

ARABIC LANGUAGE

Paper 8680/21
Reading and Writing

Key messages

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

- Expand their range of vocabulary by reading more widely and learning more antonyms.
- Practise use of the correct verb forms, in particular the jussive and the accusative.
- Pay more attention to 'إِنْ' and its sisters, and their effect on the nominative sentence.
- Learn and understand the correct use of Idafa – possessive construction.
- Pay more attention to the dual and the use of the regular masculine plural.
- Pay more attention to verb conjugation, especially with 'هُنَّ'.
- Improve on the use of prepositions.
- Practise adjectival agreement.
- Avoid using slang/colloquial language and avoid using phrases translated literally from English.
- Understand the requirements of the questions, and specifically respond to what is being asked, especially in the summary question.

General comments

Overall, the standard of answers was good and there were some interesting opinions expressed. There was evidence of improvement in the standard of candidates' answers.

Some candidates copied out entire sentences, even a whole paragraph at times instead of writing in their own words. Candidates are encouraged to use their own words and phrases.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

The majority of candidates answered this question. Some of them faced difficulty in answering **part (d)**.

Question 2

Most candidates were able to answer correctly 3–4 parts of the question. Many candidates found it difficult to answer **part (d)**, which required knowledge of the dual.

Question 3

Many candidates answered most parts of the question correctly. Some candidates were not able to identify the requirements in **parts (e)** and **(f)**.

Question 4

Many candidates managed to select the right answers to this question. Some candidates faced some difficulty in the second answer in **parts (e)** and **(f)**.

Question 5

- (a) There were many very good answers to this question. Most summaries contained at least around 7 solutions to the problem of unemployment. Candidates who wrote an article instead of a summary were not able to access the full mark range.
- (b) There were some very good, engaging ideas expressed by candidates. Some candidates misunderstood the requirements of the question and wrote about their family holiday instead of their past school trip.

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<p>Paper 8680/22 Reading and Writing</p>
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Key messages

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

- 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.
- Pay more attention to 'إن' and its sisters, and their effect on the nominative sentence.
- Learning and Understanding the correct use of Idafa – possessive construction.
- Pay more attention to the dual and the use of the regular masculine plural.
- Pay more attention to verb conjugation, especially with 'هَنَّ'.
- Pay more attention to the correct conjugation of the verb.
- Improve on the use of prepositions.
- Practise adjectival agreement.
- Avoid using slang or colloquial language and avoid using phrases translated literally from English.
- Understand the requirements of the questions, and specifically respond to what is being asked, especially in the summary question.

General comments

Overall, the standard of answers was good and there were some interesting opinions expressed. There was clear evidence that the candidates were copying out entire sentences, in some cases even a whole paragraph instead of writing in their own words.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

The answers were variable, the majority of candidates encountered difficulty in answering **parts (b) and (d)**.

Question 2

The answers were variable; some candidates answered and others did not. A good number of candidates were not successful in answering **parts (b) and (d)**.

Question 3

The answers were variable, the majority of candidates encountered difficulty in answering **part (d)** as attention was not paid to the key word as well as focusing only one aspect of the question rather than its whole.

As for **parts (c) and (e)**, many only responded to one aspect to the question asked and were unable to identify the remaining requirements of the question. **Part (a)** was the most accurately answered.

Question 4

There were some good responses to this question. Some candidates managed to select the right answers. Most candidates encountered difficulty in answering **part (c)**.

Question 5

- (a) There were some good answers to this question. Most 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; there were some interesting ideas. A few candidates misunderstood the requirements of the question writing instead about their schools. Some 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 noticed that in some centres, candidates produced the same introductions, and the same conclusions (memorised by heart). Teachers and centres are encouraged to help students to be more creative and productive.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

This question was popular, and answered by many candidates. Candidates discussed the opinion of how social relationships are now based on interests. Candidates who scored very well on this question gave some personal examples.

Question 2

This topic was also popular. Candidates discussed gave their opinion and argued whether the best education or law can limit the violence in our societies. Excellent responses were full of examples. Some of the candidates even cited some newspaper and magazine articles.

Question 3

This question was less popular. Some candidates produced convincing essays, as they gave examples on how entertainment can be necessary nowadays.

Question 4

This topic was also very popular. Candidates talked about different definitions of peace. Some candidates went further when they analysed the concept of peace.

Question 5

The candidates who attempted this topic produced excellent essays explaining how individuals, societies and governments are responsible for air pollution.

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<p>Paper 8680/32 Essay</p>
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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 noticed that in some centres, candidates produced the same introductions, and the same conclusions (memorised by heart). Teachers and centres are encouraged to help students to be more creative and productive.

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. 16 marks for the Content, and 24 marks for Language Use.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

This question was less popular, and answered by few candidates. Candidates discussed the relationship between men and women and gave some examples from real life. Generally, the candidates who attempted this question scored well.

Question 2

This question was the least popular. Some candidates wrote excellent pieces on how citizens adhere to the law to protect their countries and societies.

Question 3

Candidates discussed the balance between work, family, and social life. Some candidates appeared to understand the term social relationships as social media instead.

Question 4

This topic was very popular. Candidates gave their opinions on the benefits of peace and war.

Question 5

The candidates who attempted this topic generally produced excellent essays when talking about global warming and its effects on animals and plants.