



Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2018

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

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This paper was divided into three sections:

Section 1 assessed candidates' reading comprehension through seven comprehension questions based on a reading passage about the history of books and libraries. This section carried a maximum mark of **30**.

Section 2 presented the candidates with a short text about the ancient city of Petra. Candidates were required to summarise the text in part 2a, and to produce a piece of directed writing in part 2b about the importance of taking good care of historical places and developing and encouraging tourism in the world. This section carried a maximum mark of **10** for each of the two parts.

Section 3 tested candidates' Arabic grammatical usage and knowledge in a series of 4 exercises. This section carried a maximum mark of **5** for each of the four exercises.

The total number of marks for the paper was 70.

Candidates' performance:

Section 1

This section was designed to assess candidates' reading comprehension skill. Candidates were instructed to use their own style when they responded to the seven questions which were designed to assess their level of understanding of the text. Candidates showed a good level of understanding reflected in their responses to the questions.

Section One (Comprehension Question)

الأخطبوط (The octopus) was a popular topic, with candidates scoring higher marks than in previous years. Access to previous exam papers must have supported the performance of the candidates in this section. This enabled them to understand the text more efficiently and they were able to answer questions accurately using bullet points to match the number of marks for that question. Overall, the question was very clear and well set up with sufficient aspects included to challenge the candidates appropriately.

ما الفرق بين ما تعنيه كلمة الأخطبوط باللغة اليونانية وبين حقيقة تكوين جسمه وتركيبه؟

(What is the difference between the word octopus in Greek and the fact of the composition of the body?) The majority of candidates did very well with this question, scoring the full 2 marks. Some candidates did not attain 2 marks, as they may have missed the part where they were expected to mention 6 arms and two legs.

عدد المراحل التي تمر بها صغار أنثى الأخطبوط

(What are the life cycle stages of the baby octopus?)

In this question, candidates had to give the 5 stages in the life of a small female octopus. The majority of students listed all the stages, however missed the correct order therefore lost marks.

Section Two (Reading and Writing)

Generally, candidates were able to provide good responses with most of the marks awarded being between 5 and 9. Many candidates did well in their responses for question 2(a). They had to summarise the text on Huda using ten valid points in their own words. The majority of candidates provided well rounded answers, however, some did fail to mention all of the points they were expected to give in their summary.

A number of candidates in question 2(b) showed a good understanding of the topic they were given and demonstrated their knowledge of the role of women in society. Many of them wrote excellent articles on the role of women and their achievements in ancient and modern history, as well as at present in various fields of science, sports, art, society, politics and other fields. Candidates illustrated high abilities providing strong arguments in a logical manner as well as effective ideas with the use of good quality language.

Section Three (grammar)

Questions 3, 4 and 5 had varied responses although, they were quite straightforward. Question 4 asked students to produce sentences relating to the syllabus, this was not attempted well by the majority of candidates. Question 6 was a challenging parsing question in which candidates lost marks due to not completing their responses correctly. In general, the questions in this section were clear and concise in their requests from the candidate with no ambiguity on the responses being of good standard.

As it is nearly the last series of this question paper, there were a large number of entries for this exam in comparison to the last few years and candidates were not well prepared to sit this paper. The grammar section was challenging with question 4 being the most difficult for students as a number of candidates struggled with mainly questions 4b and 4c, failing to provide good responses.

The majority of candidates had no difficulty in answering question 6 and provided good parsing (Earaab) in their responses. A small number of candidates found it difficult and failed to provide a good answer.

Advice to candidates

When preparing for the reading comprehension section you may need to consider the following:

1. In order to retain your vocabulary knowledge, you must practice a combination of memorisation (like studying your flashcards) and make a point of using these new words in your verbal and written communication. Guided vocabulary practice like this will give you access to new words and their meanings as well as allow you to properly retain them.
2. Make reading a fun activity, at least on occasion, rather than a constant chore. This will motivate you to engage with the text and embrace the activity as part of your daily life (rather than just your study/work life). As you practice and truly engage with your reading material, improvement will come naturally.
3. Solve previous papers, because by solving the previous papers you can understand and identify what kind of questions are appearing in the examination, so that you will be mentally prepared for those kinds of questions.

Grade Boundaries

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

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/results-certification/grade-boundaries.html>

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