

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

June 2011

International GCSE Arabic (4AR0)
Paper 2

Edexcel is one of the leading examining and awarding bodies in the UK and throughout the world. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers.

Through a network of UK and overseas offices, Edexcel's centres receive the support they need to help them deliver their education and training programmes to learners.

For further information, please call our GCE line on 0844 576 0025, our GCSE team on 0844 576 0027, or visit our website at www.edexcel.com.

If you have any subject specific questions about the content of this Examiners' Report that require the help of a subject specialist, you may find our Ask The Expert email service helpful.

Ask The Expert can be accessed online at the following link:
<http://www.edexcel.com/Aboutus/contact-us/>

Alternatively, you can contact our Languages Advisor directly by sending an email to Alistair Drewery on
LanguagesSubjectAdvisor@EdexcelExperts.co.uk.

You can also telephone 0844 576 0035 to speak to a member of our subject advisor team.

(If you are calling from outside the UK please dial + 44 1204 770 696 and state that you would like to speak to the Languages subject specialist).

June 2011

Publications Code UG027440

All the material in this publication is copyright

© Edexcel Ltd 2011

General Comments

The candidates in this paper were asked to choose two topics out of six, and to write around 300 words about each of them. The maximum mark for each was 30. The 30 marks were awarded to content and communication (18 marks), language application (6 marks) and accuracy of writing (6 marks).

Questions were set to cover a variety of areas of study, and writing styles. Candidates' responses and choices of answers were more precise and focused than in previous series.

Candidates' performance:

Questions 1, 3 and 4 were very popular among the candidates. The scoring of marks here was much higher than those of previous years. Candidates attempted all questions, however the least popular question was the picture question, but those who attempted it were more focused and performed better than in previous years. Candidates seemed to have benefited substantially from previous exams. This was shown in their answers to writing questions, which may have been brought about by candidates reading and understanding of texts from previous papers. However candidates are advised to:

- a) enrich their general knowledge through reading different styles of writings from books, magazines, newspapers, internet as well as acquiring knowledge from other media sources.
- b) read and understand previous paper 1 International GCSE exam passages which normally carry valuable information that can be very helpful when answering writing questions.
- c) read the model sample answers of previous years' writing questions in the official Edexcel International GCSE Arabic – First Language student book published in June 2011.

Candidates should be familiar with the format of the question paper. Many candidates used the blank pages to finish their answers when they had run out of writing space. Centres should advise candidates to ask for additional writing sheets rather than write their responses on 'blank pages'.

Therefore candidates are advised to:

- a) adhere to writing on the designated lined pages in the answer book.
- b) clearly mark the question of their choice and answer it in the specified area (lined pages) ensuring that there isn't any answer of any other question in the same area. For example, answering question 1 as well as question 2 in the same lined pages that are specified for question 1 only.
- c) ask for extra lined paper from invigilators should the specified area not be enough for an answer.
- d) avoid writing on pages where it says 'blank page'.

It is important that candidates equip themselves with sufficient information in preparation for the writing exam. Teachers may wish to consult the new Edexcel International GCSE Arabic – First Language student book published in June 2011:

<http://www.pearsonschoolsandfecolleges.co.uk/Secondary/ModernLanguages/IGCSE/EdexcelIGCSEArabic1stLanguage/EdexcelIGCSEArabic1stLanguage.aspx>

Grade Boundaries

The modern foreign languages specifications share a common design, but the assessments in different languages are not identical. Grade boundaries at unit level reflect these differences in assessments, ensuring that candidate outcomes across these specifications are comparable at specification level.

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link: <http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>

Further copies of this publication are available from
International Regional Offices at www.edexcel.com/international

For more information on Edexcel qualifications, please visit
www.edexcel.com

Alternatively, you can contact Customer Services at
www.edexcel.com/ask or on + 44 1204 770 696

Pearson Education Limited. Registered company number 872828
with its registered office at Edinburgh Gate, Harlow, Essex CM20 2JE

IGCSE is the registered trade mark of University of Cambridge International Examinations

Ofqual




Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government



Rewarding Learning