

ARABIC

Paper 3180/01
Composition

Key messages

In order to do well in this paper, candidates should:

- ensure that they answer **one** question from **Section A** and **one** question from **Section B**
- adhere to the word limits specified
- ensure that their work is legible, accurate and logically presented
- ensure that they present their response in the form stipulated in the question (e.g. letter, dialogue etc)
- plan their use of time for each question and allow time for thorough checking of their work.

General comments

On the whole, candidates performed well on this paper.

There were some grammatical slips in candidates' answers. Candidates can improve their writing skills by receiving more practice in writing compositions and by expanding their range of reading materials in order to enrich their vocabulary and to consolidate points of grammar.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

- (a) This was a popular question and answers were generally satisfactory. Candidates who chose this question generally adhered to the stipulated number of words. Some candidates focused on pleasantries at the beginning and ending of the letter rather than on the description of the outing which was the main part of the question.
- (b) Performance on this question was mixed. The best answers demonstrated ability to write a formal speech and made good use of appropriate school-related vocabulary.
- (c) This was another popular question. Some answers were written in reported speech rather than in the required format of a dialogue.

Section B

- (a) This was the most popular question in **Section B**. Many candidates chose to focus their answer on a theft; others drew on their own experience of hearing animals during the night and used these ideas as the basis of their essays. In general, candidates' narration was logical. Candidates frequently used the Arabic word for 'restaurant' when in fact they meant 'dining room'.
- (b) There was a mixed performance on this question. A small number of candidates produced successful essays in which they drew on their knowledge of food and how to order dishes.
- (c) On the whole, candidates who chose this question did well. Some candidates focused on the shopping experience in general and needed to address the other aspect of losing their purse/wallet.

- (d) This was a popular question. Some candidates explained that eating 'fast food' could be a benefit to health as it helps those who have busy lives and a shortage of time. Other candidates expressed a different opinion, describing in detail the health problems related to 'fast food'.

ARABIC

Paper 3180/02

Translation and Reading Comprehension

Key messages

In order to do well in this paper, candidates should:

- ensure that they plan their time for each question and allow time for thorough checking of their work
- ensure that their work is legible and logically presented
- read the translation passages carefully before beginning to translate.

General comments

The overall performance on this paper was very good.

There were a number of issues with grammar and choice of vocabulary. Encouraging candidates to read widely can help them to enrich their vocabulary and consolidate points of grammar.

Further practice in translation may also benefit candidates.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

This question required candidates to translate a passage from Arabic into English.

Many candidates did well, producing concise and generally accurate translations.

The following is a list of common errors seen in candidates' answers, and are areas in which candidates would benefit from further practice.

- The word 'studies' was often translated as 'lessons'.
- Many candidates translation 'wise man' as 'old man', 'young man', 'poor man' or 'pious man'.

Question 2

This question required candidates to translate a passage from English into Arabic.

The majority of candidates tackled this translation well and were generally accurate in their choice vocabulary and grammar. Some candidates were unsure how to translate the words 'selfish', 'recently', 'north', 'island', 'fields' and 'illiterate'.

Section B

Questions 3–10

The majority of candidates answered these questions successfully and confidently. Some candidates employed inaccurate syntax in their answer. Some candidates struggled to provide a suitable answer to **Question 8**.