

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2013

International GCSE Arabic (4AR0)
Paper 2

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Summary of question paper

This paper requires students to produce two pieces of continuous writing.

Students must choose two titles from a choice of six and they are advised to write about 300 words on each of their chosen topics. There is no penalty for exceeding or falling below this guideline.

The six titles include a range of writing styles and purposes (ie; audience), such as discursive, narrative, persuasive, descriptive, explanatory and informative.

A form of writing is often specified, such as a letter, a report, a journalistic article or a speech.

Each piece of writing is marked out of 30 according to the marking grid. The 30 marks were awarded for:

- Content and Communication (18 marks)
- Application of Language (6 marks)
- Accuracy of writing (6 marks).

Question summary

Question 1

Students were asked to write an essay to be published in the local newspaper about the benefits of a newly opened health centre to the local people.

Question 2

Students were asked to write a speech to read to their friends at school about the opportunity to participate in a talent show, pointing out how they prepared for it and the obstacles they met.

Question 3

Students were asked to write an article about how fast food has changed our life style. The purpose of the article was to point out and convince young people of the negative social and economical effects of the fast food on people.

Question 4

Students were asked to report the findings of a survey concerning the decision of the Educational Authority to limit the use of Internet in schools. Students were asked to write a letter to the Minister of Education to inform him/her of the outcome of their findings.

Question 5

Students were asked to write an article for a tourist magazine about one of the beautiful places in the Arab World in order to encourage tourists to visit.

Question 6

Students were asked to write a narrative relating to a stimulus picture. The scene of the picture related to a woman in a restaurant setting.

Student performance

The most popular questions were 3 and 5. These were then followed by questions 4, 1, 2 and lastly, question 6.

Question 1

The majority of the students who attempted this question were able to satisfy the requirement of the question title. However some students were too ambitious and went further to write about general medicine. Most students who attempted this question did well and scored good marks.

Question 2

Most of the students who attempted this question were able to concentrate on the required task and managed to write interesting speeches. A small number of students missed an important part of the task by talking about winning the talent show competition, and how they felt, rather than mentioning the obstacles they faced during their preparation to the competition.

Question 3

This question was the most popular and there was evidence of exceptional writing skills. Most students went beyond the social and economical effect of fast food to discuss the health hazard in order to enhance their writing. It was agreed to credit this enhancement as an additional element to the task.

Question 4

The majority of students who attempted this question were able to respond well to the task with a good style of letter-writing. Few students struggled to respond to the task, showing little expansion, description, imagination or expressing opinion, and were not able to score well.

Question 5

Most candidates who attempted this question were able to demonstrate good understanding of the task and the best among them were those who concentrated on commenting and describing just one place, as required by the question. There was evidence of some students scattering their answer by writing about more than one place.

Question 6

This question provided a stimulus (picture) for students to write a narrative relating to the content of the picture. Many students who attempted this question did well enough to deserve high marks. Higher marks were awarded to those responses which were relevant to the stimulus task and were written in as a narrative.

Advice to students

Students should:

- Enrich their general knowledge of the Arabic language through reading different styles of writing from books, magazines, newspapers and internet, as well as acquiring knowledge from other media sources.
- Read and understand previous International GCSE Arabic exam material, which normally carries valuable information that can be very helpful when answering future exams.
- Read the model sample answers of previous exams.
- Familiarise themselves with the format of the question paper.
- Adhere to writing on the designated lined pages in the answer book.
- Indicate clearly the question of their choice and answer it in the specified area (lined pages) ensuring that there are no other answers for another question in the same space.
- Ask for extra lined paper from invigilators should the specified area not be large enough for their response.
- Underline the important words or phrases that refer to the required task, when answering a question, to ensure that they respond to the entire task.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwant to/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>

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