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FOREWORD

This booklet contains reports written by Examiners on the work of candidates in certain papers. **Its contents are primarily for the information of the subject teachers concerned.**

ARABIC

GCE Ordinary Level

Paper 3180/01
Composition

General comments

The overall performance of the candidates was satisfactory for this level. The standard of the answers was similar to previous years and there was a similarity between the strengths and weakness in certain areas.

Recommendations

- Candidates should pay more attention to grammar, especially the difference between genders.
- Candidates should be clear about the difference between singular, dual and plural.
- Candidates should be very careful with their use of dots above and beneath alphabetical characters. Dots in the wrong place create incorrect words which have different meanings.
- Similar to the point above, candidates should know the Arabic sound system as it is closely related to the writing system. Vocalisation is important for certain words, especially when the word occurs in the passive and active voice.
- There were some repeated mistakes made such as 'story' rather than 'event' and 'question' rather than 'problem'.
- Candidates should be careful in their use of definite and indefinite articles.
- Candidates should pay attention to handwriting, punctuation and paragraphing.
- Where quotations are used, such as from the Quranic verses and the sayings of Prophet Mohammed, they should be accurate.

Comments on specific questions

Candidates were required to write a composition of about 120 words from a choice of three topics.

Section A – Letter, Report, Dialogue or Speech

- (a) *Your school has organised a function to reward you for your good performance in the examinations. Write a letter to your friend telling him/her how the function went.*

This was a very popular question partly because of the nature of its content, relating to school functions and reward giving, and also because most candidates understood the gist of the question, though some candidates had problems with the use of pronouns.

- (b) *Your friend is celebrating his/her birthday. Compose a speech you would like to deliver, on behalf of your friend, to welcome the guests.*

Candidates who tackled this question managed to write about a familiar celebration. Some candidates used very appropriate language to address their guests.

- (c) *You meet your grandfather who visits from abroad after two years. Compose the dialogue that takes places between the two of you.*

Some candidates who chose to write about this topic did not compose a dialogue as required by the question, and merely described what happened. Candidates should ensure that they pay attention to the form of writing that the question is asking for.

Section B – Essay

Candidates were required to write an essay of about 200 words from a choice of four topics.

- (a) *You were studying in your room. Suddenly you heard your mother screaming. Narrate what happened.*

Of the candidates who chose this topic, some attributed the scream to a mouse or a snake, suddenly appearing in their mother's room, while others imagined receiving bad news such as an accident or a death.

- (b) *Looking back over the past years, what particular event or experience do you remember most clearly, and why?*

Candidates who chose this topic wrote about the act of remembering events or experiences from the past.

- (c) *Describe your town/village market.*

This was the least popular topic. Some candidates who tackled this question were relatively weak in their use of language which limited their ability to describe their town or village market very fully.

- (d) *The advantages of learning Arabic.*

This was the most popular topic and candidates gave many interesting reasons for learning Arabic, referring to the importance of the Arabic language for learners, teachers and for the performance of Islamic rituals.

Paper 3180/02

Translation and Reading Comprehension

General comments

The overall performance of the candidates on this paper was satisfactory with some candidates performing very well.

Recommendations

- Candidates should pay more attention to grammar. They should establish the types of tenses to be used in rendering their translation or answering the reading comprehension questions.
- Candidates should be more accurate in their expressions, punctuation, spelling, prepositions and in their use of Arabic dots.

Comments on specific questions**Section A – Translation****Question1 – Translation into English**

The majority of candidates understood the passage well. However some candidates had difficulty translating words such as 'Cairo' which was translated into *Egypt, Madina or Kahira*, 'summer' was translated into *spring, winter or weekend*, 'luxurious hotel' was translated into *cosy cottage, village inn, house or royal*. The word 'weather' was translated into *atmosphere*, which did not fit in the context of the passage.

It is very important for future candidates to widen their vocabulary through reading and writing.

Question 2 – Translation into Arabic

Most candidates coped well with this passage. Many candidates did not know the equivalent of 'men' in Arabic and gave different translations for this word such as *worker, engineer, blacksmith, sheikh, sahib* and *slave*. Candidates should seek to widen their vocabulary with constant practice.

Section B – Reading Comprehension

Questions 3 – 9

Nearly all candidates were able to answer these questions which are directly related to the reading comprehension passage. However, candidates tended to merely copy out sentences directly from the passage without changing the word order and in particular, the pronouns. It is very important for candidates to answer the questions in their own words as far as possible, as is stated in the rubric.