

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

January 2016

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

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Publications Code UG042991*

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4AR0/01 IGCSE Arabic – Examiner’s report – January 2016

General feedback

The three sections of this paper covered all topic areas of the specification. This includes reading, writing and grammar. Candidates responded well to most question 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.

Candidate performance

Candidates performed to a similar standard to previous series, although there was some noticeable difference regarding the grammar section.

Section 1 – Reading comprehension

Part 1 is a reading comprehension and it centred round the environment, pollution and waste. Many candidates were able to answer questions accurately and some candidates used bullet points which made it easier for the examiners to mark and probably assisted the candidates in focussing. Overall, the text was clear and well set up. The following observations were noted by examiners:

- Question 1A

Nearly all candidates did very well on this question due to the clarity of the required task and its simplicity. This question was designed for the less able students to show simple understanding of the text.

- Question 1B

Although the mark scheme provided three possible responses in order to score the full mark, which was 2, this was an open question which allowed candidates to interpret the reasons behind the author questions at the beginning of the text. This question was a differentiator to test more able candidates.

- Question 1C

Most candidates responded well to this question. Unfortunately, some candidates focused on key words and copied the whole paragraph directly in to their answers. This approach to answering comprehension questions does not score highly.

- Question 1D

This question reveals the level of comprehension of the text because the candidates needed to read carefully in order to identify the correct response. Candidates were able to show their own style and language when answering.

- Question 1E

This is another differentiator to test fully candidates' comprehension of the text. Less able students tended to copy the whole paragraph where key words existed.

- Question 1F

A very good response to a clear question and many students achieved full mark.

- Question 1G

A good question that resulted in most candidates achieved a satisfactory mark.

- Question 1H

This is another differentiator question. It has element of an open question since it invited the candidates to underline the author's intentions behind writing this text.

Section 2

This part was focussed on reading and writing. Question 2a requires candidates to summarise a short text. Question 2b requires candidates to produce a piece of directed writing based on the theme in 2a. In this paper, candidates were asked to write an article explaining the link between the advance of a country and the happiness of its population. Most candidates as expected used the information given in 2a in writing their article. This has resulted in some repetition and influenced the candidates' responses and marks awarded.

Question 2a – Summary writing

There is a clear improvement in candidates' responses in comparison to previous series. Most candidates showed good understanding of the text and managed to identify the main points. The text was interesting to summarise and most students achieved an above average mark.

Question 2b –Directed writing

Although both questions differed in terms of the skills used to answer them, less able students relied heavily on the information provided in 2a when answering 2b.

Section 3 - Grammar

Generally, candidates responded well to this section of the paper. However, the majority of the candidates found this question 3 more challenging than the rest of the questions. Only well prepared candidates managed to score full marks here.

Grade Boundaries

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