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Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2024

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In Biblical Hebrew (1BH0) Paper 1

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Summer 2024

Publications Code 1BH0\_01\_pef\_20240822

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## Report on the Units 1BH0/01 Summer 2024

As usual there was quite a range of marks and standards of response to the questions. Some candidates had been well prepared and scored top marks.

The examiners would like to point out that if candidates need extra space, they must ask for extra paper and not write under the line or scribble all over random parts of their exam paper. Only a scan of the answer to each question is seen, not a copy of the whole paper.

In addition, some candidates wrote their answers for Q20, for example, in the lines reserved for Q21. Because items are marked individually rather than as an entire paper, it is impossible to give any marks for that question as it does not answer Q21. Please be advised that the answer to each question **must** be written within the lines set aside for **that** question.

- 1a Many candidates responded with the correct answer for 'his brothers', but struggled with וכל העלים אתו, not recognising the relative pronoun ה.
- 2a Most candidates responded with the correct answer.
- 2b Again, most candidates responded correctly.
- 3a Most candidates scored at least 3 marks for this question.
- 3b Most candidates responded with the correct answer.
- 3c The vast majority of candidates did not recognise the interrogative ה of התחת and hence, misunderstood the rhetorical question: "Am I instead of G-d?" They mistranslated תחת as 'under', writing 'I am under G-d'.
- 4 Some were unsure of the translation of עצמתי.
- 5 Most candidates responded with the correct answer; some, however, wrote 120.
- 6 Many candidates wrote 'ark' for ארון. This was awarded the mark since this is the translation of ארון as given in the vocabulary in the Specification. However, 'cupboard' was not accepted.
- 7a Most candidates responded with the correct answer.
- 7b Most candidates responded with the correct answer.
- 7c i Most candidates responded with the correct answer.
- 7c ii Most candidates responded with the correct answer for the root, but fewer wrote the correct binyan.
- 7c iii Most candidates wrote the correct root, but some wrote Hophal for the binyan.

- 7d Most candidates responded with the correct answers.
- 8a-c As stated in the rubric, the Hebrew letters must be in block, not cursive (script) and must be pointed (voweled). Otherwise, the answers received a straight zero.
- In general, candidates score poorly on the English to Hebrew composition. They fail on the verb tenses, and wrong genders and numbers for verbs.
- It is interesting to note that, compared to last year, fewer candidates attempted Q8 and Q18.
- 9 Most candidates responded with the correct answer.
- 10 Most candidates responded with the correct answer.
- 11 Some candidates wrote merely, 'it will be bad for them' and lost a mark.
- 12 Most candidates responded with the correct answer.
- 13 A number of candidates wrote 'move away from foreign gods', confusing the Hiphil with the Kal.
- 14 Most candidates responded with the correct answer.
- 15 Most candidates responded with the correct answer, however, a few scripts had the bare verbs 'he wrote' and 'he took' without giving any detail. For future reference, a question asking an 'action' requires a phrase, not just the verb.
- 16 Some candidates wrote 'it will be a testimony' as opposed to 'witness' and lost a mark. Others wrote a couple of grammatical features which gained no credit.
- 17a i Most candidates responded with the correct answer.
- 17a ii Most candidates responded with the correct answer. Some wrote 'Piel middle root letter' which was wrong.
- 17a iii Mostly well answered, although 'a כפת בגד dagesh' without 'at the beginning of the word' is an incomplete answer and gains no mark. Candidates are reminded that כפת בגד must be written in Hebrew (as stated in the Specification).
- 17b i Many candidates did not have the correct answer, referring to the  $\aleph$  rather than the chataf-patach.
- 17b ii Most candidates responded with the correct answer.
- 17b iii Most candidates responded with the correct answer.

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| 17c i  | Most candidates responded with the correct answer.   |
| 17c ii | Some scored the mark; others left it blank.  |
| 18a-c  | See earlier on Q8  |
| 19a    | Most candidates responded with the correct answer; some omitted 'of'.  |
| 19b    | Most candidates responded with the correct answer; some failed to recognize the definite article.  |
| 19c    | Some did not recognize the vav conversive; others wrote 'they' instead of 'you'.   |
| 19d    | Most candidates responded with the correct answer.   |
| 19e    | Most candidates responded with the correct answer, whilst others translated it as 'after them' confusing אחיהם with אחריהם.  |
| 19f    | Some wrote 'to fight' which was not accepted; in the vocabulary section, it says 'to argue, to plead (a case)'. Fighting usually implies physical aggression.  |
| 19g    | Most candidates responded with the correct answer.   |
| 19h    | A number of answers made the word plural.  |
| 19i    | Many candidates thought the ה was a definite article where the question required an answer recognizing the relative pronoun ה.   |
| 20     | <p>Errors included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• no recognition of the Hiphil in וַיִּשָּׁבַע</li> <li>• treating וַיִּשָּׁבַעוּ as a passive verb: 'they were sworn'</li> <li>• mistranslating וַיִּשָּׁבַעוּ as 'they were satisfied' confusing the <i>shin</i> with a <i>sin</i></li> <li>• translating ויעבירו קול in the passive</li> <li>• translating כעצת as 'advisers'</li> </ul> |
| 21     | <p>Errors included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mistranslating the root ישב 'sit' as שוב 'return' – this mistake was present on many scripts</li> <li>• misunderstanding who was selling the land</li> <li>• understanding אַם תִּגְאָל גְּאָל as an infinitive absolute: 'surely'</li> <li>• mistranslating נחלתו as 'river'</li> </ul>  |

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