

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2010

GCSE

GCSE Arabic (5AR03)

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Unit 3 - Reading and Understanding

The question paper was comprised of nine questions. Five marks were allocated to all the questions with the exception of question 9 which was marked out of a total of ten marks.

Questions covered a variety of topics from different areas of study. The questions were in English except for the relevant question material which was in the target language.

To show reading comprehension ability, candidates were asked to respond to a variety of question types by either putting a cross in the correct box as in questions 1, 4, 6, 7 and 8, filling in a form in English as in question 2, writing the letter of the correct Arabic information in front of the corresponding English material as in questions 3 & 5 or answering questions about an Arabic text in English as in question 9.

In comparison to the previous specification, candidates in this paper are expected to know some English to be able to understand tasks and respond to questions accordingly in the first eight questions. Question 9 required candidates to respond to questions in English about an Arabic text as in the previous specification.

With the exception of a very few who had some difficulties understanding the task in English, candidates responded well to demands according to their actual ability.

To avoid losing marks unnecessarily, candidates are advised to observe the following points:

- If the question requires a letter of a correct item to be selected, avoid giving more than one. No marks are awarded to answers with more than one letter in their answer.
- If you make a mistake, place a clear line through your incorrect answer and write your correct answer next to it.
- No marks are awarded to an answer with more than one cross in a multiple choice question.
- In a 'true or false' question candidates are asked to place crosses in front of five correct answers only. Any extra crosses will result in losing a number of marks based on the number of the extra crosses. For example, if a candidate placed six crosses in front of six items and he /she had four correct answers out of the six, the examiner will award three marks after deducting one mark for the extra cross.
- Question 9 requires candidates to respond in English, therefore any answer in the target language will not be marked and hence no marks awarded to it.

Grade Boundaries

Raw Mark boundaries

Max Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
50	41	37	33	29	25	21	17	13

Uniform Mark Scale boundaries

Max Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
70	63	56	49	42	35	28	21	14

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