

ARABIC

Paper 3180/01
Composition

Key messages

In order to do well in this paper, candidates should:

- ensure that they answer **one** question from **Section A** and **one** question from **Section B**
- adhere to the word limits specified
- ensure that their work is legible, accurate and logically presented
- ensure that they present their response in the form stipulated in the question (e.g. letter, dialogue etc)
- plan their use of time for each question and allow time for thorough checking of their work.

General comments

The majority of candidates coped well with this paper scoring high marks.

Some candidates wrote compositions that were either much too long or much too short. Candidates should ensure that they adhere to the word limits specified in the question paper.

Candidates should be reminded to write in black or dark blue pen.

Comments on specific questions

Section A – Letter, Report or Speech, Dialogue

- 1(a)** Only a few candidates answered this question successfully. Some candidates answered this question in the style of reported speech. Candidates should be reminded that a dialogue takes place between two people and that they should write their response accordingly.
- 1(b)** This was the most popular question in this section. Most candidates had been well trained in letter-writing and wrote successful answers. A number of candidates wasted many words by using extensive greeting phrases; it would have been a better use of time and words to write on the topic.
- 1(c)** Most candidates could not write in the appropriate format, and offered a narration rather than a report. They would benefit from more practice in writing reports, focusing in particular on how to start the report.

Section B – Essay

- 2(a)** A small number of candidates attempted this question. In general, they gave a good description of the required situation using appropriate vocabulary.
- 2(b)** A birthday party is a familiar topic for many, and most candidates were attracted to write about such an event without hesitation. Generally, they did very well.
- 2(c)** This was a popular question and many candidates answered clearly and logically, demonstrating good ability in narrating sequences and reaching a logical conclusion.
- 2(d)** This was another popular choice, and candidates were clearly very familiar with the topic. Candidates generally presented a good balance between the advantages and disadvantages of mobile phones. Some candidates focused on certain aspects of the use of the mobile phone.

ARABIC

Paper 3180/02

Translation and Reading Comprehension

Key messages

In order to do well in this paper, candidates should:

- ensure that they plan their time for each question and allow time for thorough checking of their work
- ensure that their work is legible and logically presented
- read the translation passages carefully before beginning to translate.

General comments

Overall, performance in this paper was very good.

There were a number of issues with grammar, syntax, tenses and choice of vocabulary. Encouraging candidates to read widely can help them to enrich their vocabulary and consolidate points of grammar. Candidates should try to learn new vocabulary items in context.

Further practice in translation may also benefit candidates.

Comments on specific questions

Section A – Translation

Question 1

This question required candidates to translate a passage from Arabic into English, and many candidates did very well.

The following is a list of common errors seen in candidates' answers:

- The phrase 'a bouquet/bunch of flowers' was translated into 'a bucket of roses', 'a pot of roses' or 'a pack of roses'.
- The phrase 'we rang' was frequently translated into 'we knocked'.
- The word 'bell' was sometimes translated into 'bill'.
- The word 'lying' was often misspelt as 'lieing' or 'laying'.

Question 2

This question required candidates to translate a passage from English into Arabic. The majority of candidates coped well with this translation. Most candidates were familiar with the phrases and vocabulary.

The following is a list of common errors seen in candidates' answers:

- 'last' was translated as 'next'
- 'parents' was translated 'family'
- 'pilgrimage' was translated as 'visit' or 'alms-giving'

- 'studying medicine' was translated as 'studying drugs', 'studying medication' or 'studying pharmacy'.

Section B – Reading Comprehension

Candidates were required to answer comprehension questions related to the reading passage. Most candidates tackled all of the questions. Some candidates lifted the answers from the reading passage without making the necessary changes to the word order, gender, pronouns or number (singular versus plural). The plural was frequently used instead of the dual, e.g. the two friends mentioned in **Questions 3, 4** and **5**. Candidates are advised to give concise answers and avoid writing extra, irrelevant words or sentences.