidates chose this topic and wrote very interesting accounts on various wedding customs, traditions and religious rituals reflecting different cultures.

- (c) *What according to you is the influence of television on our society?*

118 candidates chose this topic as it is part of everyday life. Most candidates referred to negative and positive aspects of watching television. Some candidates were inclined to express views on the negative points only and described television in terms of corruption. Many talked about it being a misleading source for young people in particular. However, the quality of writing was good on the whole.

- (d) *You were on a school outing. Suddenly the bus broke down. Narrate what happened.*

54 candidates chose this topic, narrating their account of past school trips. On the whole they did well.

Papers 3180/02

Translation and Reading Comprehension

General comments

The total candidate entry was 497 from 52 Centres.

The overall standard of candidates' work was good and the majority achieved intermediate and high levels of attainment in both sections.

Recommendations

Candidates should be very careful about the use of tenses so as not to confuse the past and present, particularly in situations requiring one tense only.

Candidates should be accurate when they translate from and into Arabic.

Candidates must not create a new text which does not exist in the question paper. Examiners were disappointed with certain candidates who gave good Arabic and English sentences without any specific reference to the questions in the examination paper.

Comments on specific questions

Section A: Translation

Question 1

Translate into English

Although the majority of candidates fully understood the whole passage, some of them struggled with the vocabulary. Examples: "Office" was translated as library/table/desk. "Police chief" was translated as captain/commissioner/headmaster. "Sayyidi" meaning "Sir" was translated into master/your honour. Some candidates did not understand the word "aqid" meaning "necklace" and so on. This resulted in the loss of marks.

Question 2

Translate into Arabic

Most candidates understood this passage and translated it into Arabic competently. Some candidates had problems translating certain words and phrases. Examples: "river" was translated into "bahir" meaning "sea". "Holy man" was wrongly translated into "qiddis" meaning "saint", and "moqadas" meaning reverent/sacred. Forest was translated into "ashjar" meaning "trees". Due to the weakness in their register, some of the units which the candidates translated lacked linguistic coherence.

Section B: Reading Comprehension

Questions 3-10

Most candidates successfully understood and answered these questions. Some candidates however, did not use their own words. They extracted the answers from the text and thus gave lengthy answers which were not required. Some candidates misunderstood the meaning of words in **Question 10** and thought that "madda" meant "period" instead of "stretched". They thought that "baqiyya" meant "stayed" instead of "rest".

Conclusion

Examiners would like to emphasise that candidates should widen their vocabulary in order to attain a higher level of translation.