



Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2023

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE
In Arabic (4AA1) Paper 01

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4AA1-01 June 2023 centre report

Generally, candidates are expected to show their understanding of written Arabic through a series of reading tasks.

The question paper consists of two parts - the text booklet and the Questions booklet.

The text booklet contains three passages; the first two topics discuss technology and the last is a culture related topic. The question booklet is divided into three sections; Section One covers questions 1 to 9 which are based on the first and second texts and totals 49 marks.

Q04 and Q08 require the candidates to apply rhetoric and literary analysis to the texts. Q09 requires the candidates to apply literary and rhetoric analysis to compare between the texts.

Section Two demands a summary on the third text with 6 marks. Section three is grammar-based questions and has 20 marks.

Comments on Individual Questions:

Question 1

Largely, candidates' responses to this question were good and it seemed that they found the text interesting and relevant.

Majority of candidates scored high marks for this question, as they understood the text and so a lot answered with تقويض/يعرقل or similar allowing them to get the mark.

Question 2

Most of the candidates were able to get full marks as they found the text easy and were able to provide an answer with a quotation scoring full marks. There were a few who only obtained one mark as they were only able to provide the quotation. Some did not get any marks as they misunderstood the text and copied irrelevant parts from the text.

Question 3

Q3a: Most candidates only got one mark as they only mentioned one point instead of the two required. The answer that was found easy and written by most of them was نقل الذكاء. Very few got full marks as the question was not found easy to understand.

Q3b: candidates scored two marks as they were able to provide the correct answer with the necessary answer due to them understanding the text well. The rest only got one mark for providing the quotation on its own.

Question 4 and 8

Question 4 is about explaining how the author used phrases and language structure to explain how technology affects our life.

Question 8 is to explain how the author used phrases and language structure to explain the virtual environment and how it is affect our life.

A high number of candidates have provided clear explanations although there was some ambiguity, and some have not provided evidence. These questions showed that the candidates have pre-learned material due to their repetition of phrases that have clearly been memorized from the mark scheme such as 'the writer used the news style' without expanding on their point and showing understanding of it.

Question 5

Most of the candidates scored full marks as they found the text easy and answered using the correct points on the mark scheme or similar.

Question 6

The majority of the candidates did not find it difficult to give a good answer to this question using the text with quotes. Most candidates scored full marks. A lot answered with التجسيم ... هو العامل or used the quote "البعد الثالث أو ما يسمى بالتجسيم....".

Question 7

Question 7a was easy for the candidates to understand and answer correctly as the text was easy for them to understand. Most of the candidates answered well and scored high marks. However, some lost marks as they would write incomplete points like زيارة الأماكن.

Question 7b was found fair by the candidates. They were able to extract the correct answer from the text as they found the question reasonable to understand. There were a few who answered incorrectly.

Question 9

This question requires candidates to compare how the two writers were able to express their opinions about technology. Candidates should show understanding and skills of the language structure and compare between styles referring to registries, passive and active forms length of sentences, mood in texts and ambiances can all be used to point out differences and similarities between different texts.

Candidates should take care of the way they answer this question by starting with introduction then a body and finally a summary making sure that they are comparing both texts throughout simultaneously. In this paper, both texts that are required to be compared carry the same topic of the technology.

Section 2: Summarize

Question 10

Here candidates are required to summarise information in extended texts and to write main points clearly about 'Margaret Anne Bulkley' and state the main points in their own style between 100 – 150 words. They must mention where and when she was born, why she was known as James Bary, how did her family help her with her career and talk about her death.

Most candidates did not find it difficult to sum up the article and they had no difficulty to use good Arabic and correct grammar in their answers. Only a few candidates scored low marks.

Section 3: Grammar

Question 11

Majority of candidates did not respond well. They were unable to extract the correct answers from the text and this is down to a weakness in the grammatical aspect. Only a few were able to answer correctly.

Question 12

Similarly, this question was also quite difficult for the candidates. A lot of candidates scored low marks. This is once again is down to the weakness of grammar. Especially in 12d, they would write قمحا instead of قمحا...صاعا من القمح. Also in 12e a lot were unable to transform the given word (قص) into the correct form (مقصا/المقص) to be inputted into the sentence.

Question 13

Q13d: Once again, this question was very difficult. Candidates were unable to use grammatical skills to get the correct answer resulting in very low marks being scored. Instead of writing فاعل مرفوع/ نعت they wrote فاعل نائب. A lot of them did not try to attempt this question and left it blank.

Q13e: This question was found very difficult. A lot of them left the question unanswered and the majority who answered did not do so correctly. They would often write مفعول به منصوب instead of ضمير مبني في محل نصب مفعول به.

Question 14

This question includes a set of grammatical rules that the student must know. Several students answered correctly, and some did not. Difficulty was mainly found in 14c where they would make a mistake on the final word of the answer. Instead of writing تنجحوا they would write تنجحون. Difficulty was also found in 14e as they did not know how to correctly input the word من into the sentence. The rest of the questions of were found fair and answered reasonably.

Advice to centres:

- Candidates need to make sure they are clear in their answers and must use the space allocated rather than write their answers somewhere else on the paper as they have done in this paper especially in questions 8 and 9. Computerised marking may not pick up the answers due to confusion and therefore result in loss of marks.
- Candidates are not writing quotation marks when using evidence from the text as well as using evidence without writing an answer in their own words. This is shown in questions 2 and 3b where they are required to provide a clear answer and evidence.
- The candidate's level of grammar year after year is deteriorating which could be due to teaching strategies and lack of educating the students enough on this topic.
- Candidates should be taught Arabic rhetoric (البلاغة) in more depth which includes; semantics science علم المعاني, statement science علم البيان, and the art of science علم البديع. The aim of rhetoric is to help breakdown the text to the students so that it is easily understood and analysed.
- Candidates have shown an understanding of the topics however they are not using the correct structure to answer Q04 and Q08. They answer in bullet points rather than explain in more detail like how the writer uses repetition to emphasize the importance of what he is saying and the way his text is structured to express his point of view.
- Candidates showed interest in section two text which required them to summarise it. This question awards 4 marks and then an extra two for quality of language which most only scored 1 out of 2 for due to weak grammar.
- Candidates in Q09 are required to compare texts, many focused on comparing structures rather than content and explained each text separately without providing links between them.

