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Examiners' Report  
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2023

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

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## **Introduction**

This Foundation Tier exam paper is made up of 14 questions with a total mark of 50.

This exam for this Foundation Tier is 30 minutes long with 5 minutes reading time.

The paper draws on vocabulary and structures across all themes and topics covered in this qualification specification.

Candidates are assessed on their understanding of standard spoken Arabic by one or more speakers in a range of public and social settings. Candidates will respond to multiple choice response and open response questions based on a recording featuring male and female Arabic speakers.

The paper is divided into two sections A and B. Section A consists of 12 questions, all set in English and candidates in this section are required to respond in English. Section B consists of two questions with instructions and texts set in Arabic. Candidates in this section are required to respond in Arabic.

The paper is based on five themes as per first teaching 2017 specification: (1) Identity and culture (2) Local area, holiday, travel (3) School (4) Future aspirations, study and work and (5) International and global dimension.

All themes and related topics must be studied in the context of both the candidates' home country and that of countries and communities where Arabic is spoken. The vocabulary list must be studied extensively to enable candidates to understand and express themselves with themes, reading and listening to authentic material. Teachers should present and exploit a range of vocabulary relevant to the themes and topics in the specification.

This year glossaries have been added to the paper. These glossaries have been advised by Ofqual during the times of Covid.

This foundation tier paper targets grades 1 to 5, and questions are in this order:

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

Below is a summary of how candidates performed per each question:

### Section A

Q01(3 marks): In this this multiple-choice question, most candidates scored at least one or two marks. Few scored full marks while others lost a mark as they were not sure about: (bedroom or living room).

This proves the importance of making sure that candidates have familiarised themselves with the vocabulary list.

Q02 (3 marks): In this multiple-choice question, many candidates were awarded the full 3 marks. However, some guessed the answers, especially in Q02i B: (Taking off-تُفَلَع). Most candidates are not familiar with this word which is in the vocabulary list.

Q03 (3 marks): This is another multiple-choice question in which few candidates were awarded 3 marks. Some candidates crossed more than 3 statements or sometimes all of them which resulted in losing marks. Candidates should be made aware of this mistake and its consequences.

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Q04 (3 marks): The average score in this question was 2/3 marks. However, like in the previous question, some candidates made similar mistakes by crossing all the boxes which resulted in a 0 score.

Q05 (4 marks): Candidates gained more marks in part (b) than part (a). Part (a) proved to be challenging to most candidates as they failed to provide the right answer (spring holiday) even though both words are in the vocabulary list especially the word (holiday) which is one of the main themes.

Q06 (3 marks): In this question many candidates scored at least 1 mark with (6a) being the most frequent correct answer.

Q07 (3 marks): Candidates performed well in this question with average scoring of 2/3 marks.

Q08 (3 marks): This question was challenging for many candidates who failed to provide the correct answers especially for (8b). These candidates did not understand the wording of the question. They gave (teaching) as an answer even though the question asks: (Besides teaching, how does Faten help the children in the morning?)

Q09 (4 marks): This is a multiple-choice question in which candidates performed well with many scoring a full mark.

Q10 (4 marks): This question was the most challenging. With few exceptions, hardly any of the candidates managed to score the full 4 available marks.

Candidates didn't know the meaning of (download/upload) (تحميل\تنزيل) even though both words are in the vocabulary list. Candidates either provided (on the internet) as an answer or left it blank.

Q11 (3 marks): In this multiple-choice question, candidates performed well with many scoring at least 2 out of 3 marks available.

Q12 (4 marks): This is an open- response question. In parts (b) and (d), many candidates did well and scoring the available full marks for each part. For part (a) on average of 1% of candidates answered it correctly as they didn't know what the meaning of the word (حقوق) (Law) is. The most frequent incorrect answers were in part (c) as few candidates recognised the names of the two artists mentioned in the text, even though the sample paper contains a practice question about the artist (Fairuz). Some candidates answered the questions in Arabic, thus scoring 0.

### Section B

Q13 and Q14 (5 marks each): These target language crossover with Higher Tier questions are indicative of candidates' listening skills to a recording and answering a set of questions by selecting the right word to fill in the blank. Most candidates found these two questions very challenging, with only a very small number scoring the full mark. There were lots of total marks of 1 and 2 but also lots of 0 scores. Focusing on practising this type of questions, which make up 20% of the total mark, is essential and taking the time to check whether the sentence makes sense is very important in the student's decision whether the chosen word/phrase fits the sentence or not.

Q14, In this question, candidates are asked to choose one word from a list to fill in the spaces in the following sentences. Some candidates filled in the spaces with the two words instead. Candidates should be made aware of this mistake by giving them the opportunity to practise such type of questions during the preparation for this exam.

### **Conclusion and advice:**

- The exam paper covers all topics/themes, and it is important for teachers to train candidates on all these topics so that they have a fair chance of recognising these topic-related vocabulary and consequently be able to answer questions.
- Candidates should be made aware that answers to questions 1-12 in this paper are in English and that they can answer in Arabic only to questions 13 and 14. They should also be made aware that they would not be awarded any marks if they do not follow this.
- Candidates performed better in multiple questions compared to open response questions. More emphasis should be put on practising and familiarising candidates with working with various types of questions (Please see notes related to each question).

- It is important for candidates to make notes while listening to the recording while referring to the question paper at the same time.
- Candidates should be strongly advised to make use of the time when the recording is playing for the second time.