

ARABIC

Paper 3180/01
Composition

General comments

The overall performance of the candidates was good. This year a general improvement in candidates' style of writing was noted.

Many candidates adhered to the word limits specified in the question paper. Some 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.

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 can improve their writing skills by expanding their range of reading materials in order to enrich their vocabulary and by receiving more practice in writing compositions.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

- (a) This was the most popular question in **Section A** and the majority of candidates coped well with it. A small number of candidates wrote generally about their father; candidates should be reminded to read the question carefully before beginning to answer, and to ensure that they have answered the specific question asked.
- (b) Candidates generally tackled this question very well. Candidates need to remember that a dialogue takes place between two people and should not be written as continuous prose or as reported speech.
- (c) Responses to this question were varied and some candidates seemed unsure about how to write a report. Candidates can improve by receiving further practice in writing reports.

Section B

- (a) Responses to this question tended to be varied and imaginative.
- (b) Some candidates described a public zoo rather than a garden. Some candidates mentioned that the zoo had a garden but did not provide enough detail on the garden to merit the top marks. Candidates could have described flowers, plants and trees in a garden (e.g. their names, colours) and any other items found in the garden that they were describing in order to gain higher marks.
- (c) This was a popular question, and answers tended to be well composed.
- (d) This was another popular question. Many candidates expanded on the subject and wrote about the importance of reading in general, including the reading of daily newspapers. Arguments were usually well supported, and a number of candidates enriched their answers by referring to national and international newspapers with which they were familiar.

ARABIC

Paper 3180/02

Translation and Reading Comprehension

General comments

The overall performance of candidates on this paper was good.

Many candidates answered the two translation questions in **Section A** well. Candidates can improve further by receiving plenty of practice in translating passages from Arabic into English and from English into Arabic.

A small number of candidates used colloquialisms, which were not always appropriate, in their answers. Candidates should aim to avoid inappropriate colloquialisms in formal writing.

In general, candidates need to improve their grasp of grammatical structures and the correct use of gender in Arabic. Candidates also need to improve their range of vocabulary, particularly in the areas of fruit and vegetables, animals and colours. Candidates can help to enrich their vocabulary by reading a variety of articles and short stories in Arabic. This will also help to consolidate grammar points and spelling.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

This question required candidates to translate a passage from Arabic into English, and the majority of candidates coped well with this question.

The following is a list of common errors seen in candidates' answers, and are areas in which candidates would benefit from further practice.

- Some candidates were unable to translate the words 'noon' and 'chase'.
- The words 'game' and 'match' were frequently translated as 'tournament' or 'competition'.
- The phrase 'police station' was often translated as 'police office'.
- Several candidates translated 'handed over' as 'submitted'.
- The word 'necklace' was commonly translated as 'chain'.

Question 2

This question required candidates to translate a passage from English into Arabic.

Most candidates translated this passage competently. Some candidates were unsure how to translate the word 'doll'; common translations of this word included 'statue', 'idol', 'game', or 'playground'. Others transliterated the word 'doll' into Arabic rather than translating it.

Section B

Questions 3–11

Many candidates tackled these questions well. Candidates performed particularly well on **Question 11**, with the overwhelming majority providing suitable synonyms or sentences to explain the meaning of the given words. Fewer candidates were able to provide an appropriate response to **Question 7**. This question asked about the characteristics, rather than the names, of modern means of transport.