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## FOREWORD

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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 Advanced Subsidiary Level

Paper 8680/02  
Reading and Writing

### General comments

Almost every candidate attempted all questions on the Paper, although some questions were answered much better than others. The questions which produced the highest standard of answers were **Questions 3** and **4**. In general, candidates failed to demonstrate the quality of language and style of writing required by this syllabus. Candidates require more practice in exam technique and development of their ability to express themselves in a grammatically correct way using a wide range of suitable vocabulary.

### Comments on specific questions

#### Question 1

Candidates were required to extract the meanings of the underlined words from Passage One. A large number of candidates gave a general meaning for each word, without reference to its specific meaning in the text. Examples of such errors are as follows:

سجلوا : طافوا ، عرفوا  
تلمساً : كثيراً  
بقاع : أنواع

Candidates would benefit from practice in giving the specific meaning of a particular word according to the context in which it occurs.

#### Question 2

Candidates were required to make the changes indicated to each sentence, while ensuring that the rest of the sentence remained grammatically correct. An example of what was required was provided by way of illustration. Many candidates answered parts **(a)** and **(e)** correctly. Examples of incorrect answers to the other parts of the question follow:

ب- وهذا النشاط السياحي الكبير كانوا دافعين .  
ت- لأن السائحان لاتجذبهما إلا جوانب التميز الثقافي والحضاري.

In order to gain full marks for this question, candidates needed to be familiar with the rules of Arabic grammar, particularly the dual case, particles assimilated to the verb, and defective verbs.

#### Question 3

Candidates were required to answer in their own words a series of questions which tested their comprehension of Passage One. Many candidates provided correct answers, but imitated the style of the passage. Others wrote in their own style but made grammatical or spelling mistakes. An example of an incorrect answer to part **(b)** follows:

ب- إن الغربيون سوف يتطور اقتصادهم في هذا البلد ويتعلم أدب واللغة والتاريخ هذا المكان

#### Question 4

This question tested candidates' comprehension of Passage Two. It was well answered by the majority of candidates, although many imitated the author's style. Candidates should therefore practise answering such questions in their own style in order to gain the full number of marks available for quality of language.

#### Question 5

Candidates were required to answer both parts of this question in no more than 140 words. Part (a) required candidates to use information from both passages, but some candidates used information from only the second passage. Other candidates copied out large sections of the second passage and so lost the marks available for quality of language and style of writing. Many of those candidates who tried to answer in their own words made a large number of grammatical and spelling mistakes and so, again, lost the marks available for quality and style of writing. Examples of such errors follow:

هذين نصين تكلم عن الرحلة الذي إن الرحلة والسفر هي ينقل من مكان إلى مكان آخر.  
إذا قررت الذهاب في رحلة استكشاف سأختار مصر لأن هذا بلد تاريخي سأذهب لتعرف عن حياة عربي أريد  
أن أعاشر معهم لتحسن لغتي وأريد أن أشاهد نهر النيل وجامعة الأزهار .

**Paper 8680/03**

**Essay**

#### General comments

This is a new examination offered for the first time. The overall performance of the candidates was average.

#### Recommendations

- It is very important for future candidates to extend their general knowledge through extensive reading and writing.
- Learning new words and expressions and how to use them in appropriate contexts, would enrich their writing.
- Candidates should be given instruction in writing compositions, to include stories, dialogues, letters and reports. Pair work and role-play dealing with these topics can be very useful in the classroom.
- Candidates are recommended to use an Arabic-Arabic dictionary for consultation in their studies in preparation for the examination, as a bilingual dictionary does not give enough information regarding lexical items generally. (Dictionaries are not permitted during the examination.)

#### Comments on specific questions

##### Question 1

The few candidates who chose this topic did well and adhered to the required number of words. One candidate chose to write about pollution and environmental protection in their country.

##### Question 2

This topic was the most popular title chosen by candidates. It was a familiar subject to all of them. They gave various dimensions to the learning process and wrote about the value of education.

##### Question 3

Candidates dealt with this topic successfully. The use of computers and television were written about as important innovations.

**Question 4**

Candidates managed to give some examples of previous wars and the consequences.

**Question 5**

This topic was the second most popular title chosen by candidates. They wrote about their own leisure activities and discussed various hobbies including the use of the Internet and information technology in general.

**Question 6**

Candidates who chose this topic discussed youth as a vital stage of life. Most of them were familiar with the topic and used good expressions and phrases to enhance their ideas.