

ARABIC

Paper 8680/02
Reading and Writing

General comments

Overall the standard of answers this session was good and there is clear evidence of an improvement in the standard since last session in the quality of language and accuracy of answers. The question which candidates found most challenging was **Question 5**.

Candidates need to practise grammatical structures such as *inna* and its sisters, conjugation of verbs, and adverbs. Candidates should also read widely and practise summarising. They should pay attention to correct spelling. Examples of common spelling errors were as follows:

يأدي الحرب ، كان الحرب ، فرصة رؤية هذه المغار ، هتان المغامرات تتكون من بالمائية ، الحرب قد أدى .

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Most candidates who attempted this question managed to produce good answers. Examiners were looking for antonyms of the stated vocabulary.

Candidates who did not score well were those who wrote answers such as the following:

أ- جامد / جافة
ب- الصغرى

Question 2

Examiners were looking for answers which provided the required grammatical structure. Answers which scored full marks included the following:

أ- بقيت المغارة منذ اكتشافها وتأهيلها قبلة أنظار اللبنانيين .
ب- كأنها مرفق سياحي.
ت- فيها سقف محفور حفرا طبيعيا .
ث- يستقبلك في الممر الحديث مؤثر صوتي.
ج- تقف مفتونين.

The most common mistakes included the following:

أ- بقيت المغارة منذ اكتشافهما وتأهيلهما قبلة أنظار اللبنانيين.
ب- كأنها مرفقا سياحيا .
ت- فيها سقف محفورة حفرتا طبيعيا.
ث- تستقبلك في الممر الحديث مؤثر صوتي.
ج- تقف مفتوتين.

Question 3

Examiners were looking for answers which demonstrated candidates' comprehension of Text One, expressed in the candidates' own words and style of writing. The following is part of an answer which scored good marks:

أ- استطاع الماء منذ القديم أن يحت في باطن الأرض طرقات و ممرات بدو و ببطء وكأنه نحات يصنع تماثيل عديدة فابتكر قناطر و قبا فائقة الجمال وبقيت يد الإنسان بعيدة عن عمليات الإبداع هذه.

The following is an example of an answer which did not contain what Examiners were looking for:

أ- تكونت مغارة جعيتا في وادي نهر الكلب على بعد 20 كيلومتر إلى الشمال من العاصمة بيروت.

Question 4

Examiners were looking for answers which demonstrated candidates' comprehension of Text Two, with good use of language and expressed in the candidates' own words. The following is part of an answer which scored good marks:

أ- لأنها تمتعت بعدد من الخصال العربية الجميلة مثل التسامح ، والصبر ، والسخاء.
ت- الصعود على الجبال ، العوم أو السباحة ، التصوير .

The following is an example of an answer which did not contain what Examiners were looking for:

ت- فالزائرون يمكنون أن يتمتعون.
ج- هناك طرق وأسواق ليس باسماء هؤلاء الزوار. نرى مجتمع محافظ.

Question 5

Candidates were required to summarise scenes from the two texts and mention what might make a tourist unhappy about his visit to a particular country.

Many candidates lost marks for the following reasons:

- Copying out portions of text from one or both texts.
- Copying out irrelevant sections of the text.
- Writing about ideas in the texts which were unrelated to the scene.
- Poor quality of language.
- Writing about what might make a visitor happy rather than unhappy, as required by the question rubric.

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Paper 8680/03

Essay

General comments

The question paper gave a choice of six titles, with the overall mark being out of 40: 24 marks for language and 16 for content. The standards achieved by the candidates varied considerably, though the overall performance of the candidates was generally satisfactory. The best essays were grammatically sound, stylistically elegant, well-structured and had coherent lines of argument. On the other hand, some essays were deficient in some or all of these respects. Although a significant number of essays appeared to rely at least partly on memorised formulae, this feature was less evident than in scripts from the previous year and there were few if any instances of 'pre-learned' essays being submitted as scripts.

As in previous examinations, there were frequent grammatical errors, for example in the use of the *idaafa* construction, and some candidates continued to demonstrate an inadequate grasp of the principles of Arabic word order.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

As last year, almost no candidates answered this question, the only one requiring candidates to relate their answer specifically to their own country.

Question 2

This proved a popular topic. Many essays were well written, and occasionally thought provoking, though in others there was an over-reliance on pre-learned formulae which occasionally did not relate well to the specific question.

Question 3

A few candidates opted for this question, on law and order, though it was not as popular as **Questions 2** or **5**. The essays produced were, however, generally well written, with a range of interesting ideas.

Question 4

This question, on life in the country and the city, attracted a number of candidates, though again, it was not as popular as **Questions 2** or **5**. The quality of the essays was rather variable.

Question 5

This question, on sport, proved very popular, and elicited a number of excellent answers, though overall the quality was again rather variable. Although the writing was often competent, many of the ideas expressed were conventional and rather unimaginative, and there was evidence of a greater reliance on pre-rehearsed formulae than in some other questions.

Question 6

Few candidates opted for this topic, but the essays produced were generally competently written.