

ARABIC

Paper 3180/01
Composition

Key messages

- Candidates should expand their range of vocabulary by reading a rich variety of materials.
- Candidates need to improve in using paragraphing effectively.
- Many students used punctuation marks correctly, but further improvement is needed in this area.
- More practice is needed in correct uses of verbs, particularly the jussive case.
- More practice is needed in the correct use of numbers and counted nouns.
- Candidates should adhere to the word limits specified.

General comments

Overall performance for this series was good to very good with several candidates demonstrating an impressive performance for both sections in terms of content, choice of vocabulary, grammatical and syntactic structures, some of which above their level. The range of marks demonstrated this good performance. In addition, several improvements from the previous years have been observed, including good understanding of the questions and their requirements, adherence to the word limit for the majority of candidates, better use of paragraphing and linkage words and phrases and, in some cases, creative writing with some idiomatic usage of Arabic.

Although there is an improvement on the avoidance of lengthy introductions, several candidates used extensive introductory paragraphs at the expense of the main topic/task. Furthermore, there were cases where candidates have memorised introductory clichés governed by lengthy figurative speech, but by comparison they lacked good diction and appropriate grammatical structures when it came to the main topic. Similarly, several candidates used lengthy introductory greetings and pleasantries at the expense of their chosen topic (**Section A**).

Although improvements were visible in a number of areas referred to in previous reports, it has been observed that candidates could benefit from practising the use of 'idafa' الإضافة, subject-verb agreement, the use of verbal nouns المصدر in context, the rules of 'hamzah' and the rules of numbers, particularly العدد والمعدود. In addition, further improvement is recommended in the use of paragraphing and the linkage/cohesion across paragraphs.

There was one strange case where the candidate wrote on all the topics of **Sections A** and **B** but obviously the number of the required words was not met for each of the topics. This is perhaps due to not reading the instructions carefully where it states clearly 'write **one** composition'.

Comments on specific questions

Section A – Letter, Report, Dialogue or Speech

- A** This topic was the most popular and candidates did very well overall. There was a small number of candidates who exceeded the word limit. In addition, several candidates used lengthy introductions of greetings and pleasantries that have been pre-learnt but at the expense of the main topic. There was one case where the candidate misunderstood the requirements of the task and wrote instead about going on a summer holiday.
- B** This topic was the least popular, but responses were good overall and in two cases very impressive.

- C** This was the second most popular question. Candidates' performance varied from weak to good. The main issue here is repetitive greetings and pleasantries for some candidates in addition to irrelevant introductory paragraphs at the expense of the main dialogue. However, there were excellent examples where candidates demonstrated very good understanding of the techniques of writing a dialogue, with very good implementation of good adjectives and adverbs of manners to describe tone, feelings and emotions.

Section B – Essay

- A** This topic was the most popular as candidates seem to have associations with it being common and familiar. Performance ranged from good to very good overall. The main issue for weaker candidates is not the diction or lack of it, but the improper application of the grammatical structures.
- B** This was the second most popular question and most candidates did well and some came up with creative stories. Again, performance was good, and many candidates were confident in approaching this topic in terms of the choice of appropriate vocabulary, grammatical structures and good use of punctuation marks and reported speech.
- C** This was the least popular question and performance was reasonably good.
- D** This question was the third most popular for candidates. Many candidates seem to affiliate with the theme as it touches on an important aspect of their lives, particularly the use of social media. Accordingly, performance was good overall, and several candidates argued the issue with confidence and gave very valid reasons for their argument. On the other hand, weaker candidates were repetitive and lacked the principle of argument and did not express their opinions or give a clear rationale to support their viewpoints. To compensate for this, they repeated the sentence of the question at various points in their writing.

For this section, the quality of the language used was variable, but many candidates demonstrated confident use of the necessary vocabulary as well as a variety of appropriate structures.

In conclusion, good performance overall for both sections, with visible improvements year on year, and this is good news.

ARABIC

Paper 3180/02
Translation and Reading
Comprehension

Key messages

- Candidates should expand their range of vocabulary by reading a rich variety of materials.
- More practice is needed in correct uses of verbs, particularly the jussive case.
- More practice is needed in the correct use of numbers and counted nouns.

General comments

The overall performance of the candidates this year was very good. Most candidates attempted all questions and the majority of them scored well. Good translation skills were displayed overall with good knowledge of grammar and vocabulary.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1 Translate into English

The standard of translating in this question is very good and many candidates achieved a high mark. Good syntax was evident in the rendered translation. However, some candidates did not do so well in certain vocabularies such as:

- مذهشة (amazing, awesome, spectacular views)
- الشاحنات (lorries)
- الضوضاء (noise, loud voices)
- شوارع المدينة لاتنقطع عنها حركة الناس (The street are constantly busy with people's movement)
- وسائل التسلية (means of entertainment)
- الريف (the countryside)
- المسارح (theatres)
- مساوئ (drawbacks, disadvantages)
- تلوث الجو (pollution)
- الحدائق العامة (parks)
- الترويح عن النفس (relaxation, recreation)

Candidates could also benefit from being trained on the use of connectors such *لهذا* and *غير أن*.

Question 2 Translate into Arabic

The majority of candidates handled this section quite well with a fair number getting full marks. Some candidates did not do so well in translating certain phrases such as:

- at the usual time (في الوقت المعتاد/كالعادة)
- to keep myself warm (لأبقي نفسي دافئاً)
- we had to (كان علينا)
- Turn the light on (نُشعل الأضواء)
- I had no choice other than (لم يكن لدي خيار غير أن)

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Questions 3–13

The candidates' performance in this section was generally very good and a considerable number of candidates got full marks. However, a few candidates struggled with **Questions 3, 6 and 12**.

No marks were awarded for answers where candidates copied chunks of the text where they knew the answer was but did not pinpoint the exact answer.