

ARABIC

<p>Paper 3180/01 Composition</p>
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Key messages

Candidates should adhere to the word limit as much as possible.
Candidates should read the questions carefully and focus on the main topic in their writing.
Overall, there were issues with the application of grammatical structures in context, particularly the use of gender agreement, subject-verb agreement, the dual form, and verb patterns and their conjugation in the present and in the past.

General comments

Candidate's performance was generally good across centres, although some demonstrated higher performance than other centres, which indicates good preparation and teaching methodology.
Many candidates demonstrated excellent use of vocabulary and language.
Many candidates read the questions carefully and addressed the main points of the topic(s).

Comments on specific questions

Section A – Letter, Report, Dialogue or Speech

- (a) This question was the most popular. Candidates did well and the best responses described what was drawn and focused on the sequence of events. Candidates are reminded to focus on the main topic and use their creative writing skills to produce varied vocabulary of their own. Some candidates included lengthy memorised introductory paragraphs of greetings and wishes which meant that they did not fully focus on the main topic and they lost marks.
- (b) This topic was the least popular. Candidates performed well overall, using appropriate vocabulary and a good range of structures.
- (c) This was the second most popular question. Candidates performed well overall but weaker candidates struggled with using the appropriate grammatical structures. Some candidates spent a good part their response on the introduction before starting the dialogue.

Section B – Essay

- (a) This was the most popular topic. Performance was generally good. Some candidates used simple, mundane language in describing the sequence of events, whilst others used sophisticated language with appropriate vocabulary, structures and interesting themes. There were responses where candidates used the present tense instead of the past tense appropriate to this question.
- (b) This was the second most popular topic. Candidates generally performed well and there was interesting use of creativity and imagination. The best responses used reported speech, punctuation and paragraphing effectively.
- (c) This question was the least popular. Candidates' performance was variable. Weaker candidates focussed on relating the story in detail rather than focussing on summing up the story and its impact on the reader.
- (d) This question was the third most popular and performance was variable. Some candidates struggled with giving reasons and opinions and others missed the whole point behind the question and wrote about youths' role in society. The best responses expressed opinions, emotions and points of view effectively.

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<p>Paper 3180/02 Translation and Reading Comprehension</p>

General comments

The overall performance of the candidates this year was very good. They attempted all questions and many of them generally scored well. Good translation skills were displayed with good knowledge of grammar and vocabulary.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1: Translate into English

The standard of translating this question was impressively high and many did well in this section. Good syntax was evident in the rendered translation. Examples of incorrectly translated terms included:

- paper bag was translated as plastic bag
- office is translated as library
- 'dictionary' was sometimes missed out.

Question 2: Translate into Arabic

Most candidates did well with this question. Certain words proved to be difficult and examples incorrectly translated terms included:

- picnic
- admire the scenery
- umbrella
- they set off
- hardly had they travelled

Also, some candidates lost marks by translating the general idea of the paragraph rather than paying attention to detail.

Questions 3–13

Most candidates were able to answer these questions successfully. Candidates should answer all parts of the question where there are 2 or 3 marks to that question and they should explain the meaning of words in **Question 13**. Some candidates either gave wrong synonyms or lifted the sentences which contained these words from the Reading Passage. Candidates should be encouraged to use their own words to show clear understanding of the terms.