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FOREWORD

This booklet contains reports written by Examiners on the work of candidates in certain papers. **Its contents are primarily for the information of the subject teachers concerned.**

ARABIC

GCE Ordinary Level

Paper 3180/01
Composition

General comments

Most candidates on the whole performed well on this paper.

Recommendations

Candidates should be fully aware of Arabic grammatical rules and in particular those relating to singular, dual and plural words.

Candidates should pay attention to handwriting, rules of spelling and the correct use of Arabic dots and vocalisation signs above and beneath the characters.

Candidates should leave time to re-read their answers and correct themselves to avoid unnecessary mistakes.

It is very important that candidates make clear which question they are answering by stating the section and question number before they begin their answer.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Letter, report, dialogue or speech

- (a) *Your friend often comes to school late. Compose a dialogue in which you try to persuade him/her to give up this habit.*

Candidates who chose this topic generally answered it well. Unfortunately some candidates ignored the word 'dialogue' and answered the question in a different way and therefore lost marks.

- (b) *Write a report about a rescue.*

Candidates who chose this topic were able to express themselves freely and imaginatively.

- (c) *Write a letter to your friend telling him/her about certain interesting aspects of your school.*

This topic was very popular. Most candidates who chose this style of composition were well trained in letter writing technique.

Section B

Essay

Candidates were asked to write one essay from a choice of four.

- (a) *Describe an occasion when you were ill and had to stay at home for a week.*

Candidates who chose this title wrote well, writing about the occasion and stating the reason for the illness.

- (b) *Write about the importance of the telephone.*

Some candidates wrote about the advantages of the mobile phone.

- (c) *How will you spend the first few days after examinations have finished?*

Most of the candidates who wrote about this topic used a good range of vocabulary and phrases.

- (d) *What about the happiest day of your life.*

This was a very popular and enjoyable topic for candidates to write about.

Paper 3180/02

Translation and Reading Comprehension

General comments

On the whole, the general standard of performance was satisfactory.

Recommendations

Candidates should pay attention to spelling, punctuation, use of vocalisation signs and Arabic dots.

In order to improve their translation skills, candidates would benefit from studying good translation passages, exercises and from using past examination papers.

Candidates should try to avoid using colloquial Arabic and other foreign vocabulary.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Translation

Question 1

This passage was well translated on the whole. There was some confusion between certain words such as 'Miss', 'Mrs', 'Madame', 'Lady', and 'gate', 'fence', 'wall'. These words tended to follow a pattern, as they are associated or similar in context. Candidates should pay attention to the use of correct prepositions and pronouns.

Question 2

Most candidates made a good attempt at translating this passage into Arabic. Some did not know the word '*maktaba*' (library) and '*raft*' (shelf). Some candidates made singular references when they should have been plural, for instance, '*nafida*' (window) as opposed to '*nawafid*' (windows). The word 'visitor' was wrongly translated into 'guest', and 'borrow' into 'take'.

Section B

Reading comprehension

Questions 3 - 9

Nearly all the candidates tackled these questions successfully. Some answers were unnecessarily long and some candidates lifted sentences straight from the text.