



Written examination

GENERAL COMMENTS

Overall, students performed well on the 2010 Arabic written examination.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Section 1 – Listening and responding

Part A: Respond in English

Text 1

Question 1a.

Health and life

Question 1b.

Eat regularly	Eat in small amounts	Avoid
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• fish• fat-free meats• dry biscuits• cheese• legumes• vegetables• fruit• yoghurt	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• chocolate• honey• milk-based sweets• jam	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• sugary drinks• acidic drinks

Question 2a.

- He is in his final year of secondary school, will graduate soon/in a few months.
- He doesn't know much about universities as no one from his family has been to university.
- He needs advice and information (to make a decision for the future).

Question 2b.

Akram needs to:

- define his goals and the nature of the work he wants to do
- know his mental and physical abilities
- work hard to gather information
- listen to the opinions and suggestions of others who have more experience.

Part B: Respond in Arabic

Question 3a.

- they both enjoy reading
- they are interested in beautiful clothes
- they like going to the theatre

Question 3b.

Any five of:

- they stand by/defend each other/they are steadfast
- Ghada makes Maryam forget her worries and problems
- Ghada pushes Maryam forward
- they share joys and sorrows
- they keep each other's secrets
- they don't envy each other.



Question 3c.

- she is there in bad times such as when she had a broken leg
- helped her daily with her homework and eased her return to school

Section 2 – Reading and responding

Part A: Answer in English

Text 4

Question 4a.

- Modern communication has become such a controlling power through transmitting ideas and information to people with incredible speed, using a wide range of media. (Television, the Internet, newspapers, magazines, computer games and radio were not given a separate mark each.)
- Modern communication provides mass education, influencing public and personal opinions and people's thoughts and behaviour.

Question 4b.

- Young people are influenced a lot by the media and they are vulnerable, as their instincts and emotions are strong at this age.
- Young people are looking for ways to express their emotions.
- The media have effectively contributed to derailing many young people, influencing them to commit crimes.

Question 4c.

The evidence provided is a study that was conducted in USA, where 110 prison inmates were surveyed. The statistical findings of the study showed that because of the media:

- 49 per cent of the inmates had the desire to carry arms
- 21 per cent were influenced to steal and to attack police.

Question 4d.

Britain. The author supports his argument with the evidence that the study found that 600/1344 people surveyed said there was a link between the cinema and youth corruption. This applied to children under 16 years of age.

Part B: Answer in Arabic

Text 5

Question 5

Any five of the following answers in **bold**:

The Jeita Grotto is regarded as the **pearl of tourism** due to its **two beautiful caves**: the watery cave, which holds an underground river and can be visited by **small boats**, and the dry cave, where you can see the **fascinating sculptures** and **natural formations for the length of 750 metres**. It provides its visitors with the best **services and facilities**. In addition it offers **outstanding hospitality** blended with the **fascinating environment**.

Section 3 – Writing in Arabic

In this section, students were assessed on their ability to express ideas through the creation of an original text in Arabic using the following criteria:

- relevance, breadth and depth
- appropriateness of structure and sequence
- accuracy, range and appropriateness of vocabulary and grammar.

Each criterion carried five marks. All students attempted the questions in Section 3 to some degree, with Question 9 being the most popular.

Students need to be advised that when they select a topic for the essay, they should choose one that is very familiar to them, in which they have a good range of vocabulary and where they can express themselves with competency in Arabic.

2010 Assessment Report



Question 6

Expected content:

- biographical details (birth date and place, country)
- person's life work or role
- why the person earned prominence
- why the student chose to write about this person.

Features of the **report** as a text:

- organisation and sequencing of information within the report and within paragraphs
- impersonal language providing information.

Question 7

Expected content:

Advantages:

- save water bills
- conserve water for the environment
- maintain gardens
- grow vegetables.

Disadvantages:

- cost
- needing electricity to drive a water pump
- being able to position them.

Features of an article:

- introduction: the importance of water and its value in our modern society
- body: advantages and disadvantages
- conclusion: highlight the importance of water and the effort to save water for the future.

Question 8

Features of a speech:

- introduction: talk about life getting expensive and how crucial it is for young people to work to keep up (summarise the purpose of the talk)
- body: present the arguments – talk about part-time work, time management between studying and working, independence, expenses and give evidence of people who are working and studying successfully
- conclusion: summarise points from the body to finalise the arguments.

Question 9

Features of a short story:

- introduction: set the scene and characters
- body: build up suspense through step-by-step action
- conclusion: the moral/round off your story.

Question 10

Features of a letter:

- introduction: greetings, general conversation
- body: talk about ambitions and dreams
- conclusion: wrap up the letter and say farewell.