

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

January 2013

International GCSE Arabic (4AR0)
Paper 01

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The question paper comprises three sections. These are:

- Section one: Reading comprehension
- Section two: Reading comprehension and directed writing
- Section three: Arabic grammar

Section one:

This section assessed candidates' reading comprehension ability through a series of six short-answer comprehension questions based on a reading passage which was about teacher-student relationships. No marks were awarded for the quality of the writing. The section carried a maximum mark of 30.

Candidates' performance:

The majority of the candidates showed good understanding of the passage, and hence were able to score well here. The few candidates who were not so successful here were those who either did not give full satisfactory answers, or gave answers based on their general knowledge rather than deriving them from the text itself.

Section two:

This section was divided into two parts.

In part one, candidates were presented with a short text which they were required to summarise. There were 10 marks available for this summary based on 10 bullet points as shown in the published Mark Scheme for this exam.

In part two, candidates were required to produce a story based on the theme of the text from part one. There were 10 marks available for this writing task. The question was marked according to the assessment grid on pages 4 – 5 of the Specification.

Candidates' performance:

The majority of candidates were able to show a good understanding of the text however, marks were awarded according to the precision of the summaries and mentioning the main bullet points of the text.

In part two, many candidates were able to produce very interesting pieces of work, and were able to score very well. Candidates who were less successful here were those who wrote stories with themes which were not based on the theme of the text in part one or had very little relevance to it.

Section three:

This section was designed to test candidates' grammatical usage in a series of four exercises which were numbered 3, 4, 5 and 6 in the question paper. The maximum mark which was available for this section was 20.

Candidates' performance:

A good number of the candidates were able to score well in the four questions. Many candidates found questions 4 and 5 very challenging, and hence some were not successful in giving the correct responses. The majority of the candidates' highest scores were in question 6 where they were required to analyse a sentence grammatically.

General advice to candidates:

- Make sure that your answers were written in the allocated area for each question in the question paper. In the event that you feel you have to write outside the allocated area, please indicate next to the relevant question where you wrote your answer, whether it is on an additional sheet or on a different page on the question paper.
- Read the questions carefully, and respond to the required tasks. Remember that your answers for the questions in part one in this paper should always be based on the provided text information.
- Avoid writing the answers of two or more questions in an area allocated for one question in the question paper, such as writing the answers of question 2:a and 2:b in the area allocated for question 2:b in the question paper.
- In preparation for the exam make yourself familiar with the generic requirements of the question paper by practicing answering previous exam papers.
- If you cross out any of your answers make sure that you replace it by another one. You may write below it if there is enough room on the allocated area for the answer, otherwise you are advised to ask your teacher for a blank piece of paper to write or complete your answer. If you do so, please leave a note or a remark next to the relevant questions to draw the attention of the examiner to your answer or the remaining part of your answer that is on an additional sheet.
- Try your best to give an answer to all questions even to those which you may think you don't know the answer to. You definitely get no marks for leaving the answer area empty, but you may be lucky to get some marks if you try to give an answer.

Grade Boundaries

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>

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