

ARABIC

Paper 3180/01
Composition

General comments

The overall performance of the candidates was very good. The majority of candidates reflected a highly organised approach to the examination.

Comments on Specific Questions

Section A – Letter, Report or Speech, Dialogue

Question 1

- (a) This question was very popular indeed. Candidates answered confidently, observing the required number of words and mastering the technique of letter-writing. Having said this, candidates should be careful not to use overly-lengthy greetings which are not relevant to the topic of the letter.
- (b) Few candidates attempted this question and they successfully managed to express their concerns about the environment and current threats to it such as pollution.
- (c) The topic of this question, tourism, was very attractive to a number of candidates. The required dialogue of this question was well-thought out and the style of writing was full of animated daily language.

Section B – Essay

Question 2

- (a) This question was by far the most popular in **Section B**. The content of answers stemmed from the actual experience of observing Ramadan with all its aspects and rituals. Most candidates performed well and obtained satisfactory marks.
- (b) Candidates took interest in this guava picking expedition in the forest. They narrated engaging accounts of what happened. Some answers were quite imaginative and a pleasure to read.
- (c) A handful of candidates attempted this question successfully. They described places of interest that they had either visited, intended to visit or read about.
- (d) Few candidates attempted this question. Responses encompassed how higher education is valuable for future career prospects and how education in general is advantageous.

ARABIC

Paper 3180/02
Translation and
Reading
Comprehension

General Comments

The overall performance of the candidates was above average. They attempted all questions and the majority of them scored well. Good translation skills were displayed with good knowledge of grammar and vocabulary.

Comments on Specific Questions

Section A

Question 1 Translate into English

The standard of translating this question was impressively high. Good syntax was evident in the rendered translation. Some candidates could not cope with translating certain words and they either gave an incorrect translation or left gaps. Examples of incorrectly translated terms included:

- Picnics was translated as parks/trips.
- Bag was translated as bin.
- Bark was translated as cover/skin/root.
- Glass was translated as bottles.

Question 2 Translate into Arabic

Most candidates coped well with this question delivering translations ranging from acceptable to good. Certain words proved to be difficult for a number of candidates. Examples incorrectly translated terms included:

- Office was translated as library.
- Cry was translated as shout/laugh.
- Nursery was translated as clinic/surgery/ primary school.

Questions 3–13

Nearly all candidates were able to answer these questions successfully and confidently. Some candidates couldn't explain the meaning of words in **Question 13**. They either gave wrong synonyms or copied the sentences which contained these words from the Reading Passage. Both teachers and students should revise the rubric of **Question 13** and what its' expectations are.