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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eat regularly</th>
<th>Eat in small amounts</th>
<th>Avoid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• fish</td>
<td>• chocolate</td>
<td>• sugary drinks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• fat-free meats</td>
<td>• honey</td>
<td>• acidic drinks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• dry biscuits</td>
<td>• milk-based sweets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• cheese</td>
<td>• jam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• legumes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• vegetables</td>
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<tr>
<td>• fruit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• yoghurt</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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.
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.