

# Mark Scheme with Examiners' Report GCE O Level Classical Arabic (7603)

June 2005

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Mark Scheme with Examiners' Report

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## **CLASSICAL ARABIC 7603, MARK SCHEME**

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### **Questions 1 and 2 Translation from Arabic into English**

Each question in this part of the paper is marked out of twenty.

- 18 negative marks, subject to usual deductions for errors and omissions
  - 1 mark off for serious error or omission
  - ½ mark off for minor error or omission
  - Up to 1½ marks off for a phrase or part of a sentence which distorts the meaning of the message in the sentence
  - Up to 3 marks awarded for spelling
  - 4 positive marks for elegance/fluidity of expression
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### **Question 3 Pointing of Passage in Arabic**

This part of the paper is marked out of six.

- 6 negative marks
  - All errors and omissions must be penalised, except that treatment of the definite article should not account for more than 1 mark
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### **Question 4 Translation from English into Arabic**

This part of the paper is marked out thirty.

Marks should be distributed in the following way

- Correct decoding           7
  - Correct encoding           7
  - Linguistic accuracy       9
  - Cohesion/fluidity         7
- 

### **Question 5 Sentences Testing Grammatical Knowledge**

This part of the paper is marked out of 24.

- 3 marks are to be assigned to each sentence
  - Deduct ½ mark for each minor error
  - Deduct no more than 1 mark for errors in, or omissions of, inflectional vowels
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## CLASSICAL ARABIC 7603, CHIEF EXAMINER'S REPORT

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### Question 1

In the main the candidates translated the meaning of the text accurately but some words proved problematic. Many candidates translated the tense of the passage accurately, but spelling caused more problems and some words were beyond all but a handful of candidates. For instance 'governor' (Saeed's title) and 'ablution' (most translated this as 'wash up'). Different language rules regarding the transposition of words were probably responsible for this.

### Question 2

On the whole this question was better answered than question 1 and many candidates correctly identified the wide range of things to fear in the desert. Candidates may wish to pay further close attention to translation of tense, accurate spelling and transposition of words when preparing for this examination. The question also raised some issues regarding the candidates' learning of classical texts from history, novels and religion. In future examination sessions, candidates may also wish to ensure that they give full attention to the nuance between classical Arabic and modern colloquial Arabic.

### Question 3

The majority completed the task well and some responses were excellent. However, some were confused and just put the vowel marks on the end of the words. It is vital that candidates read the question thoroughly and are familiar with the demands of the syllabus in order to succeed.

### Question 4

A number of students failed to respond to this more modern text. Again, specific words created difficulty in translation, namely 'port', 'refreshment room', 'southbound', 'started off', 'depressed', 'late afternoon', 'deserted', 'solitary porter', 'bulk', 'it rose' and 'watch towers', 'shepherd', 'dreadful' and 'final nod'.

### Question 5

In this question, parts (h), (d) and, to some extent, (c) proved most difficult for candidates to translate. Again the need for thorough revision is highlighted by this in the areas of spelling, tense formation and transposition.

## CLASSICAL ARABIC 7603, GRADE BOUNDARIES

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Grade	A	B	C	D	E
Lowest mark for award of grade	69	56	43	38	27

**Note:** Grade boundaries may vary from year to year and from subject to subject, depending on the demands of the question paper.

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