



Examiners' Report Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2024

Pearson Edexcel GCSE
In Arabic (1AA0) Paper 1F

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Introduction

This report covers the Foundation Tier exam paper from the full-scale exam series introduced in the summer of 2019. The exam consists of 14 questions, with a total possible score of 50 marks. Candidates have 30 minutes to complete the exam, including 5 minutes of reading time.

The exam assesses candidates' understanding of standard spoken Arabic through various public and social contexts. Responses are required for multiple-choice and open-response questions based on recordings featuring both male and female Arabic speakers.

The paper is divided into two sections:

- **Section A** comprises 12 questions, all in English, with responses required in English.
- **Section B** contains 2 questions, with instructions and texts in Arabic, requiring responses in Arabic.

The exam content spans five themes as outlined in the 2017 specification:

1. Identity and culture
2. Local area, holiday, travel
3. School
4. Future aspirations, study, and work
5. International and global dimension

These themes and related topics are studied in the context of both the students' home country and Arabic-speaking countries and communities. Extensive study of the vocabulary list is essential to enable candidates to understand and express themselves effectively in these themes, supported by reading and listening to authentic material. Teachers should introduce and reinforce a range of vocabulary pertinent to the themes and topics outlined in the specification.

This Foundation Tier paper targets grades 1 to 5. The questions are organized as follows:

- Questions 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 target lower grades (1-2).
- Questions 6, 7, and 8 target mid-grade (3).
- Questions 9 to 14 target higher grades (4-5).
- Questions 9, 11, 13, and 14 are crossover questions shared with the Higher Tier paper.

Summary of Performance per Question

Section A

- **Q01 (3 marks):** While most candidates achieved full marks, some struggled with understanding the meanings of Arabic words, leading to random selections. This underscores the importance of familiarity with the vocabulary.
- **Q02 (3 marks):** Many candidates scored full marks; however, difficulties with Arabic time expressions were evident, highlighting the need for better retention of relevant vocabulary.
- **Q03 (3 marks):** Few candidates scored full marks due to a misunderstanding of the requirement to cross no more than three statements.
- **Q04 (3 marks):** The average score was 2 marks, with candidates who crossed all boxes receiving 0 marks. Emphasis on accurate answer selection is crucial.
- **Q05 (4 marks):** Candidates performed better in parts (a) and (d) than in parts (b) and (c), where identifying the table's location proved challenging. Several candidates found this question difficult because their responses lacked the necessary detail, especially in questions 5(b) and 5(c). The primary difficulty lay in the need to listen carefully and distinguish between specific details and context, which some candidates struggled with. Below are the common answers that caused candidates to lose marks:

Q5-a: Common Incorrect Answers

- Tuesday
- Friday
- Thursday
- Saturday

This suggests a misunderstanding of the audio content, possible confusion due to lack of familiarity with the specific context in which the day was mentioned, or not knowing the days of the week in Arabic.

Q5-b: Common Incorrect Answers

- A seat outside
- Discount

This error suggests a partial understanding of the audio content, missing the specific detail of the sea view.

Q5-c: Common Incorrect Answers

- Near a window
- Children

This reflects difficulty in focusing on specific locational details mentioned in the audio and missing the specific detail, which is "play area."

Q5-d: Common Incorrect Answers

- Three
- Ten
- Eight

This points to a challenge in accurately capturing numerical information and understanding the difference between كبار (adults) and أطفال (children). Exercises that focus on discerning numbers within sentences, especially those containing additional descriptive elements, could be beneficial.

• **Q06 (3 marks):** Many candidates scored at least 1 mark, with Q06b being the most frequently correct answer.

• **Q07 (3 marks):** Candidates generally performed well, with an average score of 2 marks. However, some lost marks by crossing out more than three boxes.

• **Q08 (3 marks):** This question effectively differentiated between levels of candidate ability, presenting significant challenges for those of average proficiency. Candidates needed to pay close attention to specific details and context, which some found difficult. Below are the common answers that caused candidates to lose marks:

Q8-a: Common Incorrect Answers

- Fairy tales
- Life
- Love
- Funny
- Beautiful stories

These errors suggest candidates either misunderstood the audio content or failed to grasp the specific detail of 'children's stories/books.' The correct answer pertained specifically to stories intended for children, but many responses reflected a broader interpretation or misinterpretation of the question.

Q8-b: Common Incorrect Answers

- When he was small
- Specific ages like '10,' '12,' or '7,'

- Secondary school

These responses indicate a difficulty in understanding the timeline described in the audio and a tendency to infer specific ages rather than the more general 'when he grew older.'

Q8-c: Common Incorrect Answers

- Education
- Information
- Peace

Some candidates misunderstood the focus of Hisham's statement. It clearly indicates that Hisham believes reading not only contributes to mental and physical well-being (which was already mentioned in the question) but also enhances one's happiness. However, several candidates provided incorrect answers. This discrepancy suggests a lack of attentive listening and comprehension among the candidates, as they overlooked Hisham's explicit mention of happiness following the discussion of healthy bodies and minds.

- **Q09 (4 marks):** Candidates generally performed well, with many achieving full marks.

- **Q10 (4 marks):** This question posed considerable difficulty, with only the candidates demonstrating the highest proficiency in Arabic managing to score well. Many candidates lost marks on questions 10(b) and 10(c), while some also struggled with question 10(d). Successfully answering these questions required close attention to specific details and context, which proved challenging for some candidates. Below are the common answers that caused candidates to lose marks:

Q10-a: Common Incorrect Answers

- It's unclean
- Small room
- Expensive hotel These responses indicate a misunderstanding or failure to focus on the specific reasons mentioned in the transcript. The correct answers focused on the cleanliness of the rooms, not the hotel.

Q10-b: Common Incorrect Answers

- Food

This indicates a misunderstanding as the transcript clearly states that Somaya enjoyed the swimming pool because it was large and clean. The correct answer specifically referred to the swimming pool, emphasising the need for candidates to accurately interpret and recall details from the audio content provided.

Q10-c: Common Incorrect Answers

- Internet password
- "Money"-on its own

- Water

These responses indicate a misunderstanding of the father's request as stated in the transcript. Some confusion with terms like "discount" instead of "refund."

Q10-d: Common Incorrect Answers

- Hotel manager
- Hotel staff
- Other family members

These responses indicate a misunderstanding of the role of the person mentioned in the transcript. The correct answer referred to the tourist guide or simply 'a guide,' highlighting the need for candidates to accurately identify the roles and identities of individuals mentioned in the listening material. This emphasises the importance of listening attentively to contextual clues and accurately interpreting the information provided.

- **Q11 (3 marks):** Candidates generally performed well, with many scorings at least 2 marks.

- **Q12 (4 marks):** Several candidates found this question difficult because their responses lacked the necessary detail, particularly in questions 12(b), 12(c), and 12(d). The primary challenge lay in the need to listen carefully and distinguish between specific details and context, which some candidates struggled with. Below are the common answers that caused candidates to lose marks:

Q12-a: Common Incorrect Answers

- Iraqi
- American
- Arab
- Dubai
- Riyadh

These responses indicate a misunderstanding of Zahra Lari's nationality. Some candidates misheard "رياضية" as "Riyadh," leading to incorrect responses. This underscores the importance of candidates accurately knowing and recalling vocabulary related to nationalities when responding to listening comprehension questions.

Q12-b: Common Incorrect Answers

- Swimming

- Running

- Tennis

Many candidates found this challenging, highlighting the importance of accurately understanding and recalling sports-related vocabulary.

Q12-c: Common Incorrect Answers

- Won the race
- When she gained followers on Instagram
- She won the championship

These responses indicate a misunderstanding of the pivotal moment in Zahra Lari's life as described in the listening exercise. This emphasises the importance of candidates accurately knowing and understanding event-related vocabulary when responding to listening comprehension questions. Very few candidates answered this correctly.

Q12-d: Common Incorrect Answers

- Encouraged them to do sports
- Positive effect
- Good effect
- Be like her

These responses reflect a misunderstanding of Zahra Lari's impact on young women as described in the transcript. The correct answers focused on her role in inspiring and motivating young women to pursue their dreams, not on mentioning specific dreams or sports. This underscores the importance of accurately knowing and using vocabulary related to motivation and encouragement when responding to listening comprehension questions.

Section B

- **Q13 and Q14 (5 marks each):** These crossover questions were challenging, with many candidates scoring only 1-2 marks. Regular practice with such questions is recommended to improve performance.

- **Question 13:** This question was difficult for many candidates. Only those with advanced Arabic proficiency performed well, as it required selecting the appropriate word from a given vocabulary list and filling in the blanks. This tested their listening comprehension skills. Common incorrect answers included:

- **Q13-a:** الدراسة
- **Q13-b:** مرشد السياحة

- **Q13-c:** الدراسة, وعدت
- **Q13-d:** لقاء, ثقافة, الحساب, الدراسة
- **Q13-e:** لقاء

Overall, while the listening material was straightforward, it required careful listening. Candidates should avoid reusing words they have already selected for other questions.

• **Question 14:** This question also posed a challenge for many candidates. Only those with advanced Arabic proficiency performed well, as it similarly required selecting the appropriate word from a vocabulary list and filling in the blanks. Candidates with limited vocabulary and weaker listening abilities struggled significantly. Common incorrect answers included:

- **Q14-a:** ادخار, الزيادة
- **Q14-b:** تخفيض
- **Q14-c:** الغامقة
- **Q14-d:** اشعال, إطفاء, الإصطناعية
- **Q14-e:** اشعال, إضاعة

This task was challenging for many candidates, as it required careful attention to detail. Candidates need to avoid repeating words they have already chosen for other questions. Additionally, they should carefully read each question; some candidates mistakenly chose two words for a single question, such as "الإصطناعية" and "الغاز". Furthermore, several candidates left entire questions blank, while others filled the blanks with words intended for Question 13.

Conclusion: Candidates should focus on enhancing their vocabulary knowledge and maintaining clear handwriting, as these aspects were pivotal in some candidates losing marks. Questions 13 and 14 particularly highlighted lower performance levels. Improving vocabulary retention and ensuring legible writing are key strategies for achieving stronger outcomes in similar listening assessments.

Conclusion and Advice:

- **Comprehensive Topic Coverage:** It is essential to give candidates ample time to familiarise themselves with all topics and themes during exam preparation.
- **Vocabulary Familiarity:** Candidates should thoroughly learn the vocabulary list, as key words often play a crucial role in answering questions correctly.
- **Question Type Performance:** Candidates generally perform better in multiple-choice questions than in open-response questions. Emphasise practicing and familiarising candidates with open-response question management.
- **Multiple-Choice Techniques:** To avoid losing marks, candidates should follow instructions carefully, selecting only the specified number of answers.

- **Effective Notetaking:** Encourage candidates to take notes while listening to the recording and refer to the question paper simultaneously. Advise them to make full use of the time when the recording is played for the second time.
- **Effective Use of Reading Time:** Advise candidates to utilise the reading time available to consider the question titles and the key words they are likely to hear. This preparation can help them better understand and respond to the questions during the exam.

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