ARABIC

Paper 8680/21
Reading and Writing

Key messages

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

- Expand their range of vocabulary by reading more widely and learning more antonyms.
- Improve on the usage of prepositions. The following are examples from candidates' responses:

أمثلة: 'ينصح الكاتب الناس إلى تعلم الهدوء'، 'ساهمت عن الاستغناء عن الورق'.

- Pay attention to the correct use of gender and gender agreement. The following are examples from candidates' responses:

أمثلة: 'في المنطقة الذي أعيش فيها'، 'إن ذلك الأفعال'.

- Pay attention to the conjugation of the 'Five Verbs'. The following are examples from candidates' responses:

أمثلة: 'الناس يقوموا بزيادة مساحاتها'، 'هم يمنعوا مستخدمي مكبرات الصوت'، 'إنهم يكهربوا المياه'

- Practise use of the correct verb forms, in particular the jussive.
- Pay more attention to verb conjugation, especially with 'هنَّ'
- Pay attention to the correct conjugation of the 3rd person singular female verbs. The following are examples from the candidate's responses:

أمثلة: 'أنتِجة المصانع البرادات'، 'بدأة مع استكشاف النار'، 'إنها أطالة عمر الإنسان'.

- Understand the requirements of the questions, and specifically respond to what is being asked, especially in the summary question.

General comments

Overall, the standard of answers was good and there were some interesting opinions expressed. There was evidence of improvement in the standard of candidates' answers.

Some candidates copied out entire sentences, even a whole paragraph at times instead of writing in their own words. Candidates are encouraged to use their own words and phrases.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

The majority of candidates successfully answered this vocabulary question.

Question 2

Question 2d was the most challenging of the grammar questions, and **2b** was the most accurately answered. Many candidates would do well to pay more attention to verb conjugation, especially with 'هنَّ' and the jussive construction.

Question 3

Parts (a), **(b)** and **(e)** were among most successfully answered comprehension questions. **Part (f)** asked for two **modern techniques** (key words). Some candidates repeated the words used in the question and wrote that traditional techniques should not be used.

Question 4

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There were some very good responses to this comprehension question. The majority of candidates successfully answered **parts (a)**, **(b)**, **(c)** and **(e)**. A good number of candidates encountered difficulty in answering **parts 4(di)** which asked about the evolutionary leaps in modern technology/machines. Many candidates merely repeated the point on the traditional uses of automated machinery in improving production and reducing time and effort.

Question 5

(a)   Many candidates successfully outlined the benefits and dangers of modern technologies and electronic devices in this summary question. Others listed points that did not cover the whole range of ideas in the two texts.

(b)   Some candidate answers contained some interesting ideas. Many candidates wrote very brief answers with one or two ideas only.

ARABIC LANGUAGE

Paper 8680/22
Reading and Writing

There were too few candidates for a meaningful report to be produced.

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ARABIC

| Paper 8680/31 |
| Essay |

Key messages

Essays should reflect the candidates' ability to express themselves clearly and accurately in the target language with good usage of grammar and vocabulary in order to argue the content as well as possible and support this argument with examples to prove their understanding. This was the case with the majority of scripts, however, there was evidence that some of the scripts relied on memorisation and the outcome was out of context. Teachers and centres should support their candidates and help them to be creative and demonstrate the ability to use the language well.

General comments

This is an essay paper for which candidates are required to produce only one essay (between 250 and 400 words) from a choice of five topics. The essay is marked out of 40: there are 16 marks for the Content, and 24 marks for Language Use.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

This question was not popular, and answered by few candidates. Candidates discussed the gap between generations and the responsibility of each generation to bridge the gap. Most candidates who attempted this question argued the topic well and gave relevant examples from life.

Question 2

This was the most popular topic. In this topic they discussed importance of the physical fitness and exercise for young as well as old people. They argued the topic well and gave very good reasons and examples to support their point of view. Some candidates used examples from their own life to prove their argument.

Question 3

This popular question was on the importance of university degrees in order to get better jobs or improve standards of life. Some candidates put themselves in the shoes of the young graduate and provided excellent arguments with many examples and used good language.

Question 4

This question about future inventions was not popular. Despite the very small number of candidates who attempted this question, the responses given were very creative and excellent arguments were provided to support their views on the future of technology. The language used in this topic was full of foreign words however candidates used their imagination to make their point clear.

Question 5

This was the least popular topic. Candidates may have found it difficult to relate to the topic of nature reserves therefore avoided it.

ARABIC LANGUAGE

Paper 8680/32
Essay

There were too few candidates for a meaningful report to be produced.