

ARABIC LANGUAGE

Paper 8680/22
Reading and Writing

Key messages

To do well in this paper, candidates should:

- Expand their vocabulary by engaging in more extensive reading and increasing their knowledge of antonyms. Responses should provide an antonym for the underlined word, either contextual to the sentence or a general opposite of that term.
- Pay attention to the correct use of male and female gender and gender agreement.
- Pay more attention to ‘أَنْ’ and its sisters and their effect on the nominative sentence.
- Pay attention to the conjugation of the ‘Five Verbs’.
- Practice use of the correct verb forms, particularly the jussive.
- Understand the requirements of the questions and specifically respond to what is being asked **from the correct paragraph** paying attention to the **key words** mentioned in the questions.

أمثلة:

- ‘للعوامل الجوية التأثير الأهم في نجاح زراعة البن.’
- ‘اذكر ميزتين لحبوب البن قبل تحميصها.’
- ‘اذكر ثلاثة آداب لشرب القهوة على الضيف الالتزام بها.’

General comments

Overall, the quality of responses was commendable. It was evident that teachers had effectively prepared the candidates, significantly enhancing the quality of their answers, with several insightful opinions being expressed.

Candidates are encouraged to avoid directly copying sections of the text. Instead, they should strive to use their own words and expressions wherever feasible, especially when responding to **Question 3**, **Question 4**, and **Question 5**.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

The responses varied; many candidates successfully answered most parts of the question, demonstrating a noticeable improvement in their performance. **Parts (a)** and **(c)** were answered most accurately. A few candidates provided multiple answers, some correct and some incorrect, which should be avoided.

Question 2

Questions 2(b), and (d) were the most challenging, and **2(c)** and **(e)** were the most accurately answered.

Many candidates would benefit from reviewing **gender agreement**, the **rules of ‘أَنْ’** and its sisters ‘أَخواتها’ and the correct use of حروف الجم.

Question 3

Most candidates responded correctly to most sections of **Question 3**.

In **part (c)**, some candidates overlooked the key word **الأهم** (the most important) and rushed to give irrelevant answers regarding the role of weather conditions which, while important, were not the most important factor, such as:

- تزرع الحبوب في الهواء الطلق.
- يفضل سقيها بكمية أكبر من المياه.

In **part (e)**, the question focused on the positive effects of drinking coffee on **mental health** (key word). Some candidates provided irrelevant answers referring to physical health, such as:

- يخفف من مشكلات المعدة.
- يعالج التهابات الحنجرة.

Finally, in **part (f)**, the question addressed the manners the **guest** (key word) should follow when drinking coffee. Some candidates gave responses that incorrectly focused on the host (**المضيف**), such as:

- تقدم القهوة للضيف الجالس على اليمين.
- يملاً ثلث الفنجان فقط.

Question 4

There were some very good responses to this question. **Parts (a), (d) and (f)** were the most accurately answered.

In **part (c)**, the question specifically addressed the harms of coffee consumption on the **unborn child** (**الطفل**) (**قبل ولادته**). Some candidates offered only partial responses. Rather than focusing on the unborn child as required, they included irrelevant details relating to the mother or children in general.

In **part (g)**, this question asked about the consequences of following **the expert's advice** (**النتائج المترتبة على اتباع نصائح الخبر**). While some candidates responded appropriately, others focused on **the advice itself** rather than the outcomes resulting from it, which affected the quality of their answers.

Question 5

On the whole, there were some very good responses. The question focused on the positive effects of drinking coffee on physical health, as well as the negative impact on the environment. Most candidates successfully identified and listed most of the relevant points. Some simply summarised the two texts without addressing the specific points required by the question.

The question asked for the candidate's personal opinion on **what cafés might look like in the future** (**كيف**) (**سيكون شكل المقهى في المستقبل**). Some candidates responded thoughtfully, offering a range of interesting and original ideas. In contrast, others gave only brief answers with one or two points, while a few simply copied ideas from the text that were not relevant to the question.

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Paper 8680/32
Essay

Key messages

Essays for this paper should demonstrate precise language and a strong command of vocabulary. Arguments should be well-developed and supported with relevant examples. Candidates are discouraged from relying on memorised introductions and conclusions. Candidates should employ creativity and originality, moving away from rote memorisation of essay components.

Candidates must answer the question directly, including a conclusion and personal opinion when required. Writing broadly about the topic without addressing the specific question can result in low content scores, even if the language is proficient. Many scripts failed to address the exact wording of the question or misunderstood the task, leading to generalisations and irrelevant content.

General comments

Candidates must write one essay from five available topics. It is essential to answer the question, not just write about the general topic. Candidates should read the question closely and stay focused on what it is actually asking.

To achieve a higher band, candidates should focus on several key areas such as verb conjugation as mistakes here can change the meaning of a sentence. Adjectives must agree in gender and number with the nouns they describe to maintain clarity. Candidates should also ensure that each sentence is meaningful as a whole, not just grammatically correct. Prepositions often cause confusion, especially when they do not collocate correctly with certain verbs or nouns. Lastly, spelling should not be overlooked, as even minor errors can affect the overall quality of the writing. Careful proofreading can significantly enhance accuracy and coherence.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

‘Spending the holiday with family is more enjoyable than spending it with friends. What is your opinion?’

This question was popular, and the candidates showed off their best work with detailed and well-thought-out responses. Most of their scripts were spot-on with their language, vocabulary, and grammar. However, in a few instances, spelling and grammatical errors hindered them from achieving the highest marks.

Question 2

‘With money, you can buy health and friends. State your position on this opinion.’

Most candidates who answered this question gave excellent, detailed responses. They showed that they could come up with a well-thought-out conclusion and share their own thoughts on the topic. However, some candidates did not do as well. Their answers were unclear, and they had several spelling and grammar mistakes. Some sentences were also hard to follow.

Question 3

'The longer the working hours, the higher the productivity and the greater the success. State your opinion.'

The question received a wide range of responses, with candidates presenting convincing arguments and sharing their various viewpoints. However, some of the answers were slightly confusing and failed to address the core of the inquiry. While they emphasised the significance of leisure and holidays, they failed to provide a clear and concise answer to the question. In essence, we had a beautifully written text that lacked the necessary arguments and ideas to effectively address the question.

Question 4

'Online learning is better than learning in schools. Do you agree?'

This question was very popular. There were many well-written responses; candidates demonstrated their arguments clearly and creatively. Many candidates shared personal stories about online learning, which made their responses more relatable and informative.

Question 5

'The disadvantages of zoos outweigh their advantages. Do you agree with this opinion?'

This question received the fewest responses. It looks like the topic was of the least interest to candidates.