

ARABIC LANGUAGE

<p>Paper 8680/21 Reading and Writing</p>
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Key messages

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

- Understand the requirements of the questions, and specifically respond to what is being asked, especially in the summary question.
- Expand their range of vocabulary by reading more widely and learning more synonyms.
- Practise use of the correct verb forms, in particular the jussive and the accusative.
- Improve on the use of prepositions.
- Pay more attention to the correct conjugation of the verb.
- Practise adjectival agreement.
- Pay more attention to the difference between “كان” and its sisters and “إن” and its sisters, and their effect on the nominative sentence.
- Improve on the use of the medial and final hamzas.
- Pay more attention to the dual and the use of the regular masculine plural.

General comments

Overall, the standard of answers was good and there were some interesting opinions expressed. Candidates should be reminded not to copy out sections of the text and, as far as possible, they should use their own words and phrases, particularly in response to **Question 3**, **Question 4** and **Question 5**.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Most candidates were able to answer the majority of this question. Some candidates found it difficult to answer parts **1d** and **1e**.

Question 2

2a was the most challenging in this section, and **2b** was the most accurately answered.

Question 3

In general, many candidates answered this question well. Weaker candidates struggled to correctly read the vowel marks in **Question 3d**, thereby confusing between object and subject, which impacted their answer. **Question 3c** posed some difficulty for some candidates.

Question 4

The performance of the candidates was generally good. A few candidates faced some difficulty answering some parts of the question.

Question 5

There were some good answers to this question by candidates who managed to select the relevant ideas from both texts and summarise these ideas in a well-structured manner.

- (a) Most summaries contained at least 6 summary points answering the prompt. Candidates who wrote an article instead of a summary did not score high marks.
- (b) Most candidates answered this question and wrote some very interesting ideas. Some candidates misunderstood the requirements of the question by writing instead about what the school did for them. Candidates are reminded to carefully read the question.

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Overall, the standard of answers was good and there were some interesting opinions expressed. However, candidates should be reminded not to copy out sections of the text and, as far as possible; they should use their own words and phrases, particularly in response to **Question 3**, **Question 4** and **Question 5**.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Some candidates struggled to find suitable antonyms for the underlined words.

Question 2

The answers were variable; some candidates answered and others did not attempt to manipulate the grammatical structures. The majority were not successful in answering this question, in particular parts **a**, **c** and **e**.

Question 3

Many candidates answered correctly most parts of the question.

Question 4

The answers were variable, with weaker candidates encountering difficulty in answering parts **c** and **d**. As for parts **e** and **f**, most only responded to one aspect of the question asked and were unable to identify the remaining requirements of the question. Part **b** was the most accurately answered.

Question 5

- (a) There were some good answers to this question. Strong candidates managed to select the relevant ideas from both texts and summarise these ideas in a well-structured manner. However, weaker candidates copied out large sections of the text without paying attention to the requirements of the question thus impacting their total mark for this question.
- (b) Many candidates answered this question and shared some interesting ideas. The weakest candidates left it blank and attempted no answer.

ARABIC LANGUAGE

Paper 8680/31
Essay

Key messages

Essays written for this paper need to be accurate in terms of language used, with very good use of vocabulary. The content needs to be very well argued, supported with examples when necessary. It has been observed that in some Centres, a number of candidates wrote extremely similar introductions and conclusions which seemed to have been memorized before the exam. Teachers are encouraged to help students to be more creative and provide their own vision in their writing.

General comments

This is an essay paper, for which candidates are required to produce only one essay (between 250 and 400 words) from a choice of five topics. The essay is marked out of 40 with 16 marks for the Content, and 24 marks for Quality of Language.

Candidates who scored highly in **Question 1** gave their opinion on how families can build a perfect society. **Question 2** answers which scored very well, focused on arguments on how people are moving now from cities to countryside. High performing responses for **Question 3** presented the candidate's on the role of wealth and health in gaining real happiness. Strong answers to **Question 4** were characterised by being able to discuss the necessity of travel in current days. **Question 5** responses which scored well, presented the role of feasts in cultural life of societies.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

This question was popular, and answered by many candidates. Candidates discussed the role of the family in society drawing upon their own experiences.

Question 2

This topic was also popular. Candidates discussed the reasons of moving from cities to countryside and gave specific examples.

Question 3

This question was not chosen by as many candidates. Some candidates produced strong essays and they were able to argue well on the topic of happiness and wealth.

Question 4

This topic was chosen by a number of candidates. They talked about the importance of travelling nowadays.

Question 5

This topic was the least popular. The candidates who attempted this topic produced excellent essays on how celebratory holidays enhance the cultural life of our society.

ARABIC LANGUAGE

Paper 8680/32
Essay

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General comments

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Candidates who scored highly in **Question 1** gave their opinions with examples on how family circumstances affect the happiness of families. **Question 2** answers, which scored very well, gave strong arguments to support their views on this statement 'Countryside is the best place to live in these days'. High performing responses for **Question 3** presented the candidate's opinion on animal rights. Strong answers to **Question 4** were characterised by being able to give at least three factors on how to improve the relationship between tourists and citizens. **Question 5** responses which scored well, presented the candidates arguments on this statement 'Art centres have an important role to build a perfect society'.

Comments on Specific Questions

Question 1

This question was very popular, and answered by many candidates. Candidates discussed and gave examples of how family circumstances affect the happiness of families.

Question 2

This topic was also chosen by a number of candidates. They discussed the importance of living in the countryside. Some candidates compared countryside and cities, without giving their opinions.

Question 3

This question was less popular. Some candidates only discussed the importance of animals.

Question 4

This topic was also popular. Candidates talked about different ways to improve the relationship between citizens and tourists. However, some candidates discussed the importance of tourism only.

Question 5

This topic was not chosen by many candidates. The candidates who attempted this topic produced excellent essays when they discussed the importance of art centres in societies.