

ARABIC

<p>Paper 3180/01 Composition</p>
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Key messages

- Candidates should read a variety of texts to increase their range of vocabulary.
- Candidates need to improve their skill of paragraphing.
- Candidates need further improvement in using punctuation marks appropriately.
- More practice is needed in the correct use of verbs, mainly the subjunctive and the jussive case.
- More practice is required in the correct use of numbers, countable nouns and in the 'idhafa' construction.
- Candidates should give more attention to the use of 'Khana' and its sisters and 'Inna' and its sisters.
- Candidates should adhere to the word limit specified.

General comments

The overall performance of candidates on this paper was quite satisfactory. In general, candidates need to improve their understanding of grammatical structures and the correct use of gender in Arabic. Candidates also need to improve their range of vocabulary. Candidates can build their vocabulary by reading a variety of articles and short stories in Arabic. This will also help to consolidate grammar, punctuation and spelling.

Comments on specific questions

Section A – Letter, Report or Speech, Dialogue

- (a) This was the most popular choice in (**Section A**) and most candidates coped rather well with it. However, a small number of candidates wrote about what they did in class rather than what they did in their school library. While another number of candidates wrote what they did mostly before going to the school library. Candidates are reminded to read the question carefully before beginning to answer and to ensure that they have answered the specific question asked. It was visibly obvious that some candidates used pre-learnt and memorized introductory forms of greeting and salutations.
- (b) This topic was the least popular. Candidates did not answer the question using the appropriate format and register. Many candidates chose to write about a historical place they visited in general without focusing on a visit to a historical museum.
- (c) This was the second most popular option of the three topics. This option required specific practice and there were a few good pieces where candidates were able to create realistic dialogue, formulated questions correctly and included a range of vocabulary.

Section B – Essay

- (a) This was the most popular choice and, many candidates were able to provide a description of the park. The narrative was frequently competently done. However, some candidates missed describing their feelings while visiting the park. There was a great deal of fluent and accurate writing. A small number, though, did not show confident use of the language, vocabulary and a variety of sentence structures.
- (b) This option was the second most popular choice. Overall, some candidates performed well on this question. However, there were some grammatical slips in candidates' responses. Candidates can

improve their writing skills by further practice in writing compositions and by extensive reading in order to enrich their vocabulary and to consolidate the use of the language.

- (c) This was the third most popular choice. It was attempted by a number of candidates. The title and subject were within the reach of candidates and they performed satisfactorily. However, a few candidates wrote on the event rather than the preparations as stipulated in the question, resulting in a loss of marks.
- (d) Very few candidates chose this option. Candidates were required to discuss the pros and cons of developing a friendship on Facebook. It was generally seen that candidates were not adequately equipped linguistically to deal with argumentative essays.

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

Candidates are reminded of the special skill required to translate from Arabic into English and vice versa. Candidates should be given sufficient practice to cope with vocabulary, several phrases and good sentence structures to allow candidates to translate accurately. They also need to pay particular attention to punctuation and spelling; write legibly and use tenses correctly.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1 – Translation into English

This task enabled candidates of different abilities to demonstrate their grasp of the language. Most candidates attempted this question well. The topic was familiar and most of the vocabulary was easy to understand. However, the following words/phrases were considered quite challenging by some candidates:

- ‘Astonishing views’ and this was frequently translated to ‘surprising’.
- Use of the past tense in the sentence ‘people did not like noise’.
- ‘Its wide streets were crowded with’ was often translated to ‘its streets are wide and crowded’.
- ‘Day and night’ was wrongly translated into ‘day not night’.
- Translation of words such as ‘theatres’, ‘drawbacks’, ‘dust’, ‘breathing fresh air’ posed a difficulty to the candidates.

Question 2: Translation into Arabic

Most candidates managed a good translation of this passage. The topic appeared to be within their reach and of an interest to them.

These words/phrases proved to be challenging to some candidates:

- The word ‘Tuesday’ was translated into ‘three’.
- The verb ‘advised’ was translated into ‘said’.
- ‘Breakfast’ was often translated to ‘lunch’.
- ‘I had no choice other than to’ was not familiar.
- Wrong translation of structure ‘begins to rain’.
- Spelling mistakes in the words ‘heavily’, ‘gathered’ and ‘umbrella’.
- ‘Is not’ in the phrase ‘school is not far’ was translated by ‘laa’ instead of ‘laysa’.
- ‘Just in time’ was not correctly translated.

Section B – Reading Comprehension

Question 3 – 13

Most of the candidates were able to answer all these questions well. This reflects their ability to comprehend the text.

Comments:

- **Question 3** - The answer to this question is in the forest. However, some candidates were confused and wrote 'attached to a tree'. This was not awarded any marks.
- **Question 12** - Some candidates copied the proverb as answer for this question. They were not awarded any marks.
- **Question 13** – This assessed candidates' understanding of three words out of 5 words from the text. A good number of candidates gave accurate and error-free answers to these items. However, some did not give the exact meaning and at times they lacked accuracy in spelling their answers to these items.