

May 2012 extended essay reports

ARABIC A1

Overall grade boundaries

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

General comments

Candidates should aim to write the extended essay using sound academic research. They need to be aware of the requirements of the essay and the assessment criteria as outlined in the *Extended essay guide*. Candidates should aim to structure their essays appropriately.

The range and suitability of the work submitted

The candidates, in general, seemed well prepared to present appropriate essays. The essays varied in genres and covered a range of different literary periods, starting from classical Arabic ages to contemporary and modern literature. The topics were of an appropriate nature and were suitable for investigation. However, essays varied in quality; while some showed evidence of comprehension, others were mediocre. Where schools had adopted a limited range of works, candidates were prevented from taking advantage of the wide choice of Arabic literature and its rich genres.

Candidate performance against each criterion

In terms of meeting Criterion A, the majority of candidates stated their research question clearly and precisely in the introduction. This enabled them to treat the selected topics within the word limit. The context of the research question was also stated, with an explanation of the significance of the chosen topic as well as the reason why the research was worthwhile. The context itself was generally well covered although some candidates did not achieve the required level. A personal response to the selected literature was also expressed.

Candidates, generally speaking, consulted a satisfactory number of references in book form as well as internet resources, although there were some candidates who relied solely on websites. Candidates had gathered material which varied in length and appropriateness, and there was sometimes an uneven balance between descriptive data and critical analysis. Some essays, perhaps due to a lack of supervision, discussed and treated themes which were different from the chosen essay topics.

Criterion E: reasoned argument varied in standard and quality in the extended essays. Some candidates' arguments were rather weak, while other candidates were able to demonstrate appropriate treatment and suitable assessment of information.

Candidates had tended to use an appropriate register in their writing, and only a few lacked an appropriate writing style and displayed an inconsistent use of language.

Conclusions were generally relevant to the research questions, although some candidates seemed to be unaware of the requirements of this criterion and were inconsistent in the evidence they presented.

The formal presentation of essays was well organized with all the required statements registered on the front pages including the abstract and the introduction.

All in all, the holistic judgment varied as some essays were mediocre in all aspects while others were successfully presented with insight, depth of research and intellectual initiative.

Recommendations for the supervision of future candidates

- Candidates need to be aware of the requirements for proper essay writing and academic research, and should be encouraged to organize and structure their essays in an appropriate manner. Supervisors are recommended to spend time advising candidates on this.
- Rather than concentrating a large section of their essay on author biographies, candidates need to concentrate more on the gathered material and the issues under discussion.
- More attention should be given to using an appropriate register, and avoiding grammatical and linguistic errors, and inaccurate terminology.
- Candidates should be encouraged to consult a wider range of resources including books, rather than depending on websites.