

ARABIC LANGUAGE

Paper 8680/2
Reading and Writing

General comments

Overall, the performance on this paper was good and it was clear that teachers had played an important role in preparing candidates for the examination. There was evidence of improvement in the standard of candidates' answers and there were some very interesting opinions expressed.

Candidates should be reminded not to copy out sections of the text and, as far as possible, they should use their own words and phrases, particularly in response to **Questions 3, 4 and 5**.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1

Question 1

Some candidates answered this question successfully.

Appropriate answers included the following:

- أ- عصر: عهد أو زمن أو وقت أو حقبة
- ب- مذهلة: مذهشة أو كبيرة أو عظيمة أو فائقة أو رائعة أو خارقة
- ت- وسيلة: أداة أو واسطة أو طريقة
- ث- ننمي: نطور أو نحسن
- ج- المواتية: المناسبة أو الملائمة أو الصالحة

Question 2

Many candidates had difficulty with **Question 2(e)** as it appeared that they did not know the correct form of the verb after لَمَ.

Question 3

Many candidates answered this question well, using their own words and expressing their understanding of the text provided. **Questions 3(c)** and **3(d)** proved difficult for some candidates, who did not manage to extract the correct information from the text. The following examples demonstrate good responses to these two questions in particular:

- ث- إن مجتمعاتنا اليوم في أمس الحاجة إلى الإنسان المفكر المبتكر الذي يتمتع بالقدرة على جلب حلول مبتكرة لمواجهة المشاكل اليومية، والمهارة في الحفاظ على الموارد الطبيعية غير المتجددة وسلوك طريق غير اعتيادية في مواجهة التحديات المختلفة.

ج- أشارت الكاتبة بقلق إلى تخوفها من المبالغة في المسارعة لإنضاج الطفل تحسباً من حدوث اضطرابات نفسية يمكن تفاديها لذلك يجب الحفاظ على التوازن في تحفيزه ومنحه الحرية الفكرية بالشكل الملائم للمدرّس.

Question 4

There were some very good responses to this question. Many candidates managed to select the right ideas and utilised them in their answers. Part (a) was the least well answered.

Appropriate responses included the following:

أ- بات التردد على الشبكة العنكبوتية نوعاً من الترفيه الذي شابه التردد على دور السينما أو القراءة في مكتبة عامة، ومشاهدة التلفاز.

ب- يعد الإدمان على الأنترنت حالة من الحالات المنتشرة والمعروفة في مراكز العلاج النفسي ويتم التعامل معه على أنه إدمان حقيقي، وذلك لأن الشخص الذي يعاني من إدمان الأنترنت تظهر عليه عادات سلبية كإهمال الواجبات والمسؤوليات المرتبطة بالعمل، وإهمال الأمور الاجتماعية المتعلقة بعائلته وعلاقاته الاجتماعية الأخرى خاصة مع الأصدقاء.

ت- ظهرت عليها بعض علامات وأعراض الإدمان على الحاسوب فقد كانت تمضي ما يزيد عن اثنتي عشرة ساعة يومياً أمام شاشته وذلك على حساب ذهابها إلى العمل.

Question 5

There were many good responses to this question by candidates who managed to select the relevant ideas from both texts concerning the positive and negative effects of the use of computers and the internet and summarised these ideas in a well-structured manner.

Part (a): Candidates who scored highly successfully selected relevant ideas from both reading passages and presented them in a well-structured summary in their own words. Candidates should be encouraged to read the question carefully and address all the aspects asked in their summary. They should also be encouraged to use their own words as far as possible and not copy out large sections of the texts.

Part (b): Candidates who scored highly put forward relevant comments about how they benefit from the computer and the internet. Candidates who wrote solely about the necessity of using computers were not awarded marks as this was not asked in the question.

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Paper 8680/03
Essay

Key Messages

In order to do well in this paper, candidates need to ensure that they answer the specific question asked and that they understand the focus of the question before beginning to write their answers.

General comments

This is an essay paper in which candidates are required to compose one essay from a choice of five topics. The essay is marked out of 40, with 16 marks for Content and 24 marks for Quality of Language.

Overall, the performance of candidates was satisfactory. Some candidates produced very good responses.

The best responses comprised fluent and coherent essays, focusing on the precise requirement of the question. Some other responses lacked originality and depth in their essays, going away from the focus of the question.

Some candidates seemed to be reliant on previously prepared or memorised essays and therefore were unable to address the specific question. Candidates who scored highly on this paper wrote original essays focusing on the requirements of the question.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

This topic was answered by many candidates. The best essays were very well written, explaining with examples how a happy life can be characterised by a balance between work and free time.

Question 2

This topic in general, produced very well written essays. Most candidates understood the question and focused on the influence of mass media in society, citing very good examples to support their argument. Some responses focused solely on one aspect of the media such as TV or radio and therefore did not address the specific question asked and did not gain as many marks.

Question 3

Candidates who scored highly on this question address the specific question asked and discussed eloquently the link between the past and present in maintaining the environment. Candidates who focussed on the sources of pollution or the present only, for example, did not address the specific question asked and were not awarded as many marks.

Question 4

Candidates who scored highly on this question made an effective comparison between the roles of the family and schools in educating children. Candidates who focussed on the importance of schools or the family only, did not score as well as they did not address the specific question.

Question 5

Candidates discussed to what extent we should respect our cultural heritage. Those candidates who produced relevant examples to support their argument were awarded higher marks.