

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2013

International GCSE Arabic (4AR0)
Paper 1

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Summary of question paper

The question paper comprises three sections:

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

Section one

This section was based on an extract on '*Plastic surgery* عمليات التجميل' in which it covered the history and the evolution of plastic surgery since the times of ancient Egypt to how it is in the modern day with the science being significantly better. It also discusses the different types there are now with there being a sort of competition between men and women. This passage was used to assess the reading comprehension ability of students through several comprehension questions, which required a brief response in Arabic.

The majority of the candidates managed to show good understanding of the passage and were able to correctly answer the questions with good support from the text. However, some candidates made a mistake in question (f), through the misinterpretation of the question due to the phrase "*not surprising when...*" ... 'ولا عجب في...' This resulted in an incorrect answer in which students wrote an answer referring to, '*being surprised*' instead. Otherwise, the general answers for this section was good.

Section two

In this section, the article related to the theme of, 'watching your tongue'. It discussed an individual who was disrespectful since a young age and was taken to a sheikh who taught him a vital lesson in controlling his disrespect, and the mark that he leaves on an individual when doing so.

In part one of this section, students were required to write a summary of this article, by identifying the main points of the text and writing these in their own words. This was a good comprehension exercise to assess students' understanding of the salient points made in the article. Some students were specific in their answers whilst others were not.

In the second part of this section, the question required students to write an article for a school newsletter noting the importance of the lesson taught to the individual. In general, most students showed good understanding of the expectation of the question. However, some students were unable to produce a satisfactory response with little relevance of the main points in the article. There was a good deal of repetition of what was written in the article with little or no expansion.

Section three

This section of the paper is designed to test students' knowledge of Arabic grammar in a series of exercises. Students who had been trained well for this type of question provided good responses and therefore managed to achieve high marks.

Question 4 of the grammar question was not performed as highly as the other questions as some candidates did not appear to have satisfactory grammatical knowledge to perform well.

Overall, the majority of candidates performed the grammatical section to a high standard and managed to achieve high marks.

Additional comment

Students should be reminded that they must answer the questions within the spaces allocated on the question paper. Students must not write in any other part of the question booklet other than the allocated question space.

Official additional examination stationery should be used for students to write notes or a draft, which must be retained in the Centre until a suitable period after the end of the assessment series. Any notes or drafts written by students in the question booklet must be crossed through by the end of the examination.

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>