

ARABIC

Paper 3180/01

Composition

General comments

The general standard for this paper was good.

Recommendations

- (1) In general, candidates should be aware of Arabic grammatical rules, including knowledge of the singular, dual, plural, gender and pronouns in particular.
- (2) Candidates should pay particular attention to the Arabic dots, punctuation marks and Spelling.
- (3) Candidates should always bear in mind the advantages of keeping to the specified length of writing and not exceed it.

Comments on specific questions

Candidates were asked to write a composition of approximately 120 words from a choice of three topics.

Section A – Letter, Report, Dialogue or speech

- (a) **Your name is Muhammed/Khadija. Your address is Royal Road, Rose Hill. You were unable to attend a dinner party. Write to the friend who invited you, apologizing and explaining the circumstances preventing you from being present at the party.**

As in the previous year, a majority of candidates attempted this letter-writing question, having prepared thoroughly for this kind of writing. In their responses, candidates showed knowledge of certain phrases, sentences, quotations and clichés.

- (b) **You met an old friend at a party. Write down the conversation which took place between you and him.**

This was a popular option and candidates did well on the whole. This year, candidates seemed prepared in that most of the answers were in dialogue form. However, some candidates did not use question marks or full stops at the ends of their sentences.

- (c) **Write a report on how your school anniversary was celebrated.**

Candidates dealt with this subject confidently. However, they still need to remember to prepare thoroughly for the format of writing reports.

Section B – Essay

Candidates were asked to write a composition of approximately 200 words from a choice of four topics.

(a) Write about your neighbour and the way they behave.

Many candidates tackled this question successfully. A range of positive and negative ideas were offered.

(b) What would I like to be in my life?

This proved to be a very popular and interesting topic. Candidates wrote about their personal wishes and aspirations.

(c) Give an account of the most exciting experience of your life.

Too few candidates chose this question to enable general comment to be made.

(d) The advantage of learning foreign languages.

Many candidates produced interesting answers, perhaps motivated by their knowledge of speaking two or three languages. Most of them did well and gave a good account of the advantages of learning foreign languages, putting emphasis on English as an international language.

ARABIC

Paper 3180/02

Translation and Reading Comprehension

General comments

The overall performance of candidates was satisfactory.

Recommendations:

- (1) Candidates should pay careful attention to grammatical rules, particularly the correct use of tenses and reported speech.
- (2) Candidates are encouraged to give vocabulary special emphasis in their learning. There is a need for improvement in this area.
- (3) Candidates must not create a new text, which does not exist in the question paper, for translation. They must keep to the text given without changing the wording.
- (4) Copying whole phrases or sentences from the Reading Comprehension passage without changing the pronouns, gender and/or word order will always lead to a low mark.
- (5) Candidates are encouraged to make sure they are aware of the issues involved in translating a text into another language accurately. They should practise the art of translation skills. Previous examination papers are a good source for such preparation work.

Comments on specific questions

Section A – Translation

(1) Translate into English

The majority of candidates understood this passage, but some could not deliver an accurate translation. They found some words hard to translate due to weaknesses in vocabulary. For example: *palm tree* was translated into *coconut/vinery/tamarind/oak* or *hibiscus*. *Basket* and *jam* were also incorrectly translated into *rope* and *juice*.

(2) Translate Into Arabic

Most candidates coped well with this passage. Again, some candidates could not translate certain words, phrases and sentences. *Kitchen*, for example, was translated into *restaurant* or *food*. *Left* was translated into *right*.

Section B - Reading Comprehension

Most candidates successfully tackled these questions with confidence. Some candidates lifted phrases and sentences from the text, thus ignoring advice given in previous reports about the importance of answering in their own words. This resulted in the loss of some marks.