

ARABIC A1

Overall grade boundaries

Grade:	E	D	C	B	A
Mark range:	0 - 7	8 - 15	16 - 22	23 - 28	29 - 36

The range and suitability of the work submitted

The majority of candidates successfully presented suitable works based on Arabic literature. Some candidates seemed to have been directed by their teachers to select certain works and made them the subject of their research. This is obviously a result of schools specialization in certain works. Generally speaking, all selected topics were very much appropriate for discussion and treatment. Some of them were even highly appreciated regarding themes and methods of presentation. The wide range of Arabic literary works was of great benefit to candidates in the presentation of ideas and thoughts in a logical and coherent manner. On the contrary, the limited range of works adopted by some schools caused candidates to have their topics restricted to a limited circle of literary themes instead of taking advantage of the much wider choice of Arabic literature issues and its rich heritage.

Candidate performance against each criterion

Most essays had the research question precisely formulated and clearly stated in the introduction and were sharply focused, with candidates making effective treatment possible within the word limit. The majority of candidates successfully showed interest in expressing their personal responses to the literature they studied and discussed. They also proved their proper usage of register in a persuasive manner in their essays. But there was an uneven balance between descriptive material and critical analysis, with essays tackling specific issues irrelevant to the research question. This, undoubtedly, reflected the lack of proper supervision by teachers. Regarding the introduction, the context of the research question was generally clearly demonstrated, the significance of the topic was explained and reasons were given as to why it was worthy of investigation.

It was also well observed that the majority of candidates consulted a sufficient range of appropriate sources and references and gathered relevant material for their essays. As a result, their discussions demonstrated a good knowledge and understanding of the selected topics. Although certain candidates showed some weakness in their reasoned arguments, others presented their ideas and developed their discussions in a systematic fashion. While some candidates showed only a little application of appropriate analytical and evaluative skills, others seemed keen to present their essays in a proper manner through their application of suitable reasoning and assessment. Concerning the linguistic issue, some candidates used accurate terminology but with syntactical errors. Few grammatical lapses were observed and the language used communicated clearly but did not do so consistently.

Candidates, generally speaking, also attempted to present conclusions relevant to the research question but not entirely consistent with the evidence presented in their essays. The formal presentation of essays was good and well organized as observed in the appearance and formal components, and the abstract clearly stated all the required elements such as the investigation methods.

Regarding the holistic judgment, the majority of candidates showed evidence of good quality that distinguished their essays from the average but some were less successful in their presentations of these qualities such as intellectual initiative, depth of understanding and insight.

Recommendations for the supervision of future candidates

Concentration on the linguistic and grammatical issues is highly recommended for future supervision. The proper usage of idiomatic Arabic is also needed for the presentation of well shaped essays. Teachers are also urged to focus on phraseology and sentence construction. The general weakness in stylistic aspects is also to be given priority in the supervision of future candidates. The majority of candidates need to avoid treating authors biographies and, instead, to concentrate on the major issues of the selected topics. Some essays indicated an absence of proper supervision, and teachers are reminded to play a more active part in this role. While some candidates showed interest in referring to various related sources and references, others mainly relied on websites for the collection of their data. Their essays showed a lack of form material.