

ARABIC LANGUAGE

Paper 8680/02
Reading and Writing

General comments

Overall, the performance of candidates was good. Candidates made a good attempt at the questions, though some found **Question 1** quite challenging. It would be beneficial for candidates to read widely to help broaden their spelling and vocabulary, particularly synonyms and antonyms.

Candidates would also benefit from more practice in writing summaries, and should be advised not to copy out long chunks of the text in their answers.

Grammar was generally quite good, although more practice is needed in:

- the use of *kaana* and its sisters;
- numbers;
- negation of the future tense;
- the use of the dual case.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Only a few candidates managed to answer this question correctly. Examiners were looking for answers such as the following:

- أ- مبكرة
- ب- ضيقة أو محدودة
- ت- رديئة أو سيئة أو عادية أو بسيطة أو متواضعة
- ث- الإهمال
- ج- الصغار

Question 2

Examiners were looking for answers which provided the required grammatical structure. Whilst many candidates did well, there were some recurring errors, the most common of which were:

- أ- كان يعتذر لمحبي القراءة.
- ب- يستهلكون عشرة كتاب ، يستهلكون عشرة كتباً
- ت- لن ينجأ من خناقها إلا كتاب الجيب. لن ينج من خناقها إلا كتاب الجيب.
- ث- يتجاوز الغرضين التجارية كثيراً. يتجاوز الغرضين التجاريين كثيراً.
- ج- شاهدوا بعضاً منها تمثيلاً بفضل ممثلة محترف.

Question 3

Candidates were required to demonstrate their comprehension of Text One, using their own words as far as possible.

The following is part of an answer which scored good marks:

- أ- لأنه جاء متأخراً فأقيم في القصر الرائع قرب أجمل وأغنى منطقة .
- ب- كان له أثر إيجابي ، فجذب الناس إليه.

ب- لأنه يبيع ما تنتجه من الكتب.
ضمهم قرب كتبه المعروضة ليقوم بتشجيع وحث الزائرين على الشراء بتوقيعه أو بمناقشتهم.
ج- لأنها سهلة السماع ويمكنهم استخدامها في أماكن متعددة كالمطبخ أو الحافلة.
د- لأنها سهلة السماع ويمكنهم استخدامها في أماكن متعددة كالمطبخ أو الحافلة.

The following is an example of an answer which did not score so highly:

ت- إلقاء الكتب الأنيقة مشكلة أن الناس لم يشتري ولم يقرأ هؤلاء الكتب والكتاب ليس له زائرون لكتبه وليس له مالا لنفسه.

Question 4

This question was answered well by a large number of candidates. Candidates were required to demonstrate their comprehension of Text Two, using their own words as far as possible.

The following is an example of an answer which did not contain score high marks:

ب- لأن الكيبنة متسعة جدا وله أماكن عديدة توضع كتبه.
ت- الدليل هو في نشر اسم الدتور جابر في إحدى حجراته وملك مفاتيح الخزنة أي الكيبنة.

Question 5

Candidates were required to (a) summarise the ideas showing that the two authors are fond of books and (b) write about their views on whether libraries can only be used for studying. Whilst some candidates did quite well in this question, other candidates did not score highly for the following reasons: copying out large portions of text from one or both passages; using irrelevant ideas from the texts; using poor language.

The following is an example of a good answer to part (a):

قام أحد الكاتبين بالتكلم عن معرض الكتاب الفرنسي واعتبره مدخلا إلى ميدان صناعة الكتاب وتوزيعه، وكان قلقا على الكتاب بسبب مشكلة التوزيع، ووضح أن المعرض مناسبة تجارية جيدة بالاهتمام .
ودعا إلى الاهتمام بما يحتاجه الصغار من الكتب، وذكر بعض أنواعها وصفاتها، وأشار إلى اهتمام الكبار بالأشرطة المسجلة.
ووضح الكاتب الآخر كيف كان يزور مكتبة الجامعة باستمرار، وقام بطلب كيبنة للدراسة، وعبر عن سعادته بالحصول عليها.
وكان يستخدم فهرس المكتبة بغاية وبلا غاية، وسعى دائما إلى الوصول إلى الكتاب الذي يريده وإن لم يكن موجودا في المكتبة.

The following is an example of a less successful answer to part (a):

طبيعيا يحب الكاتبين عالم الكتب. ويشترون كتب جديدة. كما نرى في هذه النصين. يحب الكاتبين الكتب لأنهما كانا سعيدان بمعرض الكتاب.
قام معرض الكتاب في باريس ذلك الأمر ليس طبيعيا. القصر العظيم تم تقسيمها إلى أربع مئة وسبعين جناحا.
قرأ الكتب توضح أن ألف فرنسي هلك كثير كتب في العالم. لا تعطي الإحصائية عدد الكتاب الذي هلك العربي في أي قطر عربي وضمت قاعة المعرض قم العالم الأدب المعاصر.

The following is an example of an answer to part (b) which did not gain good marks:

المكتبة للحيوانات ، يذهب إلى المكتبة ليقضي وقت في القراءة للحيوانات. إنه يذهب ليحصل على هذا الكتاب.
يفضل الكتاييون أن يقضي في المكتبة يختارون أي كتب.

ARABIC LANGUAGE

Paper 8680/03

Essay

General comments

Candidates were required to choose one topic from a choice of five given in the question paper and write an essay in Arabic of 250–400 words. Of the 40 marks available, 24 are for Quality of Language and 16 are for Content. In general, the performance of the candidates was satisfactory, although some candidates produced very good essays indeed. There were only very few poor attempts. Most essays had coherent arguments and were reasonably well structured, although only a few candidates showed evidence of originality. It seemed that some candidates were over-reliant on material memorised in advance, which was not always relevant or used in an appropriate way. There was also a tendency for candidates to ignore the word limit; candidates should be reminded to pay attention to the word limits given in the question paper.

Although the majority of essays read quite smoothly, there were frequent, albeit minor, grammatical errors. These included, for example: the incorrect use of *al-* in the *idaafa* construction; the use of *li-anna* followed immediately by a verb; failure to distinguish between pairs such as *haadhaa / haadhihi*, *aakhar / ukhraa* etc, and the widespread treatment of *wa-* as a separate word in its own right, allowing it to be written on its own at the end of a line.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Most essays on this topic were reasonably well written, though the range of ideas was slightly limited. Technological innovations such as the Internet figured largely in many answers. There was an interesting difference of opinion between candidates on whether young people's lives are actually harder or easier than in the past.

Question 2

Again, there were some interesting responses to this topic. However, there was a tendency for some candidates to structure their essays in two halves (one on travel, one on the Internet), with inadequate linkage between the two.

Question 3

This topic was the most popular. The best essays were extremely well written, but others seemed to show evidence of excessive reliance on memorised material which wasn't always relevant or appropriate to the question. Some candidates wrote competently about pollution in general, but did not include sufficient detail to address the question fully.