

ARABIC LANGUAGE

Paper 8680/02
Reading and Writing

General comments

Overall, candidates performed well on this paper and there was evidence of improvement in the standard of candidates' answers compared to last year.

A few candidates copied out long portions of text from the reading passages, which was not always selective enough to indicate sufficient comprehension. Candidates should be reminded that, as far as possible, they should use their own words in response to **Questions 3, 4 and 5**.

Candidates would benefit from expanding their range of reading materials and from further practice in analysing a variety of texts in order to enrich their vocabulary and to improve their analytical skills.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1

Question 1

Many candidates answered this question successfully.

Appropriate answers included the following:

- أ- تناغم: تناسب، أو تآلف، أو توافق، أو تناسق، أو تجانس، أو تطابق
- ب- أبداع: أجمل، أو أروع، أو أحسن، أو أعظم، أو أفضل.
- ت- رصعت: زينت، أو زخرفت، أو صنعت، أو نقشتن، أو طرزت.
- ث- للعيان: للشهود، أو للشاهد، أو للمراقب، أو للناظر.
- ج- نواة: قلب، أو أساس، أو وسط، أو مركز، أو جوهر.

Question 2

The majority of candidates answered this question well.

Question 3

Many candidates answered this question well, using their own words effectively in order to demonstrate their comprehension of the reading passage.

Appropriate answers included the following:

- أ- الإسلام أسس حضارة السلام الرائعة، وكذلك الطمأنينة، وجعل من المدن معارض أو متاحف لما أنتجته وصورته حضارة العرب والمسلمين.
- ب- لأنها برأيه اتخذت أشكالاً مختلفة فتعددت أنماطها، وزينت بأجمل الزخارف، ورصعت بالذهب والأحجار الكريمة الراقية، ومئذنة أحمد بن طولون تشهد على هذه العظمة في التصميم وفي دقة ومهارة البناء وجماله.
- ث- لعب المسجد الأموي دوراً أساسياً في حياة سكان مدينة دمشق بوجود قصر الأمير بالقرب منه وكذلك بكثرة الأسواق التي حوله فقد كان المسجد جوهر المدينة ومركزها.

بالدليل على تأثر منازل العرب هو أنها قد صممت لتكون انعكاساً لروح الإسلام. فالبيت في الإسلام له حرمة لأنه حرم أن يكون مستورا بعيدا عن عامة الناس، لذا نوافذه عالية، وضيقه، تحيط بها جدران عالية.

Section 2

Question 4

There were some very good responses to this question. Many candidates selected appropriate ideas from the reading passage and incorporated them into their answers.

Appropriate answers included the following:

أ- كانوا يستمتعون بظلال الأشجار وبأزهار الغوطة في فصل الربيع، وكانوا يقضون أوقات فراغهم نهارا مع أولادهم وأصحابهم. وكان أصحاب المزارع يتركون الناس يجنون التمار من الأشجار ومن الطرقات العامة.

ب- بيوتها مليئة بالرياحان والأزهار والياسمين الذي كان يتساقط على جدران الطابق الثاني من البيوت، وشجر الليمون يفوح منه رائحة الزهر العطرة في فصل الربيع.

ث - لأن للمسجد الأموي أربعة أبواب وقبة وثلاث مآذن، وتفنن المصممون بتزيينه وبناء أروقة وقبة كبيرة وفسحة كبيرة بها بحرة ماء للوضوء. وعلى الجدران لوحات ورسوم لدور دمشق القديمة تتدفق المياه وسط صحنها الداخلية وتحفها الأشجار وقطع الفسيفساء التي تزين جدران المسجد من الجهة الغربية.

Question 5

There were many good answers to this question.

In part (a), many candidates selected relevant ideas from both reading passages and presented them in a well-structured summary.

In part (b), there were some very interesting opinions expressed and many candidates explained successfully the reasons behind their opinions.

For example:

الشيء الذي يعجبني في المدينة العربية وجود الأسواق الكثيرة حول المسجد، وأن هذه الأسواق متنوعة بأشياء متعددة ومختلفة وكثيرة. وبجانب ذلك أعجب بالمنحوتات الفنية الجميلة التي توجد في المدينة العربية ذلك لأن الفن العربي نادر في مدينتي.

ARABIC LANGUAGE

Paper 8680/03

Essay

General comments

This is an Essay paper in which candidates are required to compose one essay from a choice of five topics. The essay is marked out of 40, with 16 marks available for Content and 24 marks available for Quality of Language.

Overall, the performance of candidates was satisfactory. Some candidates produced good or excellent responses. A general improvement was noted compared to previous years.

The majority of essays contained coherent lines of argument and were well structured.

The best answers incorporated candidates' personal experience and ideas drawn from material studied in class. A small number of essays demonstrated little evidence of imagination or 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.

Candidates should be reminded that on the question paper they will see the general Set Topic, as stated in the syllabus, followed by the specific question they must answer. In some cases, candidates wrote on the broad topic area instead of answering the specific question. Candidates should be reminded to read the question carefully before beginning to answer, and to ensure that they have answered the question asked.

The majority of essays read quite smoothly. Weaker answers were characterised by 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; the misspelling of *(wa-)laakin*; 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.

Many candidates adhered to the word limits specified in the question paper. A few candidates exceeded the specified word limits: candidates should be reminded that going beyond this does not improve the quality of the work presented and may indeed increase the likelihood of errors occurring.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Responses to this question were generally thoughtful and well written.

Question 2

Answers to this question tended to be well written and often incorporated a range of interesting ideas.

Question 3

This was a popular question. The best essays were thoughtful and extremely well written. Some responses seemed to show excessive reliance on memorised material, which wasn't always relevant or appropriate to the question. Some candidates wrote competently about environmental issues in general, but did not include sufficient detail to address the specific question asked.

Question 4

This topic also proved popular, and many responses showed good control of the Arabic language. However, the content of some answers was rather limited and a number of candidates placed rather too much emphasis on a single theme, particularly 'migration to the city'. Candidates need to make sure that they incorporate a range of ideas into their essays.

Question 5

The best responses here were well structured and well written. Some responses seemed to show excessive reliance on memorised material, which wasn't always relevant or appropriate to the question. A number of candidates incorporated proverbs or similar material into their answers, and in many cases this proved effective.