Examiners’ Report
June 2015

GCSE Arabic 5AR04 01
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June 2015

Publications Code UG040871

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Introduction

This examination paper has been designed to accommodate a wide range of student profiles, and rewards work from grades G to A*. It consists of two tasks; short writing task and longer writing task. Candidates are asked to choose one question in each task out of a choice of four. They are required to write 30-70 words in task one (Section A), and a minimum of 120 words in task two (Section B). Both tasks require writing in Arabic where candidates have one hour to complete this paper. This paper carries a maximum of 50 marks.

Section A (Short writing task):

Candidates are required to produce a short writing task in Arabic (30-70 words) in response to a choice of four questions that relate to two prescribed themes:

1. Media, Travel and Culture
2. Sports, Leisure and Work

The task is assessed for Content and Communication (10 marks) and Knowledge and Application of Language (10 marks) only. The maximum mark for this task is 20.

Section B (Longer writing task):

Candidates are required to produce a longer writing task in Arabic (a minimum of 120 words) in response to a choice of four questions that relate to two prescribed themes:

1. Media, Travel and Culture
2. Sports, Leisure and Work

In this task, candidates are assessed for Content and Communication (15 marks), Knowledge and Application of Language (10 marks) and Accuracy (5 marks). The maximum mark for this task is 30.

The questions in this examination paper were carefully selected to give candidates a wide choice of tasks through which they can express their knowledge of the Arabic language. In general, the performance of the candidates was of a high standard. Most of the questions proved accessible for a considerable number of candidates and there was no indication that English words or phrases in the question paper presented any difficulty for the majority of candidates.
**Question 1 (a)**

This question asked candidates to write about inviting their friend to spend the weekend in their home town. The topic of this question proved to be very popular among the candidates. The majority of candidates managed to secure good marks here as travel and culture related questions are the type of topics which candidates of all levels seem to enjoy.

Many responses were at the level of native speakers where a good variety of reasons were given for the invitation. However, there were few students who failed to get the full marks by just forgetting to include one or two bullet points, which were either why the stay was enjoyable or to mention that they invited the friend. Very few did not realise that the requirement of the question was to write about an invitation that had already happened in the past and not an invitation for the time to come. Marks were not awarded as a result of this misunderstanding.

Nevertheless this question gave a good opportunity to the less able candidates to produce some reasonable material that secured them some passing marks.

Although this question was different from previous years’ holiday question, it was selected by about 68% of the candidates, which is higher percentage than any other single question selection in previous series.

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*Indicate which task you are answering by marking the box £. If you change your mind, put a line through the box £ and then indicate your new task with a cross ×.*

**Chosen task:**  
(a) £  
(b) ×  
(c) ×  
(d) ×

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كزمك صاحبى أحمد يا ليفروبي لي نذهب ندعب كرة القدم في الحدائق.

كان اليوم مشمس وحار فليسنا لنعلolation لبسمة لا سبا صديقنا. كزمك أحمد لانتم لم أوله طويلة ولقد اشتفت لرؤيتنا.

كانت الخريجة مسيبة، لعبنا كرة قدم حتى تعبنا وبعدنا نذهبنا إلى المنزل، ونحن للأسف.

كلي تحسناً. جاء اختي أخيلة والدتي وانهت.
A successful response when it comes to content and communication as well as knowledge of language. This candidate obtained full marks.

Examiner Comments

candidate addressed all the required bullet points.

Examiner Tip

This is an unsuccessful answer where the candidate managed to include some words which describe the weather and what they did with their friend. However there is a failure to communicate or write the essay in good language. The candidate scored 3 marks for Content and Communication and 2 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language.

Examiner Tip

Candidates could benefit from more essay writing practice.
في الأسبوع الماضي عزت مدينتي إلى بلدي فلسطين حتى إلينا ومدينتي نظرية
وقت جميل في اليوم الأول نحن إلى عامة فلسطين وهي هو القدس.
القدس هو مركز مهم من التاريخ والدين في فلسطين، ثم نحن إلى مسجد التقي حتى نملي بلاة الظهر.

بعد ذلك سارة كنيسة المهد في بيت لحم وهو المكان الذي ولد فيها السيد المسيح عليه السلام، ثم رئينا المسيحين يصلون في يومهم كان يوم جميل جدا.

ثم في اليوم الثاني نحن إلى نادي رياضية كبيرة كان في الكثير من الناس هناك، لإبداء
كان هناك مدراب عاشق لكل شخص وكان هذا الشخص يهتم بينا، وكأن هذا المدراب كان يعلمنا كيف نستخدم الآلات الرياضية مثل الألعاب المُتعددة وألعاب البدن، إحياناً كنت أذهب إلى النادي الرياضي حتى أمارس بعض الحركات التمارينات مع الرياضيين مثل الجري والمشي والقفز. كان هذا اليوم المتعة مع مدينتي العزيزة سارة.
The candidate understood the question and was able to communicate almost all the requirements of the question (CC:9). However, the quality of language was not very successful (KL:5).

Examiner Comments

More Arabic language writing is needed.
The candidate did not realise that the requirement of the question was to write about an invitation that had already happened in the past and not an invitation for the time to come. Full marks were not awarded as a result of this misunderstanding. This candidate scored 8 marks for Content and Communication and 9 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language.

Examiner Tip
Pay more attention to the question.
**Question 1 (b)**

This question was the second most popular attempted by the candidates in Section A (short writing task).

Candidates were asked to write a letter describing their shopping experience with their parents to buy bedroom furniture. Shopping is a topic that candidates respond to well; they usually relate it to an unforgettable experience. There were some excellent answers among candidates’ responses including some excellent written letters with wonderful descriptions. This question allowed candidates to use their imagination to write about several styles of furniture and variety of colour co-ordinates. This may have been due to the candidates relating this essay to a real shopping experience with their parents.

Strong candidates described the experience as unique and enjoyable, while weaker candidates were concise with their responses, or neglecting to mention if they enjoyed the experience, which affected their score. Others struggled to understand who should have enjoyed the experience, their parents or themselves.

Some less able candidates did not secure good marks here as they found the word “furniture” difficult to understand.

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**Indicate which task you are answering by marking the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new task with a cross ☒.**

Chosen task: (a) ☒ (b) ☒ (c) ☒ (d) ☒

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**Медина خليفة**

**أبو ظبي**

**المماثلات العربية الفتحية**

شدة يقتني الغرفة،

منذ عدة أيام ذهبت مع أبي وأمي في يوم صباح مشرق للفكر التسوقي لأنني أحب أن أجدي مأوى أسري لغرفتي. كان يوم ممتع للغاية لذين أبني وأمي ساعدوني في بيع مراتنا، استمرت مقاعد كثيرة رنها أزرق وعلوه سيرت أزرق في مربع بالغاً اشترته ألوان الهاشمات لحول التي حضرتي أي أن أختار. يا ليترك كننا فناناً لأني كان يوم جميل وممتع جداً، أني أحب أن أستريح أشياء مع أبي وأمي لأنهم يذكرون عداً معي ويدعون مشاركة الأفكار المفيدة معي. فهل تأتي فننا?
A very successful answer. The essay satisfied all the requirements of the question and had excellent command of Arabic language, obtaining full marks.

Examiner Comments
Exemplary answer, can be used for future reference.

Examiner Tip
The candidate’s response is too brief, therefore was unable to secure high marks.

It scored 6 marks for Content and Communication and 4 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language.

Examiner Tip
Spend more time in answering questions.
This is an exemplary answer, however one mark was lost as the candidate did not write their answer as a letter to a friend. They scored 9 marks for Content and Communication and 10 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language.

**Examiner Comments**

Pay more attention to what is required by the question.
Question 1 (c)

Most candidates, for whom Arabic is a second language, found this question more challenging. However, many managed to get above average marks. Candidates were asked to describe a game with their ‘favourite sportsperson’ which was their prize for good sports performance.

Most of those who attempted this question used a football player as their favourite sportsperson, especially Ronaldo and Messi. Some candidates found it difficult to respond to a question that is easy to read and understand because of their lack of vocabulary on the topic; therefore, they resorted in using too many repeated words.

The more able candidates wrote about their sports idol and linked them well to their school prize, while less able candidates wrote about their sports idol, their performance and personality in general. In doing so these candidates failed to make the connection to the requirement of the question and therefore lost some marks as a result. Some other candidates misunderstood the task assuming that they were supposed to describe their own skills and performance, which made them win the prize. Although this reflects a slight confusion, candidates were not marked down for that.

Very successful response managing to cover all the bullet points required by the question and using a good command of Arabic language.

This student achieved full marks.
This candidate achieved good marks for Content and Communication as they were able to mention many bullet points (CC:7). However their command of Arabic was not very successful (KL:4).

Examiner Tip
Candidates should use past papers when preparing for the exam.
This is not a very successful answer. The candidate has managed to communicate a little; however there is a failure to write the essay in good language. This response scored 4 for Communication and Content and 3 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language.

Examiner Tip
Candidates must practice writing essays.
Question 1 (d)

This was the least popular question in Section A (short writing task). In this question candidates were required to write a speech about their work experience in a beach resort in the summer. Those who answered this question produced a good level of responses even though it was about work experience, which is one of the less popular topics. Less able candidates either wrote about something totally different or wrote about the topic but used wrong words from the dictionary. This was due to a lack of suitable vocabulary, knowledge of the subject area and/or misunderstanding of the task.

Indicate which task you are answering by marking the box ✗. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ✗ and then indicate your new task with a cross ✗.

Chosen task:  (a) ✗ (b) ✗ (c) ✗ (d) ✗

إسلام عليكم،

سفيه عمري اليوم سف اتكلم ان للدوم الذي كنت فيه عند منتجش الشاطئ، داوام دواكم ثلاث أسابيع في حي حاجة الصيف واستمتعت بوقتي كثيراً.

كان واجبي ان أرب المكان ملتقى و أستقبل الصيف وصبرهم اخبرهم بالأشياء الذي يستطعون أد يستمتعوا به.

حذاء الدوم بينفع كثيرة للشباب والسغار لذا لنك تتعاقد كيف تتعامل مع الناس وكيف و كيف تتصور في معهم أتمنى أن تنصو نصيحتي وتدخلون هذه الشغل وشكراً.
في عطلتي الصيفية الماضية قررت أن أعمل في منتجع صخري للاعقة في عين بالقرب من مكة. أكسبتني فرصة في العمل مع الآخرين، ولقيوا اهتمامًا وقت فرغت بشيءٍ بسيطٍ. وفِي الأخرى، كانت وظيفتي في الاستقبال حيث كلفت أن أرمي المجملات للسلاك وأن أُداوب على استلامهم. وأود أن أقول إن فقط البدء من الخدمات التي يقدمها المنتجع. استمعت بوظيفتي وسررت بأنني أقدم خدمات مميزة وأن أساعد الناس الاحتياجين من حولي. أنا أنصح كل أصدقائي أن يشعروا بهذه التجربة الشيقة فإنها تعطي الشباب فرصة التعامل مع الآخرين وتحسينهم بالسلاسة وإتجاه الآخرين.

This response achieved full marks.

Candidates should ensure that they follow this example when answering questions.
This candidate’s use of some dialect did not help them scoring high marks for Knowledge of Language. They scored 6 marks for Content and Communication and 5 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language.

Pay attention to the language used to secure an excellent score.
**Question 2 (a)**

This question asked candidates to write an article about the benefits of making friends when travelling. This was a good question because it is related to a holiday experience which helped some students to achieve above average or full marks. However, the less able candidates found it more challenging because it required them to identify the benefits of meeting other people on their travels and to include a personal experience. Many wrote about the benefits of travel and about learning a new language, as well as about experiencing new cuisine. Very few of those who attempted it explored other areas of culture.

The less able candidates were not able to go into the depth of the question and carried on describing a holiday that they previously had, which looked like pre-learnt essays.

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**Examiner Comments**

This candidate achieved full marks for Content and Communication as they were able to mention all the required bullet points.

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**Examiner Tip**

Exemplary response
Chosen task: (a)  (b)  (c)  (d)  

The journey is very exhausting. The trip is tiring and exhausting. The journey is exhausting and tiring. The trip is very exhausting and tiring. 

The languages of the different cultures, let us learn in different countries, in different countries.

As well as the customs and traditions varied, because the trip is possible to eat and wear clothes from different countries.


Examiner Comments
This is an example of a pre-learnt essay. The candidate did not score well. The response scored 2 marks for Content and Communication and 2 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language and 2 for Accuracy. 

Read well into the question before answering.
Question 2 (b)

This question asked candidates to write a speech advising students to use the library more regularly. It was the second most popular question in section B (longer writing task). Most of the candidates who attempted it were able to produce wonderful articles with excellent grammar. They used appropriate vocabulary in well-structured language and were able to secure higher marks. However, there were many candidates who found the question very challenging and gave wrong structures and answers.

Indicate which task you are answering by marking the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new task with a cross ☒.

Chosen task: (a) ☒ (b) ☒ (c) ☒ (d) ☒
This is a good answer where the candidate has managed to write a speech about using the library more regularly. However not good enough to score too well in knowledge and accuracy of language. The response scored 10 marks for Content and Communication and 5 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language and 3 for Accuracy.

Candidates should practice writing essays.

Good answer but a little short. This response scored 12 marks for Content and Communication and 8 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language and 5 for Accuracy.

Candidates should practice writing longer essays.
أعزائي وأصدقائي الطلاب،
إنه سترتفع أعظم أن أقصى آمالكم اليوم، وأتُ荫كم لكم عن بشرة أحمية الكتاب والمعلم في حياتي وحياتهم وحياة الجماعة.
إنه للطالب مكانة عظيمة في مجتمعنا، فكل قليل.
كان الكتاب، حيث تخصص للكتاب منزلاً، خاصاً، أي وهم الكتابة، كلما زارته الناس، من حين إلى آخر، وكلما أسافر، لقد خُلقت، مكتباً للعلماء وتركناه وحياة جالساً على رفقات في المكتبة في رواية همزة، لذلك بArgentina، إنما نحنكم أن نزورونا المكتبة بشكل أكثر أن نستفيدوا من محتويات الكتاب.
هناك، فلقد قيل: (العلم نور والجهل ظلام).
و بحسب ما وصلنا إليه، نحن نؤمن أن الكتابة المكتوبة من تقدم وتطور، فأصبحت الكتاب الإلكترونية مشهورة حول العالم، مما أدى إلى تسلط الضوء عليها وترك المكتبات، ولكن، أضف لكم أن المجتمع اقترب خطياً جسيماً ولم يتحمل حقوقاً، لأن المكتبة، حسب مصر أفضل من الكتاب الإلكترونية، فالكتب الإلكترونية تؤذي العين ككس الكتب الورقية التي لا تؤذي العين مطلقاً، بل لذلك يأخذ أصدقائي، لازمونا المكتبات، ولا تمجروها، لأنها تستحق احترام وانتباه الجميع لبيئة، فأوصيكم أصدقائي، بزيارة المكتبات، والتسلّح بالعلم، وأن تستغلوا الأوقات الفاصلة بقراءة الكتاب.
This is an example where the response was unsuccessful but was able to gain some marks when it came to content and communication. This response scored 7 marks for Content and Communication and 4 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language and 2 for Accuracy.
Question 2 (c)

Out of all the questions in this section, this proved to be the most popular.

Candidates were asked to write an email advising a friend, who is a good football player and wants to join a famous football team. Many candidates were able to give the benefits of becoming a professional footballer. Some gave very good advice to their friend and some just listed the advantages and disadvantages and forgot to give any advice on what to do. The popularity of this question in this section may be due to candidates being interested in football.

Examiner Comments

This is very successful response losing a few marks in knowledge of language but managing to satisfy most of the requirements. This response scored 12 marks for Content and Communication and 8 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language and 5 for Accuracy.
This essay is a perfect example that can be used for future reference.

Candidate obtained full marks
تجعل اللهُ الأردنية أمكر كل يوم لأنها بسقى الحب بين الجميع حتى في كسر بشجاعة نفس الفريق، ولا بد أن نجهز نوسك للتدريبات المتعبة والصفر الكثيف و البحذ في بلدك بلندن والبحر كن أصقاقوات والبحذ كن آسرتك لدن هذة السلبيات إلي تعبر مع اللعب في فريق خارج البلد.

وأياً لو أنت سافرت أنت تجعل أحسن لاعب كرة في مصر كلها وعالم الأفريقي و أنت تسلي بلدنا على كافاك، و أنت تؤدي

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments
Fair command of language but very good on content and communication. This response scored 12 marks for Content and Communication and 6 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language and 3 for Accuracy.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip
More language and spelling training needed
Examiner Comments

Not a very successful response but the candidate tried to present the essay in the form of an email that was full of advice, which was credited with reasonable marks.

This response scored 8 marks for Content and Communication and 4 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language and 3 for Accuracy.

Examiner Tip

Candidates would benefit from more essay writing practice.
Question 2 (d)

This was the least popular question in Section B (longer writing task). Candidates were asked to write about their work experience with the elderly, in a nursing home. Many found this question very demanding and were unable to use the right vocabulary or terminology to express their thoughts. However, most of those who chose to respond to this question were more able and confident candidates who managed to manipulate language and produce excellent pieces of writing.

الكلاس الأنسان هناك كانوا من الباب ناس من النوم. كلهم متضمنون في حياتي. هذا العالم هم شباب الذين هم تخلقهم الأنسان متكاملاً. من الصعب فهم بداية المثقفين، وللذين أنهم تعلمنا كثير ومثال التوافق والأمة على النفس على الأخبار والإخبار.

Examiner Comments

This candidate achieved a reasonable mark for Content and Communication (11) as they were able to mention many bullet points. As for Knowledge and Application of a Language they obtained 7 and 3 for Accuracy.

Examiner Tip

More language and spelling practice is needed.
Examiner Comments

Excellent detailed response, but this student failed to elaborate on certain issues such as their advice to others. This response scored 12 marks for Content and Communication and 8 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language and 5 for Accuracy.

Examiner Tip

Candidates should use past papers when preparing for the exam.
Choosen task: (a) ✗  (b) ✗  (c) ✗  (d) ✗

2(a)

ضمنًا
على خُصِصَ كَانَ الْمَلْعُوبُ حُرًا، تَشَاءَ إِلَى
المَبِينَةُ التَّلَاصُلُ عَلَى سِتَّينَ في عَنْانِ الْمَلْعُوبِ سُجُرَتْ بِالسَّعْدَةِ
لا يَخْيَبُهُ حُرًا، فَخَزَى مَا دَادَ كُنَا كَانَ لِمَعجَّبِ النَّاسِ کِتَابَلَ
مِنْ رَبِّي لَكُنَا أَكْثَرَأَا لَا يَجِبُ مَسَّيَّنَا الْبَارِيِّ عُظُمَّتْ
دَمَةً سَبَعَُ الْوَسُّ الفَتَّاحِ. هَمَّ أَخْوَىٰ أَكْثَرُ كَنَّ يَبْزِرُ

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments
Fair command of language but this candidate missed out on marks. The response scored 10 marks for Content and Communication and 6 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language and 3 for Accuracy.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip
More training needed

ResultsPlus
Examiner Comments
Excellent answer, candidate obtained full marks, except for Accuracy which was awarded a mark of 4.

ResultsPlus
Examiner Tip
More grammar training needed
Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Candidates seemed to be more familiar with the layout of questions than previous years. However, they are reminded to read well into the questions before answering, so that they do not lose any of the information required by the questions.

- Candidates should use past papers when preparing for the exam.

- Each question consists of a number of requirements. Candidates are advised that when the requirement of a question is presented in the plural form, then they are expected to produce more than one answer for that particular requirement to secure full marks.

- It was apparent that a number of candidates chose to write pre-learnt essays, especially for the travel question, 1(a). Candidates are advised to avoid writing pre-learnt essays as these will not secure full marks.

- The use of English words should be avoided.
Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:
http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx