

Specification

GCE Arabic

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced Subsidiary GCE in Arabic
(8AR01)

First examination 2014

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Issue 3

About this specification

Edexcel GCE in Arabic is designed for use in schools and colleges. It is part of a suite of GCE qualifications offered by Edexcel.

Key features of the specification

- Offers students and teachers a clear learning focus and control of assessment.
- The Advanced Subsidiary level provides a logical progression from GCSE with:
 - ◆ a focus on language.
- The A2 level offers a realistic progression from Advanced Subsidiary that:
 - ◆ rewards advanced research/reading skills
 - ◆ acknowledges the importance of knowledge and understanding of Arabic culture
 - ◆ facilitates literary study.

This specification aims to engage students so that they enjoy Advanced level Arabic language learning and achieve their full potential.

Why choose this specification?

Developed in consultation with practitioners and students, the Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced GCE in Arabic qualification rewards advanced-level Arabic language skills and knowledge through student-focused assessment. With appealing content and opportunities to gain greater understanding of other cultures, it will prepare students to become well-informed and effective communicators.

Supporting you

Edexcel aims to provide the most comprehensive support for our qualifications. We have therefore published our own dedicated suite of resources for teachers and students written by qualification experts.

For more information on our wide range of support and services for this GCE in Arabic qualification, visit our GCE website: www.edexcel.com/gce2008.

Specification updates

This specification is Issue 3 and is valid for examination from Summer 2014. If there are any significant changes to the specification Edexcel will write to centres to let them know. Changes will also be posted on our website.

For more information please visit www.edexcel.com or www.edexcel.com/gce2008.

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A Specification at a glance

AS Unit 1: Understanding and Written Response in Arabic

*Unit code 6AR01

- Externally assessed
- Availability: June

**100%
of the
total AS
marks**

**50% of
the total
GCE
marks**

Content summary:

This unit consists of **three** sections.

- Section A: Reading
- Section B: Translation
- Section C: Essay

Students are required to convey their understanding of written Arabic through a series of reading tasks. They also need to draw upon and apply their knowledge of Arabic language, grammar and lexis to produce a short translation from Arabic into English, as well as demonstrate an ability to manipulate Arabic language in continuous writing.

Students will be expected to recognise and use Arabic in a variety of contexts and in relation to the following general topic areas:

- Youth culture and concerns
- Lifestyle: health and fitness
- The world around us: travel, tourism, environmental issues and the Arabic-speaking world
- Education and employment.

Assessment:

2 hour 45 minute paper in **three** sections.

Section A: Students will need to understand, retrieve and convey information from a short series of different Arabic-language texts. They will be required to provide a mix of non-verbal and Arabic-language responses. In addition, marks will be given for vocalisation of text produced in response to one of the questions.

Section B: Students will be assessed on their ability to transfer meaning from Arabic into English. They will be required to apply their knowledge of Arabic language, grammar and lexis to produce a short translation from Arabic into English.

Section C: Students will write a 220-270 word essay, in Arabic, in response to a short Arabic-language stimulus and related bullet points. The assessment rewards learners for communicating relevant information effectively as well as for the quality of the Arabic language produced.

All students for this unit will be assessed by Edexcel.

A2 Unit 2: Understanding, Written Response and Research in Arabic *Unit code 6AR02

- Externally assessed
- Availability: June

**100%
of the
total A2
marks**

**50% of
the total
GCE
marks**

Content summary:

This unit consists of **three** sections.

- Section A: Reading
- Section B: Translation
- Section C: Essays on chosen topic(s) and/or text(s)

Students are required to demonstrate skills in advanced level Arabic reading and in the transfer of meaning from English into Arabic. To promote research and a greater knowledge and understanding of Arabic culture and/or society, students must produce two Arabic-language essays in response to questions related to their chosen topic(s) and/or text(s).

Students will be expected to recognise and use Arabic in a variety of contexts and in relation to the following general topic areas:

- Youth culture and concerns
- Lifestyle: health and fitness
- The world around us: travel, tourism, environmental issues and the Arabic-speaking world
- Education and employment
- Customs, traditions, beliefs and religions
- National and international events: past, present and future
- Literature and the arts.

Assessment:

3 hour paper in **three** sections.

Section A: Students will be required to read an Arabic-language passage and to retrieve and convey information from this via a series of questions and answers in Arabic.

Section B: Students will be expected to undertake a short translation from English into Arabic.

Section C: Students must answer **two** questions, in Arabic, that each relate to a topic or a text chosen from the prescribed list featured in Section 2.3 Content. A choice of **two** questions will be offered for each of the prescribed topics and texts.

All students for this unit will be assessed by Edexcel.

* See *Appendix 3* for description of this code and all other codes relevant to this qualification.

B Specification overview

Summary of assessment requirements

Unit number and unit title	Level	Assessment information	Number of marks allocated in the unit
Unit 1: Understanding and Written Response in Arabic	AS	<p>2 hour 45 minutes paper</p> <p>The assessment for this unit has three sections.</p> <p>Section A (35 marks)</p> <p>Students will need to understand, retrieve and convey information from a short series of different Arabic-language texts. They will be required to provide a mix of non-verbal and Arabic-language responses. A maximum of 30 marks will be available in accordance with an assessment-specific mark scheme.</p> <p>In addition, a maximum of five marks will be given for the vocalisation of text produced in response to one of the questions. These marks will be awarded in accordance with the assessment criteria for this unit.</p> <p>Section B (9 marks)</p> <p>Students will be assessed on their ability to transfer meaning from Arabic into English. They will be required to apply their knowledge of Arabic language, grammar and lexis to produce a short translation from Arabic into English. A maximum of 9 marks will be awarded in accordance with a translation-specific mark scheme.</p> <p>Section C (46 marks)</p> <p>Students will write a 220-270 word essay, in Arabic, in response to a short Arabic-language stimulus and related bullet points. The assessment rewards learners for communicating relevant information effectively as well as for the quality of the Arabic language produced.</p> <p>All students for this unit will be assessed by Edexcel.</p>	90 marks

Unit number and unit title	Level	Assessment information	Number of marks allocated in the unit
Unit 2: Understanding, Written Response and Research in Arabic	A2	<p>3 hour paper</p> <p>The assessment for this unit has three sections.</p> <p>Section A (14 marks)</p> <p>Students will be required to read an Arabic-language passage and to retrieve and convey information from this via a series of questions and answers in Arabic. A maximum of 14 marks will be available in accordance with an assessment-specific mark scheme.</p> <p>Section B (10 marks)</p> <p>Students will be expected to undertake a short translation from English into Arabic. They will be assessed on their ability to transfer meaning from an English-language passage into Arabic. A maximum of 10 marks will be awarded in accordance with a translation-specific mark scheme.</p> <p>Section C (56 marks)</p> <p>Students must answer two questions, in Arabic, that each relate to a topic or a text chosen from the prescribed list featured in Section 2.3 Content. The essays should relate to topic(s) and/or text(s) that students have studied in advance of the examination.</p> <p>A choice of two questions will be offered for each of the prescribed topics and texts. Students will be expected to write no less than 250 and no more than 350 words in Arabic. A maximum of 56 marks will be awarded across the two essays for their organisation of ideas, essay content and quality of language in accordance with the assessment criteria in the unit.</p> <p>All students for this unit will be assessed by Edexcel.</p>	80 marks

Assessment objectives and weightings

		% in AS	% in A2	% in GCE
A02	Understand and respond, in speech and writing, to written language.	75%	75%	75%
A03	Show knowledge of and apply accurately the grammar and syntax prescribed in the specification.	25%	25%	25%
TOTAL		100%	100%	100%

Relationship of assessment objectives to units

Unit number	Assessment objective		
	A02	A03	Total for A02 and A03
Unit 1	37.5%	12.5%	50%
Unit 2	37.5%	12.5%	50%
Total for Advanced GCE	75%	25%	100%

Qualification summary

Subject criteria

The General Certificate of Education is part of the Level 3 provision. This specification is based on the Advanced Subsidiary GCE and Advanced GCE subject criteria for modern foreign languages, which are prescribed by the regulatory authorities and are mandatory for all awarding bodies.

The Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced GCE in Arabic have been designed in response to subject criteria which are intended to:

- help ensure consistent and comparable standards in the same subject across the awarding bodies
- define the relationship between the Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced GCE level specifications, with the Advanced Subsidiary as a subset of the Advanced GCE level
- ensure that the rigour of the Advanced GCE is maintained
- help higher education institutions and employers know what has been studied and assessed.

Aims

The Edexcel Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced GCE in Arabic aims to encourage students to:

- develop an interest in, and enthusiasm for, language learning
- develop understanding of the language in a variety of contexts and genres
- communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in the language for a range of purposes
- develop awareness and understanding of the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of countries or communities where the language is spoken
- consider their study of the language in a broader context.

The Edexcel Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced GCE in Arabic enables students to:

- derive enjoyment and benefit from language learning
- acquire knowledge, skills and understanding for practical use, further study and/or employment
- communicate with speakers of the language
- take their place in a multilingual global society.

AS/A2 knowledge and understanding

The Advanced Subsidiary specification requires students to:

- read and respond to a variety of Arabic-language written texts, including authentic sources, covering different contexts, registers, styles and genres*
- adapt their written Arabic language appropriately for different situations and purposes
- use the Arabic language accurately to express facts and ideas, and to present explanations, opinions and information in writing
- understand and apply the grammatical system and a range of structures of the Arabic language as detailed in *Appendix 4: Grammar lists*
- transfer meaning from Arabic into English and/or vice versa.
- In addition, Advanced GCE specification requires students to:
- use the Arabic language to present viewpoints, develop arguments, analyse and evaluate in writing
- understand and apply the grammatical system and a range of structures in Arabic as detailed in *Appendix 4: Grammar lists*
- study aspects of the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of one or more of the Arabic-language countries or communities
- transfer meaning from English into Arabic, and/or vice versa. If one skill is not assessed at Advanced Subsidiary level it must be assessed at A2 level.

* Written Arabic-language sources must include material that relates to the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of one or more of the countries or communities where the language is spoken.

AS/A2 skills

- The knowledge and understanding requirements of this Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced GCE specification are inextricably linked to the two language skills of **reading and writing** in Arabic in line with the requirements of the subject criteria.
- Although speaking and listening skills are not directly assessed, it is anticipated that these will be developed in the course of general teaching to support this specification.

C GCE Arabic unit content

Unit 1 Understanding and Written Response in Arabic

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Unit 2 Understanding, Written Response and Research in Arabic

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Course structure

- Edexcel's GCE in Arabic comprises two units and contains an Advanced Subsidiary.
- The Advanced Subsidiary GCE is the first half of the GCE course and consists of Unit 1. It may be awarded as a discrete qualification or contribute 50 per cent of the total Advanced GCE marks.
- The full Advanced GCE award consists of one AS unit (Unit 1), plus one A2 unit (Unit 2) which makes up the other 50 per cent of the Advanced GCE. Students wishing to take the full Advanced GCE must, therefore, complete both units.
- The structure of this qualification allows teachers to construct a course of study which can be taught and assessed either as:
 - ◆ distinct modules of teaching and learning with related units of assessment taken at appropriate stages during the course; or
 - ◆ a linear course which is assessed in its entirety at the end.

1.1 Unit description

This unit consists of **three** sections:

- Section A: Reading
- Section B: Translation
- Section C: Essay.

Students are required to convey their understanding of written Arabic through a series of reading tasks. They also need to draw upon and apply their knowledge of Arabic language, grammar and lexis to produce a short translation from Arabic into English, as well as demonstrate an ability to manipulate Arabic language in continuous writing.

Students will be expected to recognise and use Arabic in a variety of contexts and in relation to the following general topic areas:

- Youth culture and concerns
- Lifestyle: health and fitness
- The world around us: travel, tourism, environmental issues and the Arabic-speaking world
- Education and employment.

1.2 Assessment information

Format

The assessment for this unit has **three** sections.

Section A (35 marks)

Students will need to understand, retrieve and convey information from a short series of different Arabic-language texts. They will be required to provide a mix of non-verbal and Arabic-language responses. A maximum of 30 marks will be available in accordance with an assessment-specific mark scheme.

In addition, a maximum of five marks will be given for the vocalisation of text produced in response to **one** of the questions. These marks will be awarded in accordance with the assessment criteria in Section 1.4.

Section B (9 marks)

Students will be assessed on their ability to transfer meaning from Arabic into English. They will be required to apply their knowledge of Arabic language, grammar and lexis to produce a short translation from Arabic into English. A maximum of 9 marks will be awarded in accordance with a translation-specific mark scheme.

Section C (46 marks)

Students will write a 220-270 word essay, in Arabic, in response to a short Arabic-language stimulus and related bullet points. The assessment rewards learners for communicating relevant information effectively as well as for the quality of the Arabic language produced.

All students for this unit will be assessed by Edexcel.

Preparation

Students should prepare for the assessments in this unit by having access to a variety of Arabic-language reading sources including books, magazines, newspapers and the internet. As part of their Advanced Subsidiary, students should undertake regular reading, writing, vocalisation and transfer of meaning activities.

Time allocation

Students will have full control over the pace of assessment within the allocated time for this unit. They may answer the questions in any order of their choice.

The duration of this examination will be 2 hours and 45 minutes.

1.3 Content

Focus

This unit will feature questions drawn from a variety of sources but which all relate to the general topic areas below. However, these should be considered as different contexts in which students can write and understand Arabic. *Detailed, specialist* Arabic vocabulary or *detailed and specialist* knowledge of the general topic areas are **not** required.

Similarly, knowledge of the general topic areas in relation to Arabic-speaking countries and communities will **not** be assessed.

General topic areas

- Youth culture and concerns
- Lifestyle: health and fitness
- The world around us: travel, tourism, environmental issues and the Arabic-speaking world
- Education and employment

Linked subtopics

To inform teaching and learning, the following definitive list of linked subtopics has been produced for this unit.

Youth culture and concerns

- Music and fashion
- Technology (eg MP3/blogs/mobile phones/internet/games)
- Relationships (family/friendships and peer pressure)
- Drink, drugs, sex

Lifestyle: health and fitness

- Sport and exercise
- Food and diet
- Health issues (eg smoking, skin cancer, health services)

The world around us: travel, tourism, environmental issues and the Arabic-speaking world

- Tourist information, travel and transport
- Weather (eg natural disasters, climate change)
- Pollution and recycling

Education and employment

- Education (schooling and higher education)
- Education policy and student issues
- The world of work (eg the changing work scene, job opportunities and unemployment)

What students need to learn

Students need to develop language skills that enable them to communicate effectively and confidently in writing (including vocalisation), to transfer meaning from Arabic into English and to understand written Arabic. Students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and accurate application of the Arabic language and the grammar structures listed for this specification. Please see *Appendix 4: Grammar lists*.

This unit is divided into **three** sections.

Section A (35 marks)

Students will be examined on their reading skills and will gain a maximum of 30 marks for responses to individual questions in accordance with an assessment-specific mark scheme.

In addition, up to five marks will be available for the quality of language produced in response to **one** of the questions.

The assessment criteria in Section 1.4 reward students for:

- **quality of language vocalisation** — AO3 (5 marks).

Section B (9 marks)

Students will be assessed on their ability to transfer meaning from Arabic into English. They are required to translate a short passage from Arabic into English and will gain a maximum of 9 marks. This will primarily require students to apply their knowledge of Arabic language, grammar and lexis (AO3). Work will be examined in accordance with a translation-specific mark scheme.

Section C (46 marks)

Students will be required to write about 220-270 words in Arabic. The writing will be in the form of a report, article or email in response to a short Arabic-language stimulus. Students will be expected to demonstrate an ability to write clearly, accurately and in the appropriate register. They will need to produce a written response that is relevant to the stimulus.

The assessment criteria in Section 1.4 reward students for:

- **content and response** — AO2 (28 marks)
- **quality of language** — AO3 (18 marks).

1.4 Assessment criteria

Section A

Mark	Quality of language (Short-answer questions) (A03)
1	Grammar and structure so inaccurate that communication only occasionally takes place.
2	Limited knowledge of grammar and structures with frequent errors even in basic language; communication often impeded.
3	Errors in grammar and structures, although these do not impede communication.
4	Grammar and structures generally accurate; communication almost always effective.
5	Grammar and structures very accurate; communication always effective.

Section C

Mark	Content and response (A02)
0	No rewardable material.
1-4	Task mostly misunderstood and answer barely relevant.
5-10	Task not fully grasped or developed; much irrelevance and/or repetition.
11-16	Task understood and some points developed satisfactorily; some omission and/or irrelevance.
17-22	Task understood and developed successfully.
23-28	Task fully grasped; answer wholly relevant; convincing and well developed.

Mark	Quality of language (A03)
0	No rewardable language.
1-3	Limited communication; highly inaccurate; language very basic with much repetition.
4-7	Some communication; language often inaccurate; limited variety of lexis and structures.
8-11	Satisfactory communication; basic language generally satisfactory; some attempt at variety of lexis and structures.
12-15	Good communication; good level of accuracy; generally successful use of a variety of lexis and structures.
16-18	Excellent communication; high level of accuracy; language almost always fluent, varied and appropriate.

2.1 Unit description

This unit consists of **three** sections:

- Section A: Reading
- Section B: Translation
- Section C: Essays on chosen topic(s) and/or text(s).

Students are required to demonstrate skills in advanced level Arabic reading and in the transfer of meaning from English into Arabic. To promote research and a greater knowledge and understanding of Arabic culture and/or society, students must produce **two** Arabic-language essays in response to questions related to chosen topic(s) and/or text(s).

Students will be expected to recognise and use Arabic in a variety of contexts and in relation to the following general topic areas:

- Youth culture and concerns
- Lifestyle: health and fitness
- The world around us: travel, tourism, environmental issues and the Arabic-speaking world
- Education and employment
- Customs, traditions, beliefs and religions
- National and international events: past, present and future
- Literature and the arts.

2.2 Assessment information

Format

The assessment for this unit has **three** sections.

Section A (14 marks)

Students will be required to read an Arabic-language passage and to retrieve and convey information from this via a series of questions and answers in Arabic. A maximum of 14 marks will be available in accordance with an assessment-specific mark scheme.

Section B (10 marks)

Students will be expected to undertake a short translation from English into Arabic. They will be assessed on their ability to transfer meaning from an English-language passage into Arabic. A maximum of 10 marks will be awarded in accordance with a translation-specific mark scheme.

Section C (56 marks)

Students must answer **two** questions, in Arabic, that each relate to a topic or a text chosen from the prescribed list featured in Section 2.3 Content. The essays should relate to topic(s) and/or text(s) that students have studied in advance of the examination.

A choice of **two** questions will be offered for each of the prescribed topics and texts. Students will be expected to write no less than 250 and no more than 350 words in Arabic. A maximum of 56 marks will be awarded across the two essays for their organisation of ideas, essay content and quality of language in accordance with the assessment criteria in Section 2.4.

All students for this unit will be assessed by Edexcel.

Preparation

Students should prepare for the assessments in this unit by reading extensively in Arabic across a variety of sources including books, magazines, newspapers and the internet. As part of their A2 programme, they will need to carry out in-depth research and detailed study of **two** topics or texts (or **one** topic and **one** text) that they find particularly interesting.

Effective preparation for this unit should include study of different Arabic-language **spoken** materials in addition to other printed and ICT derived resources.

Time allocation

Students will have full control over the pace of assessment within the allocated time for this unit. They may answer the questions in any order of their choice.

The duration of this examination will be 3 hours.

2.3 Content**Focus**

This unit will feature questions drawn from a variety of sources but which all relate to the general topic areas below. *Detailed, specialist Arabic vocabulary or detailed and specialist knowledge of the general topic areas is **not** required for the reading and translation sections of this unit.* The topic(s) and/or text(s) chosen for Section C by the student, potentially in negotiation with his or her teacher, are an area where the student will be expected to develop an informed and broad understanding.

Printed materials used in the reading papers may relate to both the contemporary society and cultural heritage of Arabic-speaking countries or communities. Sources used will be contemporary such as magazines, newspapers, the internet, reports, and books.

General topic areas

- Youth culture and concerns
- Lifestyle: health and fitness
- The world around us: travel, tourism, environmental issues and the Arabic-speaking world
- Education and employment
- Customs, traditions, beliefs and religions
- National and international events: past, present and future
- Literature and the arts

Topics or texts for Section C

Students must choose to focus their study on **one** of the following topics or texts.

Topics

1. Arab history in the 20th century

Aspects of study

- Geography
- Politics and Arab organisations
- Economy

2. Arab culture

Aspects of study

- Art
- Architecture
- Music
- Entertainment

3. Arab Socio-culture

Aspects of study

- Customs and traditions
- The role of women
- Religion
- Social issues

Texts

4. Naguib Mahfouz al-Liss wa al-Kilab* (The Thief and the Dogs)
5. Ibn Al-Muqaffa' Kalilah wa Dimnah (Kalilah and Dimnah)
6. Yahya Haqqi Qindil Umm Hashim* (The Saint's Lamp)

Please note: the examination is based on the Arabic version of the above texts.

* film version available

What students need to learn

Students will be expected to develop language skills that enable them to communicate effectively, accurately and confidently in Arabic-language writing, to translate from English into Arabic and to understand written Arabic. They should be able to demonstrate knowledge, understanding and accurate application of the Arabic language and the grammar structures listed for this specification. Please see *Appendix 4: Grammar lists*.

The unit is divided into **three** sections.

Section A (14 marks)

Students will be examined on their reading skills in this section and will be awarded a maximum of 14 marks in accordance with an assessment-specific mark scheme (AO2).

Section B (10 marks)

Students will be examined for transfer of meaning from English into Arabic in accordance with a translation-specific mark scheme. The assessment focuses on the quality of language produced (AO3) and a maximum of ten marks are available.

Section C (56 marks)

To perform well in this section, students will need to acquire knowledge and understanding of Arabic culture and/or society. They will need to demonstrate an ability to organise and develop their ideas on their chosen topics/texts and to show an ability to write accurately and effectively in Arabic in response to a choice of essay titles. They will need to show evidence of independent judgement, to present and justify their points of view and to use the language of ideas and abstract concepts.

The assessment criteria in Section 2.4 reward students for:

- **content** — AO2 (26 marks [13 marks per essay])
- **organisation and development** — AO2 (20 marks [10 marks per essay])
- **quality of language** — AO3 (10 marks [5 marks per essay]).

2.4 Assessment criteria

Section C

Mark	Content (A02)
0	No rewardable material.
1-2	Minimal knowledge of the topic/text is demonstrated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The student has not addressed the question. ■ There is little correct factual information about the topic/text.
3-4	Limited knowledge of the topic/text is demonstrated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The student has addressed the general topic area, but not the specific question. ■ There is some basic factual information about the topic/text.
5-7	Some knowledge of the topic/text is demonstrated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The student has made at least one relevant point in response to the question: however, there is, no substantiation of this point(s). ■ The factual information about the topic/text is correct, but may be basic and/or irrelevant.
8-10	Good knowledge of topic/text is demonstrated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The student has made several relevant points in response to the question; at least one of the points has been substantiated. ■ The factual information about the topic/text is correct and mostly relevant. ■ There may be some evidence of independent thought.
11-13	Excellent knowledge of topic/text is demonstrated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The student has made several relevant points in response to the question; most of the points have been substantiated. ■ The factual information about the topic/text is correct, relevant, and well integrated into the essay. ■ There is evidence of a good degree of independent thought.

Mark	Organisation and development (A02)
0	No rewardable organisation and development.
1-2	Minimal organisation and development; answer largely disorganised.
3-4	Limited organisation and development; structure lacks coherence.
5-6	Organisation and development not always logical and clear.
7-8	Organisation and development logical and clear.
9-10	Extremely clear and effective organisation and development of ideas.

Mark	Quality of language (A03)
0	No rewardable language.
1	<p>Quality of language is poor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Communication is only occasionally achieved. ■ Grammatical structures are basic, and often used incorrectly. ■ The vocabulary is often lacking or incorrect.
2	<p>Quality of language is basic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Communication is sometimes achieved at a basic level. ■ Grammatical structures are mainly AS ones, but are sometimes used correctly. ■ There is a limited range of vocabulary.
3	<p>Quality of language is adequate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Communication is achieved most of the time. ■ AS grammatical structures are mostly used correctly; there is some use of A2 structures, but there are errors in these. ■ There is an adequate range of vocabulary.
4	<p>Quality of language is good.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Communication is achieved almost all of the time. ■ A good range of grammatical structures are used; many A2 structures are used correctly. ■ There is a good range of vocabulary, including some specialised terms relevant to the topic/text.
5	<p>Quality of language is excellent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fluent and varied communication is achieved throughout. ■ A wide range of grammatical structures are used; most of these are correct. ■ There is an excellent range of vocabulary; the student knows many specialised terms relevant to the topic/text.

D Assessment and additional information

Assessment information

Assessment requirements	For a summary of assessment requirements and assessment objectives, see Section B, Specification overview.
Entering students for the examinations for this qualification	Details of how to enter students for the examinations for this qualification can be found in Edexcel's Information Manual, copies of which are sent to all examinations officers. The information can also be found on Edexcel's website (www.edexcel.com).
Resitting of units	<p>There is no limit to the number of times that a student may retake a unit prior to claiming certification for the qualification. The best available result for each contributing unit will count towards the final grade.</p> <p>After certification all unit results may be reused to count towards a new award. Students may re-enter for certification only if they have retaken at least one unit.</p> <p>Results of units held in the Edexcel unit bank have a shelf life limited only by the shelf life of this specification</p>
Awarding and reporting	<p>The grading, awarding and certification of this qualification will comply with the requirements of the current GCSE/GCE Code of Practice, which is published by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual). The AS qualification will be graded and certificated on a five-grade scale from A to E. The full GCE Advanced level will be graded on a six-point scale A* to E. Individual unit results will be reported.</p> <p>A pass in an Advanced Subsidiary subject is indicated by one of the five grades A, B, C, D, E of which grade A is the highest and grade E the lowest. A pass in an Advanced GCE subject is indicated by one of the six grades A*, A, B, C, D, E of which Grade A* is the highest and Grade E the lowest. To be awarded an A* students will need to achieve an A on the full GCE Advanced level qualification and an A* aggregate of the A2 units. Students whose level of achievement is below the minimum judged by Edexcel to be of sufficient standard to be recorded on a certificate will receive an unclassified U result.</p>
Performance descriptions	Performance descriptions give the minimum acceptable level for a grade. See <i>Appendix 1</i> for the performance descriptions for this subject.

Unit results

The minimum uniform marks required for each grade for each unit:

Unit 1

Unit grade	A	B	C	D	E
Maximum uniform mark = 100	80	70	60	50	40

Students who do not achieve the standard required for a grade E will receive a uniform mark in the range 0–39.

Unit 2

Unit grade	A	B	C	D	E
Maximum uniform mark = 100	80	70	60	50	40

Students who do not achieve the standard required for a grade E will receive a uniform mark in the range 0–39.

Qualification results

The minimum uniform marks required for each grade:

Advanced Subsidiary Cash-in code 8AR01

Qualification grade	A	B	C	D	E
Maximum uniform mark = 100	80	70	60	50	40

Students who do not achieve the standard required for a grade E will receive a uniform mark in the range 0–39.

Advanced GCE Cash-in code 9AR01

Qualification grade	A	B	C	D	E
Maximum uniform mark = 200	160	140	120	100	80

Students who do not achieve the standard required for a grade E will receive a uniform mark in the range 0–79.

Language of assessment

Assessment of this specification will be available in Arabic although some responses in English will be required. Assessment materials will be published in Arabic.

Quality of written communication

Students will be assessed on their ability to:

- write legibly, with accurate use of spelling, grammar and punctuation in order to make the meaning clear.
- At AS level, where English language responses are required, it is important that students produce these responses legibly and pay attention to spelling, punctuation and grammar to ensure effective communication.

Assessment objectives and weighting

		% in AS	% in A2	% in GCE
A02	Understand and respond, in speech and writing, to written language.	75%	75%	75%
A03	Show knowledge of and apply accurately the grammar and syntax prescribed in the specification.	25%	25%	25%
TOTAL		100%	100%	100%

Synoptic assessment

In synoptic assessment there should be a concentration on the quality of assessment to ensure that it encourages the development of the holistic understanding of the subject.

Synopticity requires students to connect knowledge, understanding and skills acquired in different parts of the Advanced GCE course.

Synoptic assessment in the context of Arabic is naturally occurring and requires students to draw upon different skills within an assessment task. In Unit 2 the essays related to the student's chosen topic(s) and/or text(s) implicitly requires some reading as part of the student's preparation and research for this 'written' exercise. Knowledge of grammar structures is also not restricted to one skill area but is tested across skills and in both units.

Stretch and challenge

Students can be stretched and challenged in the A2 unit through the use of different assessment strategies. Some examples are given below.

Translation into Arabic enables students to demonstrate an ability to manipulate complex language at an advanced level. They can draw on appropriate vocabulary and structures to produce a translation which is accurate and natural rather than pedestrian.

The topic or text essay (extended writing) enables students to demonstrate that they can produce fluent and relevant language at an advanced level. It can reveal use of complex language structures and comprehensive range of vocabulary. They can use this to convey opinions and express themselves well and accurately.

Additional information

Malpractice and plagiarism

For up-to-date advice on malpractice and plagiarism, please refer to the latest *Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) Instructions for Conducting Coursework* document. This document is available on the JCQ website: www.jcq.org.uk.

For additional information on malpractice, please refer to the latest *Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) Suspected Malpractice in Examinations And Assessments: Policies and Procedures* document, available on the JCQ website.

Access arrangements and special requirements

Edexcel's policy on access arrangements and special considerations for GCE, GCSE, and Entry Level is designed to ensure equal access to qualifications for all students (in compliance with the Equality Act 2010) without compromising the assessment of skills, knowledge, understanding or competence.

Please see the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) website (www.jcq.org.uk) for their policy on access arrangements, reasonable adjustments and special considerations.

Please see our website (www.edexcel.com) for:

- the forms to submit for requests for access arrangements and special considerations
- dates to submit the forms.

Requests for access arrangements and special considerations must be addressed to:

Special Requirements
Edexcel
One90 High Holborn
London WC1V 7BH

Equality Act 2010	Please see our website (www.edexcel.com) for information on the Equality Act 2010.
Prior learning and progression	<p>Prior learning</p> <p>Students who would benefit most from studying a GCE in Arabic are likely to have Level 2 qualification such as a GCSE in Arabic at grades A*–C or other relevant prior learning.</p> <p>Progression</p> <p>This qualification supports progression into further and higher education, training or employment. It provides a suitable foundation for specialist linguists wishing to study Arabic at a higher level, those wishing to combine language study with other disciplines at higher level and those considering other qualifications without a language focus.</p>
Combinations of entry	There are no forbidden combinations.
Student recruitment	<p>Edexcel's access policy concerning recruitment to our qualifications is that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ they must be available to anyone who is capable of reaching the required standard ■ they must be free from barriers that restrict access and progression ■ equal opportunities exist for all students.
The wider curriculum	This qualification provides opportunities for developing an understanding of spiritual, moral, ethical, social and cultural issues, together with an awareness of citizenship, environmental issues, health and safety considerations. <i>Appendix 2: Wider curriculum</i> maps the opportunities available.

E Resources, support and training

Edexcel publications

Printed copies of publications such as specifications, examiners' reports and mark schemes can be obtained from:

Edexcel Publications
Adamsway
Mansfield
Notts NG18 4FN

Telephone: 01623 467467
Fax: 01623 450481
Email: publication.orders@edexcel.com
Website: www.edexcel.com

Edexcel support services

Edexcel support services

Edexcel has a wide range of support services to help you implement this qualification successfully.

ResultsPlus – ResultsPlus is an application launched by Edexcel to help subject teachers, senior management teams, and students by providing detailed analysis of examination performance. Reports that compare performance between subjects, classes, your centre and similar centres can be generated in 'one-click'. Skills maps that show performance according to the specification topic being tested are available for some subjects. For further information about which subjects will be analysed through ResultsPlus, and for information on how to access and use the service, please visit www.edexcel.com/resultsplus

Ask the Expert – to make it easier for our teachers to ask us subject specific questions we have provided the **Ask the Expert** Service. This easy-to-use web query form will allow you to ask any question about the delivery or teaching of Edexcel qualifications. You'll get a personal response, from one of our administrative or teaching experts, sent to the email address you provide. You can access this service at www.edexcel.com/ask

Support for Students

Learning flourishes when students take an active interest in their education; when they have all the information they need to make the right decisions about their futures. With the help of feedback from students and their teachers, we've developed a website for students that will help them:

- understand subject specifications
- access past papers and mark schemes
- learn about other students' experiences at university, on their travels and when entering the workplace.

We're committed to regularly updating and improving our online services for students. The most valuable service we can provide is helping schools and colleges unlock the potential of their learners. www.edexcel.com/students

Training

A programme of professional development and training courses, covering various aspects of the specification and examination, will be arranged by Edexcel each year on a regional basis. Full details can be obtained from:

Training from Edexcel
Edexcel
One90 High Holborn
London WC1V 7BH

Email: trainingbookings@pearson.com
Website: www.edexcel.com/training

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Introduction

Performance descriptions have been created for all GCE subjects. They describe the learning outcomes and levels of attainment likely to be demonstrated by a representative candidate performing at the A/B and E/U boundaries for AS and A2.

In practice most candidates will show uneven profiles across the attainments listed, with strengths in some areas compensating in the award process for weaknesses or omissions elsewhere. Performance descriptions illustrate expectations at the A/B and E/U boundaries of the AS and A2 as a whole; they have not been written at unit level.

Grade A/B and E/U boundaries should be set using professional judgement. The judgement should reflect the quality of candidates' work, informed by the available technical and statistical evidence. Performance descriptions are designed to assist examiners in exercising their professional judgement. They should be interpreted and applied in the context of individual specifications and their associated units. However, performance descriptions are not designed to define the content of specifications and units.

The requirement for all AS and A level specifications to assess candidates' quality of written communication will be met through one or more of the assessment objectives.

The performance descriptions have been produced by the regulatory authorities in collaboration with the awarding bodies.

AS performance descriptions for Modern Foreign Languages

	Assessment objective 2	Assessment objective 3
Assessment objectives	Understand and respond, in speech and writing, to written language. ²	Show knowledge of and apply accurately the grammar and syntax prescribed in the specification.
	² Understand and respond in speech to written language may not apply to the specifications for certain languages, subject to an agreement with the regulatory authorities.	
A/B boundary performance descriptions	<p>In the context of materials appropriate to the AS specification, candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a show a clear understanding of a range of written texts b understand the main points and details, including points of view. c are able to infer meaning with only a few omissions d are able to develop their ideas, and express points of view, with some appropriate justification e respond readily and fluently and take the initiative (<i>speaking</i>) f have generally accurate pronunciation and intonation (<i>speaking</i>) g show the ability to organise and structure their response coherently (<i>writing</i>) h offer relevant information which addresses the requirements of the task (<i>writing</i>). 	<p>In the context of grammar and syntax listed in the AS specification, candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a make effective use of a range of vocabulary and structures appropriate to the task. b The deployment of grammar, syntax and morphology is generally accurate. c are able to manipulate language appropriately when required.

	Assessment objective 2	Assessment objective 3
E/U boundary performance descriptions	<p>In the context of materials appropriate to the AS specification, candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a show some understanding of straightforward written texts, but experience difficulties with more complex and abstract language b understand some of the main points and details, including limited points of view c have a limited ability to infer meaning where appropriate to the task d are able to convey some basic information when transferring meaning e may be hesitant in their response and their fluency is mostly confined to pre-learnt material. Their target language performance maybe influenced by their first language (<i>speaking</i>) f may have some difficulty communicating factual information, narrating events and expressing basic points of view in response to the task set, and do not always address the requirements of the task (<i>writing</i>) g show some ability to structure and organise their response where appropriate. 	<p>In the context of grammar and syntax listed in the AS specification, candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a use a restricted range of vocabulary and structures b have language characterised by frequent errors in grammar, syntax and morphology c may be influenced by the first language. d demonstrate a very limited ability to manipulate language where required.

A2 performance descriptions for Modern Foreign Languages

	Assessment objective 2	Assessment objective 3
Assessment objectives	Understand and respond, in speech and writing to written language. ²	Show knowledge of and apply accurately the grammar and syntax prescribed in the specification.
	² Understand and respond in speech to written language may not apply to specifications for certain languages, subject to an agreement with the regulatory authorities	
A/B boundary performance descriptions	<p>In the context of materials appropriate to the A level specification, candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a show a clear understanding of a range of written texts b understand the main points and details, including points of view, and are able to infer meaning c demonstrate an ability to infer meaning d are able to transfer meaning with only minor omissions e are able to develop their ideas, and express and justify points of view effectively f respond readily and fluently and take the initiative (<i>speaking</i>) g have generally accurate pronunciation and intonation (<i>speaking</i>) h are able to deal appropriately with unpredictable elements (<i>speaking</i>) i show the ability to organise and structure their response coherently (<i>writing</i>). 	<p>In the context of materials appropriate to the A level specification candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a make effective use of a wide range of vocabulary and a variety of complex structures as appropriate. b predominantly use grammar, syntax and morphology in an accurate way c are able to manipulate language accurately and appropriately where required.

	Assessment objective 2	Assessment objective 3
E/U boundary performance descriptions	<p>In the context of materials appropriate to the A level specification, candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a show some understanding of a range of written texts, usually straightforward, but may experience difficulty with more complex and abstract language b understand some of the main points and details, including basic points of view c demonstrate a limited ability to infer meaning, where appropriate, to the task d are able to convey the basic information when transferring meaning e may be hesitant in their response and their fluency is mostly confined to pre-learnt material. Their target language performance may be influenced by their first language (<i>speaking</i>) f may have some difficulty communicating factual information, narrative events and expressing basic points of view in response to the task set and do not always address the requirements of the task appropriately g show some ability of structure and organise their response, where appropriate. 	<p>In the context of grammar and syntax listed in the A level specification, candidates characteristically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a use a restricted range of vocabulary and structures. The deployment of grammar, syntax and morphology contains frequent error and may be influenced by their first language. b demonstrate a very limited ability to manipulate language correctly when required.

Signposting

Issue	Unit 1	Unit 2
Spiritual	✓	✓
Moral	✓	✓
Ethical	✓	✓
Social	✓	✓
Cultural	✓	✓
Citizenship	✓	✓
Environmental	✓	✓
Health and safety	✓	✓

In addition to the acquisition of knowledge about language structures and the development of practical language skills, effective language learning involves a promotion of cultural understanding. This specification requires students to consider a range of topics, issues and different aspects of target-language culture and to give their views and express opinions on these. Consequently, the specification and linked classroom studies should give learners many opportunities to relate their language study to all of the listed 'issues'.

Development suggestions

Issue	AS/A2 units	Opportunities for development or internal assessment
Spiritual	Both units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A student may wish to explore the spiritual dimension of an Arabic-language novel or film as part of research linked to one of the general topic areas.
Moral	Both units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In preparation for written work, a student discusses an issue on 'peer pressures' and may make reference to moral tensions that some young adults experience.
Ethical	Both units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students could be exposed to a reading passage that refers to 'fair trade' fashion.
Social	Both units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In their chosen topic or text essay research, a student may refer to the social conditions associated with a particular period of Arabic history.
Cultural	Both units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students could undertake a translation exercise linked to a particular aspect of Arabic arts.
Citizenship	Both units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A student might encounter links to citizenship concerns when reading a short passage on immigrant workers.
Environmental	Both units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students could be exposed to a written stimulus on recycling.
Health and safety	Both units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A student might consider health and safety concerns if writing an essay linked to a stimulus on smoking or alcohol abuse in public places.

Type of code	Use of code	Code number
National classification codes	Every qualification is assigned to a national classification code indicating the subject area to which it belongs. Centres should be aware that students who enter for more than one GCE qualification with the same classification code will have only one grade (the highest) counted for the purpose of the school and college performance tables.	5910
National Qualifications Framework (NQF) codes	<p>Each qualification title is allocated a National Qualifications Framework (NQF) code.</p> <p>The National Qualifications Framework (NQF) code is known as a Qualification Number (QN).</p> <p>This is the code that features in the DfE Section 96, and on the LARA as being eligible for 16–18 and 19+ funding, and is to be used for all qualification funding purposes. The QN is the number that will appear on the student’s final certification documentation.</p>	<p>The QNs for the qualifications in this publication are:</p> <p>AS — 500/2440/1</p> <p>Advanced GCE — 500/2309/3</p>
Unit codes	Each unit is assigned a unit code. This unit code is used as an entry code to indicate that a student wishes to take the assessment for that unit. Centres will need to use the entry codes only when entering students for their examination.	<p>Unit 1 — 6AR01</p> <p>Unit 2 — 6AR02</p>
Cash in codes	The cash-in code is used as an entry code to aggregate the student’s unit scores to obtain the overall grade for the qualification. Centres will need to use the entry codes only when entering students for their qualification.	<p>AS — 8AR01</p> <p>Advanced GCE — 9AR01</p>
Entry codes	<p>The entry codes are used to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 enter a student for the assessment of a unit 2 aggregate the student’s unit scores to obtain the overall grade for the qualification. 	Please refer to the Edexcel Information Manual available on the Edexcel website.

Advanced Subsidiary and A2 level students will be expected to have studied the grammatical system and structures of the language during their course. In the examination they will be required to actively and accurately use grammar and structures appropriate to the tasks set, drawn from the following lists. The lists are divided into Advanced Subsidiary and A2 level. The examples in italics are indicative, not exclusive.

Arabic: Advanced Subsidiary Level

Vocalisation system	The case system
	Consonants; long and short vowels; helping vowels; <i>hamza</i>
	Transliteration of loan words in Arabic script
Nouns	Definite/indefinite
	Gender (masculine/feminine) plus exceptions
	Singular/dual/plural (sound; broken; non-human; collective)
	Diptotes
	Idafa
	Indeclinable; invariable; defective; diminutive
Articles	Definite; omission of indefinite; generic
Adjectives	Agreement (human; non-human)
	Position
	Elativ (comparative and superlative)
	Demonstrative
	Relative (<i>nisba</i>)
	Indeclinable; invariable; defective

Adverbs	Manner, time, place, purpose
	Comparative and superlative
	Interrogative (eg <i>mata</i> , <i>kayfa</i> , <i>kam</i>)
	Cognate accusative
	<i>Hal</i> <i>Tamyiz</i>
Pronouns	Personal
	Relative
	Demonstrative
	Possessive
	Interrogative (eg <i>man</i>)
Verbal sentences	Word order; subject/object
Verbs	Active/passive participle
	Verbal nouns (<i>masdar</i>)
	Sound triliteral, quadriliteral verbs (Forms I–X) hollow; defective;
	Assimilated; doubled;
	Hamzated verbs (Forms I–X)

Tenses

Perfect

Imperfect; present; subjunctive; jussive

Latin imperfect

Conditional

Pluperfect

Future

Future perfect (R)

Imperative — positive, negative, indirect

Negative

Passive voice (R)

Nominal sentences

Equational sentences

Kana and its sisters*Inna* and its sisters**Prepositions**

Interrogatives

Particles including

Vocative

Use of *qad* (قد) (perfect, pluperfect and *hal*)Use of *qad* (قد) (hypothetical) (R)Exception (eg *Illa* إلا)**Quantifiers/
intensifiers****Conjunctions**

Number, quantity and time

Cardinal/ordinal

Agreements with nouns

Use of *munthu* (منذ)

Arabic: A2 Level

Verbs

All grammar and structures listed for Advanced Subsidiary, plus:

Future perfect tense

Passive voice: all tenses

Use of *qad* (قد)

Particles

Absolute negative (*la* لا); exclamation and wonder; emphatic

Please note that while resources are checked at the time of publication, materials may be withdrawn from circulation and website locations may change at any time.

Bibliographies

The following resources have been suggested as bibliographies to support study of the prescribed topic or text in Unit 2.

Hourani A – *A History of the Arab Peoples* (Faber and Faber, 2013) ISBN 9780571288014

Boullata I – *Critical Perspectives on Modern Arabic Literature* (Three Continents Press, 1980) ISBN 9780894100086. Chapter entitled 'Encounter between East and West: a theme in Contemporary Arabic Novels' discusses Yahya Haqqi's *Qindil Umm Hashim*

Meisami J S and Starkey P – *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Arabic Literature* (Routledge, 2010) ISBN 9780415571135

Badawi M M – *Modern Arabic Literature* (Cambridge University Press, 2006) ISBN 9780521028530

Mahfouz N – *Thief and the Dogs: Al Liss Wal Kilab* (Intl Book Centre, 1970) ISBN 9780866851589

*Hitti P – *History of the Arabs* (Macmillan, 1960)
ASIN: B0000CKRLT

Nicholson R A – *A Literary History of the Arabs* (Cosimo Classics, 2010) ISBN 9781616403409

El-Enany R – *Naguib Mahfouz: The Pursuit of Meaning* (Routledge, 1993) ISBN 9780415073950

Haqqi Y – *Qindil Umm Hashim* (Dar al-Ma'arif, 1984) ISBN 9789770208595

*Covers aspects included in both the Topics and Texts.

Useful websites

amazon.co.uk	For the purchase of resources
aucpress.com	American University of Cairo
bbc.co.uk/arabic	News in Arabic

Other resources

Al Ahram Bookshop

73 Edgware Road
London W2 2HZ
Telephone: 020 7706 4333

ALL (Association for Language Learning)

University of Leicester
University Road
Leicester LE1 7RH
Website: www.all-languages.org.uk

Asahiya Shoten

Unit 34
399 Edgware Road
London, NW9 0JJ
Telephone: 020 8200 0039

Centre for Information on Language Teaching (CILT)

CFBT Education Trust
60 Queens Road
Reading RG1 4BS
Telephone: 0118 9021000
Website: www.cilt.org.uk

Grant and Cutler at Foyles

113–119 Charing Cross Road
London WC2H 0EB
Website: www.grantandcutler.com

Kingscraft Ltd (for Arabic films, cassettes by mail order)

62 Edgware Road
London, W2 2EH
Telephone: 020 74861548

Dictionaries

Ba'albaki M and Ba'albaki R M — *Al-Mawrid English-Arabic Dictionary* (Dar el-Ilm Lil-Malayin, 2013) ISBN 9789953636603

Doniach N S (editor) — *The Oxford English-Arabic Dictionary of Current Usage* (Oxford University Press, 1983) ISBN 9780198643210

Wehr H — *Arabic-English Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic* (Spoken Language Service, 1994)

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This specification is Issue 3. Key changes are sidelined. We will inform centres of any changes to this issue. The latest issue can be found on the Edexcel website: www.edexcel.com

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