

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2015

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE
In Arabic (4AR0) Paper 01
Written Paper

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Publications Code UG040880*

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The following points were noted by the examiners:

General:

The three sections of this paper covered all topic areas of the specification. This includes reading, writing and grammar. Candidates responded well to most questions however, occasionally their responses were hindered due to their lack of knowledge in grammar and/ or reading. Questions set were related to current issues and candidates found them interesting. Time allocated was sufficient to enable candidates with different abilities to complete the task.

Candidates’ performance:

Overall the candidates’ responses were good and maintained good standard.

Part 1:

This part was a comprehension section and it centered round the history of cultured pearls and many candidates were able to answer questions accurately using bullet points which made it easier for the examiners to mark. Overall, the question was clear and was well set up however we need to take into account the following comments:

QUESTION 1A.

All or nearly all candidates did very well on this question due to the clarity of the required task and its simplicity.

QUESTION 1B

Another example of where all or nearly all candidates did very well on this question due to the clarity of the required task and its simplicity.

QUESTION 1C

Another chance to gain marks; candidates gave very good responses, however some of them did not put the stages in the correct order.

QUESTION 1D

This question was answered well and reveals the level of the understanding of the text.

QUESTION 1E

A high success rate.

QUESTION 1F

This was similar to open choice type questions and many candidates gained full marks.

Part 2

This part was focused on reading and writing. Question 2a was to summarise a text, some candidates interpreted it differently. Regarding 2b, most candidates used the information given in 2a in writing their speech. This has resulted in repetition and influenced the candidates’ responses and marks awarded.

QUESTION 2A

Candidates performed well in this question.

QUESTION 2B

This question had put off students, mostly nearly or all of them failed to get the point of the required task.

Although both questions are different in terms of the skills used to answer them, the content and the topic is the same. This meant that candidates were able use the reading text provided in the second section to write the composition. This has resulted in repetition and influenced the candidates' responses and marks awarded.

Part 3:

There are a high number of candidates who have a high level of grammar which consequently reflected well in their answers. Their work showed a good attention to detail.

Additional Advice

QUESTION 2A

A modern short story would be a best assortment for this kind of question.

QUESTION 2B

Although it should be related to Q2a, this does not mean that we ask the candidates to repeat the content of question 2a.

QUESTION 3

This question is a genuine test of the application of the Arabic language performance; therefore we expect a high standard of grammar within candidate responses.

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