



Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2014

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE
in Arabic (4AR0_02) Paper 2

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4AR0/02 IGCSE Arabic – Examiner’s report – June 2014

The following points were noted by examiners:

This paper required students to produce **two** pieces of continuous writing. Candidates were asked to choose **two** titles from a choice of six. Candidates were advised to write about 300 words on each of their chosen topics. The six titles included a range of writing styles. Each piece of writing was marked out of 30 according to the marking grid on pages 6-7 of the specification. The 30 marks were awarded for Content and Communication (18 marks), Application of Language (6 marks) and Accuracy of writing (6 marks).

Question Analysis:

Q1 Candidates were asked to write a speech to address their friends about the sensible and wise use of mobile phones.

Candidates may include in their speech issues such as budget control, wasting time, use in appropriate places, sensible use in schools and classrooms, avoiding the use of the mobile during driving, not using mobiles while crossing roads, the effect of radiation, addiction, danger from strangers, privacy, ...etc.

Q2 Candidates were asked to write a letter to the Human Resource Manager to inform him of what they would like to achieve after finishing their study, and how useful their ambition is to themselves and their society.

Candidates may include issues such as Future plans and ambitions. Financial, Social status, moral aims and issues connected with the ambition, family pride, personal interest in the career, charitable spirit, Charitable work and contribution, positive role in society, working for the greater good of the country ... etc.

Q3 Candidates were asked to write an essay to publish in the students’ magazine about Arabic traditions with regard to caring for the elderly, and to compare these traditions with the traditions of other countries that they know about.

Candidates may include issues such as living with grandsons and daughters, the moral obligation of caring for the elderly, showing respect and gratitude to the elderly, economic advantages, religious duties, independence, government support... etc.

Q4 Candidates were asked to write a report about research they read about the physical and social advantages of sports day activities in schools. Candidates may include issues such team work, participation, strengthening relationships, friendship, personal development, competitiveness, increasing confidence, pride in personal achievement, health and fitness, healthy mind, building stamina and strength, the physique, ... etc

Q5 Candidates were asked to write an email to the broadcast station director to convince him or her to allocate programmes for young people, in which they explain how such programmes would be useful for the young people and for the broadcast station.

Candidates may include issues such as youth issues (social, psychological, financial ... etc), raising youth awareness, offer help and support, specialist advice, discovering hidden talents, increasing the number of listeners, increasing publicity of the broadcasting station, encouraging advertisements to enhance the finance of the station, ... etc.

Q6 Candidates were asked to write a story relevant to the provided picture. The picture presented three hands with three names written with henna on them.

Candidates may write a story in which they take part or they may create one about other people.

Candidates' performance:

The most popular questions were questions 1, 5 and 4. These were then followed by questions 6, 2 then 3.

Q1:

This was the most popular question among the candidates. Most candidates wrote interesting speeches and managed to score well. Few candidates were not able to secure high marks as they concentrated on the advantages and disadvantages of the internet, and hence they did not manage to secure higher marks.

Q2:

A lower number of candidates chose to respond to this question. The majority understood the task and responded accordingly, and were able to secure good marks. Few candidates among those who chose this question did not write in the form of a letter and wrote an essay to compare different jobs.

Q3:

This question was the least popular amongst candidates. Many candidates were able to demonstrate how elderly people are treated in Arabic society, with logical explanations, and then compared that tradition with traditions of another country, and were able to secure good marks. A few candidates who responded to this question wrote about how great Arabic traditions are, and forgot to compare it with traditions of a different country, and therefore did not manage to score higher marks.

Q4:

A reasonable number of candidates responded to the task of writing a report and managed to score good marks. However, a greater number did not know how to write in the form of a report, while others thought the task was about the benefits of sports, and hence they were not able to secure higher marks.

Q5:

This proved to be a popular question amongst candidates. The majority who tried it managed to score well. Many beautiful pieces of writing were produced in response to this question. Few candidates misunderstood the task and restricted themselves to writing about the effects of radio broadcast on people in general, without suggesting programmes for young people, and hence they were not able to secure good marks.

Q6:

This question proved to be more popular than in previous series, as the picture appealed to more candidates than before. Very few restricted themselves to describing the picture, or used the picture as a reminder of a story that had nothing to do with it, and hence they were not able to secure good marks.

The majority of those who responded to this question were able to produce good pieces of writings which were pleasant to read, and were able to score higher marks.

Advice to candidates:

Candidates are advised to:

1. Enrich their general knowledge through reading different styles of writing from books, magazines, newspapers and the internet, as well as acquiring knowledge from other media sources.
2. Read and understand previous International GCSE exam material which normally carries valuable information that can be very helpful when answering future exams.
3. Read the model sample answers of previous exams.
4. Familiarise themselves with the format of the question paper.
5. Adhere to writing on the designated lined pages in the answer book.
6. Clearly mark the question of their choice and answer it in the specified area (lined pages) ensuring that there isn't any answer of any other question in the same area.
7. Ask for extra lined paper from invigilators should the specified area not be big enough for their responses.
8. Underline the important words or phrases that refer to the required task, when answering a question, to ensure that they respond to the entire task.

Grade Boundaries

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