

Frequently Asked Questions

IGCSE First Language Arabic (0508)

What set texts are there for the syllabus?

There aren't any! IGCSE First Language doesn't have questions on set texts. (This need not preclude using literary material as stimulus for coursework, or in classroom preparation for the Reading paper, of course. Candidates benefit from exposure to a variety of types of writing, and literary texts have a part to play in First Language.)

Is IGCSE First Language Arabic available in both the June and November sessions?

Yes.

Can students take dictionaries into the examination?

No. This is an IGCSE Language examination and dictionaries are not permitted.

What resources are available to support this syllabus?

The following resources are available:

- Past Papers.
- Standards Booklet (provides guidance on the standard of work expected in Papers 2 and 3).
- Principal Examiner Reports.
- Past Mark Schemes (from the June 2001 examination onwards).
- Resource List.

I have a very strong *foreign* language speaker candidate. Can I enter him/her for a *First Language* examination?

You can. However you will need to bear in mind that the level of sophistication, accuracy and fluency required in a First Language examination is that of a native speaker. The assessment objectives for Foreign Language examinations are quite different, rewarding communication and giving opportunities for Listening and Speaking. 0544 Arabic (Foreign language) was introduced for first examination in June 2006 (June examination only). An alternative solution might be to enter your candidate for Advanced Subsidiary Arabic Language (available in November only).