

# ARABIC

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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

Overall, performance on this paper was good. Most candidates adhered to the word limits given in the questions. Candidates should be reminded to write in black or dark blue pen. Candidates would benefit from further practice in spelling and punctuation.

## Comments on specific questions

### **Section A – Letter, Report or Speech, Dialogue**

**Question 1(a)** 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.

**Question 1(b)** Only a few candidates attempted this question. Often, those who did attempt it did not present their response in the format of a report, and offered a narration instead. Candidates need to ensure that they present their response in the format required by the question.

**Question 1(c)** This was another popular question. Many candidates presented their composition in the correct format, i.e. a dialogue. It was clear that many candidates had successfully used their personal experience when producing their dialogues.

### **Section B – Essay**

**Question 2(a)** The candidates who chose this question generally succeeded in expressing their positive feelings about Independence Day and the activities that took place. They used good phrases throughout their description.

**Question 2(b)** This was the most popular question in this section. Many candidates provided vivid and fluent descriptions. They were able to narrate what happened in detail and in sequential order. Answers generally had a clear structure.

**Question 2(c)** This question was well answered by some candidates. The best answers were characterised by good descriptions of the incident that occurred during their lunch break at school.

**Question 2(d)** Most of the candidates who attempted this question produced good answers. Some presented their essay in the format of a dialogue and others wrote an essay expressing their own personal view. Both ways of answering the question were equally acceptable.

# ARABIC

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**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 on this paper was very good, and was better than last year. It was clear that candidates had taken care over the two translation exercises. The candidates who translated particularly well demonstrated a high level of linguistic skill.

## 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 well here.

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

- The word 'island' was translated as 'valley' or 'peninsula'.
- The word 'ocean' was frequently translated as 'river'.
- The word 'beach' was translated as 'ocean' or 'sea'.
- The word 'earth' was often translated as 'ground' or 'floor'.
- The word 'moderate' was sometimes translated as 'seasonal' or 'normal'.
- The word 'climate' was often translated as 'tax'.
- The word 'quiet' was often misspelt as 'quite'.

#### **Question 2**

This question required candidates to translate a passage from English into Arabic. The majority of candidates coped well with this translation. There was no clear pattern of mistakes except for the word 'Mr', which was often translated as 'professor'.

### **Section B – Reading Comprehension**

In general, excellent answers were given to **Question 3–13**. In order to improve, candidates need to pay closer attention to the number of marks offered for each question.