



Examiners' Report June 2015

GCSE Arabic 5AR04 01

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Introduction

This examination paper has been designed to accommodate a wide range of student profiles, and rewards work from grades G to A*. It consists of two tasks; short writing task and longer writing task. Candidates are asked to choose one question in each task out of a choice of four. They are required to write 30-70 words in task one (Section A), and a minimum of 120 words in task two (Section B). Both tasks require writing in Arabic where candidates have one hour to complete this paper. This paper carries a maximum of 50 marks.

Section A (Short writing task):

Candidates are required to produce a short writing task in Arabic (30-70 words) in response to a choice of four questions that relate to two prescribed themes:

- 1. Media, Travel and Culture
- 2. Sports, Leisure and Work

The task is assessed for Content and Communication (10 marks) and Knowledge and Application of Language (10 marks) only. The maximum mark for this task is 20.

Section B (Longer writing task):

Candidates are required to produce a longer writing task in Arabic (a minimum of 120 words) in response to a choice of four questions that relate to two prescribed themes:

- 1. Media, Travel and Culture
- 2. Sports, Leisure and Work

In this task, candidates are assessed for Content and Communication (15 marks), Knowledge and Application of Language (10 marks) and Accuracy (5 marks). The maximum mark for this task is 30.

The questions in this examination paper were carefully selected to give candidates a wide choice of tasks through which they can express their knowledge of the Arabic language. In general, the performance of the candidates was of a high standard. Most of the questions proved accessible for a considerable number of candidates and there was no indication that English words or phrases in the question paper presented any difficulty for the majority of candidates.

Question 1 (a)

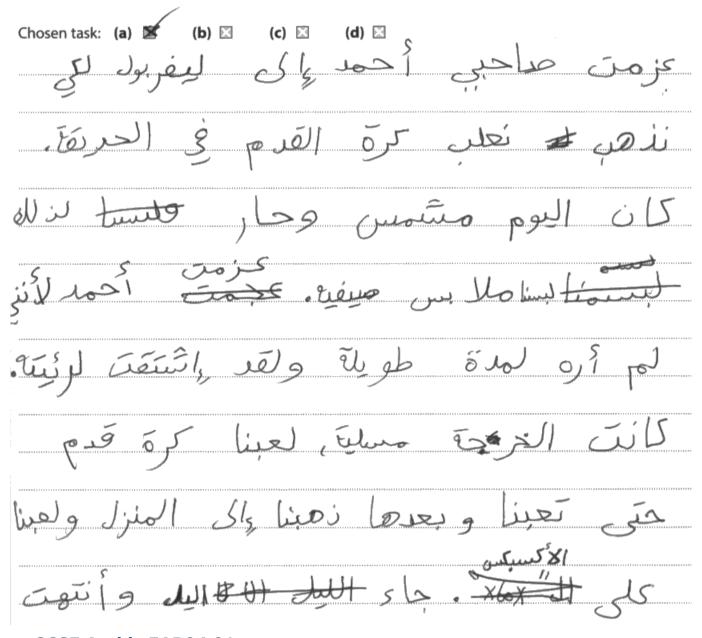
This question asked candidates to write about inviting their friend to spend the weekend in their home town. The topic of this question proved to be very popular among the candidates. The majority of candidates managed to secure good marks here as travel and culture related questions are the type of topics which candidates of all levels seem to enjoy.

Many responses were at the level of native speakers where a good variety of reasons were given for the invitation. However, there were few students who failed to get the full marks by just forgetting to include one or two bullet points, which were either why the stay was enjoyable or to mention that they invited the friend. Very few did not realise that the requirement of the question was to write about an invitation that had already happened in the past and not an invitation for the time to come. Marks were not awarded as a result of this misunderstanding.

Nevertheless this question gave a good opportunity to the less able candidates to produce some reasonable material that secured them some passing marks.

Although this question was different from previous years' holiday question, it was selected by about 68% of the candidates, which is higher percentage than any other single question selection in previous series.

Indicate which task you are answering by marking the box \boxtimes . If you change your mind, put a line through the box \boxtimes and then indicate your new task with a cross \boxtimes .



حلست أحمد أتت أمه لتوصله وودينا



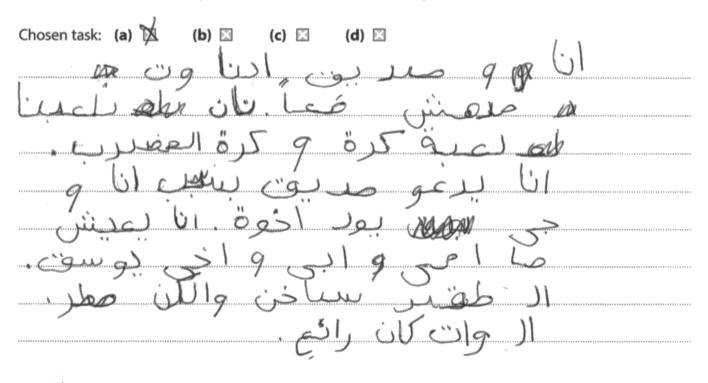


Á successful response when it comes to content and communication as well as knowledge of language. This candidate obtained full marks.



Candidate addressed all the required bullet points.

Indicate which task you are answering by marking the box \boxtimes . If you change your mind, put a line through the box \boxtimes and then indicate your new task with a cross \boxtimes .





This is an unsuccessful answer where the candidate managed to include some words which describe the weather and what they did with their friend. However there is a failure to communicate or write the essay in good language. The candidate scored 3 marks for Content and Communication and 2 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language.



Candidates could benefit from more essay writing practice.

Chosen task: (a) (b) 🖾 (c) 🔝 (d) 🖾



Examiner Comments

Perfect command of language but the candidate failed to mention a comment about the weather. The Content and Communication mark was 9 and the Knowledge and Application of Language mark was 10.



Pay attention to all the requirements of the question.

Chosen task: (a) ■ (b) □ (c) □ (d) □

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Chosen task: (a) 🔀

The candidate understood the question and was able to communicate almost all the requirements of the question (CC:9). However the quality of language was not very successful (KL:5).

(b) 🖾



More Arabic language writing is needed.

(d) 🔛

(c) 🔣

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The candidate did not realise that the requirement of the question was to write about an invitation that had already happened in the past and not an invitation for the time to come. Full marks were not awarded as a result of this misunderstanding. This candidate scored 8 marks for Content and Communication and 9 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language



Question 1 (b)

This question was the second most popular attempted by the candidates in Section A (short writing task).

Candidates were asked to write a letter describing their shopping experience with their parents to buy bedroom furniture. Shopping is a topic that candidates respond to well; they usually relate it to an unforgettable experience. There were some excellent answers among candidates' responses including some excellent written letters with wonderful descriptions. This question allowed candidates to use their imagination to write about several styles of furniture and variety of colour co-ordinates. This may have been due to the candidates relating this essay to a real shopping experience with their parents.

Strong candidates described the experience as unique and enjoyable, while weaker candidates were concise with their responses, or neglecting to mention if they enjoyed the experience, which affected their score. Others struggled to understand who should have enjoyed the experience, their parents or themselves.

Indicate which task you are answering by marking the box **I**. If you change your mind,

Some less able candidates did not secure good marks here as they found the word "furniture" difficult to understand.

put	a line th	rough the b	ox 🔀 and t	hen indica	te your new task	with a cross ⊠.
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فعنا					فكار العق	

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Å very successful answer. The essay satisfied all the requirements of the question and had excellent command of Arabic language, obtaining full marks.



Exemplary answer, can be used for future reference.

Indicate which task you are answering by marking the box

■. If you change your mind, put a line through the box 🔀 and then indicate your new task with a cross 🗵.

Chosen task	: (a)	×	(b) 🗹	(c) ☑] (d) ⊠					
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The candidate's response is too brief, therefore was unable to secure high marks

It scored 6 marks for Content and Communication and 4 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language.



Spend more time in answering questions.

Indicate which task you are answering by marking the box \boxtimes . If you change your mind, put a line through the box \boxtimes and then indicate your new task with a cross \boxtimes .



This is an exemplary answer, however one mark was lost as the candidate did not write their answer as a letter to a friend. They scored 9 marks for Content and Communication and 10 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language.



Pay more attention to what is required by the question.

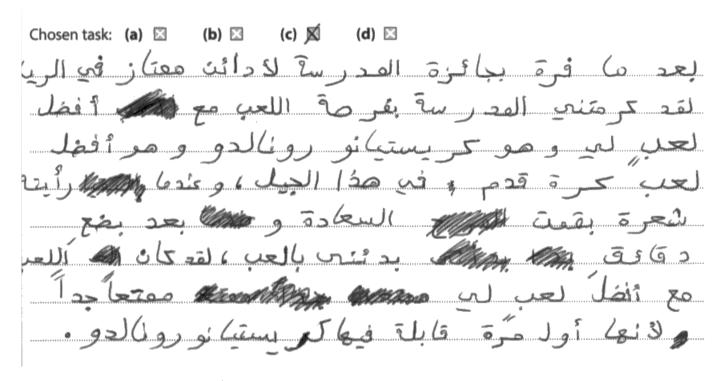
Question 1 (c)

Most candidates, for whom Arabic is a second language, found this question more challenging. However, many managed to get above average marks. Candidates were asked to describe a game with their 'favourite sportsperson' which was their prize for good sports performance.

Most of those who attempted this question used a football player as their favourite sportsperson, especially Ronaldo and Messi. Some candidates found it difficult to respond to a question that is easy to read and understand because of their lack of vocabulary on the topic; therefore, they resorted in using too many repeated words.

The more able candidates wrote about their sports idol and linked them well to their school prize, while less able candidates wrote about their sports idol, their performance and personality in general. In doing so these candidates failed to make the connection to the requirement of the question and therefore lost some marks as a result. Some other candidates misunderstood the task assuming that they were supposed to describe their own skills and performance, which made them win the prize. Although this reflects a slight confusion, candidates were not marked down for that.

Indicate which task you are answering by marking the box ⊠. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ⊠ and then indicate your new task with a cross ⊠.





Very successful response managing to cover all the bullet points required by the question and using a good command of Arabic language.



Indicate which task you are answering by marking the box \boxtimes . If you change your mind, put a line through the box \boxtimes and then indicate your new task with a cross \boxtimes .

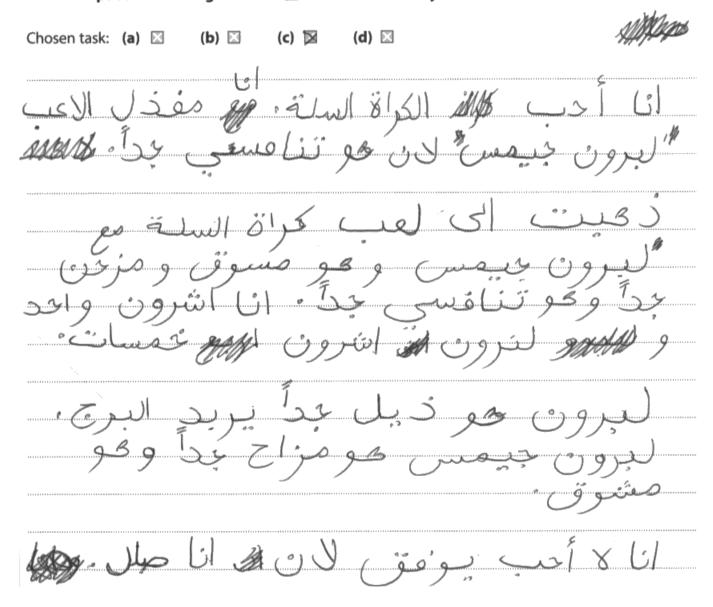


This candidate achieved good marks for Content and Communication as they were able to mention many bullet points (CC:7). However their command of Arabic was not very successful (KL:4).



Candidates should use past papers when preparing for the exam.

Indicate which task you are answering by marking the box \boxtimes . If you change your mind, put a line through the box \boxtimes and then indicate your new task with a cross \boxtimes .





This is not a very successful answer. The candidate has managed to communicate a little; however there is a failure to write the essay in good language. This response scored 4 for Communication and Content and 3 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language.



Question 1 (d)

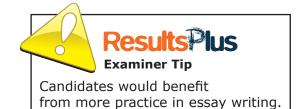
This was the least popular question in Section A (short writing task). In this question candidates were required to write a speech about their work experience in a beach resort in the summer. Those who answered this question produced a good level of responses even though it was about work experience, which is one of the less popular topics. Less able candidates either wrote about something totally different or wrote about the topic but used wrong words from the dictionary. This was due to a lack of suitable vocabulary, knowledge of the subject area and/or misunderstanding of the task.

Indicate which task you are answering by marking the box . If you change your mind,

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Chosen task:	(a)	×	(b) 🗵	(c) 🖺	3 (d) 🔽					
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Full marks for Content and Communication for this candidate (CC:10). However not as good for Knowledge of Language (KL:8)



Indicate which task you are answering by marking the box \boxtimes . If you change your mind, put a line through the box \boxtimes and then indicate your new task with a cross \boxtimes .

حملت الصيفية الحاضية في عال على الكلامة في عالم الكلامة في الكلامة





Candidates should ensure that they follow this example when answering questions.

Indicate which task you are answering by marking the box \boxtimes . If you change your mind, put a line through the box \boxtimes and then indicate your new task with a cross \boxtimes .

حمد المعدد (a) ☑ (b) ☑ (c) ☑ (d) ☑

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This candidate's use of some dialect did not help them scoring high marks for Knowledge of Language. They scored 6 marks for Content and Communication and 5 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language.



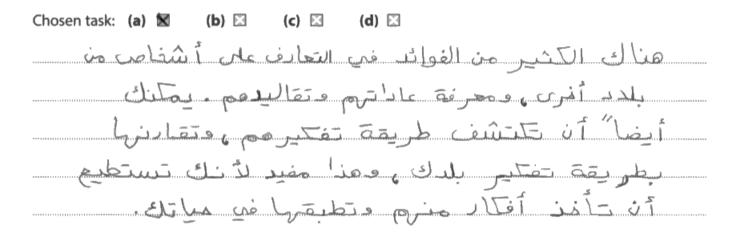
Pay attention to the language used to secure an excellent score.

Question 2 (a)

This question asked candidates to write an article about the benefits of making friends when travelling. This was a good question because it is related to a holiday experience which helped some students to achieve above average or full marks. However, the less able candidates found it more challenging because it required them to identify the benefits of meeting other people on their travels and to include a personal experience. Many wrote about the benefits of travel and about learning a new language, as well as about experiencing new cuisine. Very few of those who attempted it explored other areas of culture.

The less able candidates were not able to go into the depth of the question and carried on describing a holiday that they previously had, which looked like pre-learnt essays.

Indicate which task you are answering by marking the box \boxtimes . If you change your mind, put a line through the box \boxtimes and then indicate your new task with a cross \boxtimes .







Chosen task: **(a) ⊠ (b) ⊡ (c) ⊡ (d) ⊡**

السفر من الروع نشاطات لا نه مت و مثير و هد هش السفر بي شيدنا على تعلم اللغات منتافة لتكلم اليالمان الثري الاحكام السفر بساء منا على النعرف عادات كذلك السفر بساء منا على النعرف عادات منا النعرف عادات عربية و النعرف عادات السفر بدك نك بأكل الطعام و بلبس

ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This is a good answer. The response has most of the information required and has a satisfactory command of the language. This response scored 13 marks for Content and Communication and 7 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language and 3 for Accuracy.

سامه نعم البرم عن عطله الرجيع الهاصي التي قضي السياني مع عائلتي بدانا رملتي من مطار مديثرو في لندن ميث الفتنا الطائرة الهتجمي الي برشلونا الستغرفت الرملي الرملي الرملي و نعومة و لكنه كنت منعذبة عد المولزات الم

ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This is an example of a pre-learnt essay. The candidate did not score well. The response scored 2 marks for Content and Communication and 2 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language and 2 for Accuracy.



Read well into the question before answering.

Question 2 (b)

This question asked candidates to write a speech advising students to use the library more regularly. It was the second most popular question in section B (longer writing task). Most of the candidates who attempted it were able to produce wonderful articles with excellent grammar. They used appropriate vocabulary in well-structured language and were able to secure higher marks. However, there were many candidates who found the question very challenging and gave wrong structures and answers.

Indicate which task you are answering by marking the box \boxtimes . If you change your mind, put a line through the box \boxtimes and then indicate your new task with a cross \boxtimes .

Chosen task: (a) ☑ (b) ☑ (c) ☑ (d) ☑
مردباً با أصديقاء، وصباح النير. أنا هنا الأن لأنني أريد
أن أساعدكم، أربيكم أن أصغى إلى بعد شيء مدم جداً.
في عاده السنة, كلنا نستعمل آلة كل يوم. هذا ليس مقبول.
التكنائي ليس للعب لكن للعام، إنه ليس صديح و العنا يدب
أن نبداء أن فعل ننبي بدون الالي. أنا أوعز أن عنقراء الكتب
من المكتبة. انعم مجاري ولكن يبب الشخص الذي إستعار الكتاب
أن رجوعها إلى المكتب، المنتب الكتب يعطي شخص علم بدون
التكنلجي. أنه طريقة جير الدستعمال الوقت بجيد كثيرمن النوع من
الكتب لكل إنسان أنا أدب الكتب المديج والسري. والأفضل
حصة عن القراء الكتب هي العلم، والعلم هو القوة. اذاً , قراء

الكتير من الكتب ستعمى المريد من العلم إفرء ليس لي أو للمدرسة , لكن لأنن نفسك .



ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

This is a good answer where the candidate has managed to write a speech about using the library more regularly. However not good enough to score too well in knowledge and accuracy of language. The response scored 10 marks for Content and Communication and 5 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language and 3 for Accuracy.



Candidates should practice writing essays.



Good answer but a little short. This response scored 12 marks for Content and Communication and 8 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language and 5 for Accuracy.



Candidates should practice writing longer essays.

Chosen task: (a) (b) 🖾 (c) 🖾 (d) 🔝 أن أقض أمامكم اليوم عوان احترام وانتباه ال



Å very successful answer. The essay satisfied all the requirements of the question and had excellent command of Arabic language obtaining full marks.

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This is an example where the response was unsuccessful but was able to gain some marks when it came to content and communication. This response scored 7 marks for Content and Communication and 4 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language and 2 for Accuracy.

Question 2 (c)

Out of all the questions in this section, this proved to be the most popular.

Candidates were asked to write an email advising a friend, who is a good football player and wants to join a famous football team. Many candidates were able to give the benefits of becoming a professional footballer. Some gave very good advice to their friend and some just listed the advantages and disadvantages and forgot to give any advice on what to do. The popularity of this question in this section may be due to candidates being interested in football.

ان ستنفرم الا المرادة والعادة عن ذير
Just Just John John John John John John John John
دون الناس ، اذا كنت متفدقاً في الفريق ومكن الن تصبح أن عند افغال لا بم متفدقاً في الفريق ومكن الما يوكن الما ومكن الما يوكن الما ومكن الما يوكن الما ومكن الما يوكن ا
معروف في العالم و دوم عدد أن تعلم اذا سيكون الله مكان في الفروق الساسي في الفريق.
كان الفرار سره سأنفع لأنها ستكون شيء حدرد و سأتعام صده.



This is very successful response losing a few marks in knowledge of language but managing to satisfy most of the requirements. This response scored 12 marks for Content and Communication and 8 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language and 5 for Accuracy.

Indicate which task you are answering by marking the box \boxtimes . If you change your mind, put a line through the box \boxtimes and then indicate your new task with a cross \boxtimes .

Chosen task: (a) \boxtimes (b) \boxtimes (c) \boxtimes (d) \boxtimes



This essay is a perfect example that can be used for future reference.



تجعل الكف الأردية أصغر كل يوم الأنوا يبتقوى الحب بين الجيم لحدث في تطلب الشجول يشاد أن تتجوز نوال المنتوب التحديث المستعبة و الصفر اللثني والمعدد عن أصاقا عق اللبعد عن أصاقا عق والمعدد عن أسريات والمعدد عن أسريات والمعدد عن أسريات المنتوب في في قو خارج البادن و أبيت تتجعل أحسن و أبيت تتجعل أحسن الحب كرة في حسر علها والعالم الافريقي و أبيت تتوى أبيت تتوى



Fair command of language but very good on content and communication. This response scored 12 marks for Content and Communication and 6 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language and 3 for Accuracy.



More language and spelling training needed

Chosen task:	(a) 🖾	(b)	⊠ (c)	☑ (d) ⊠					
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		***************************************			ha		لفويق	اده	َ فِل	تتكور



Not a very successful response but the candidate tried to present the essay in the form of an email that was full of advice, which was credited with reasonable marks.

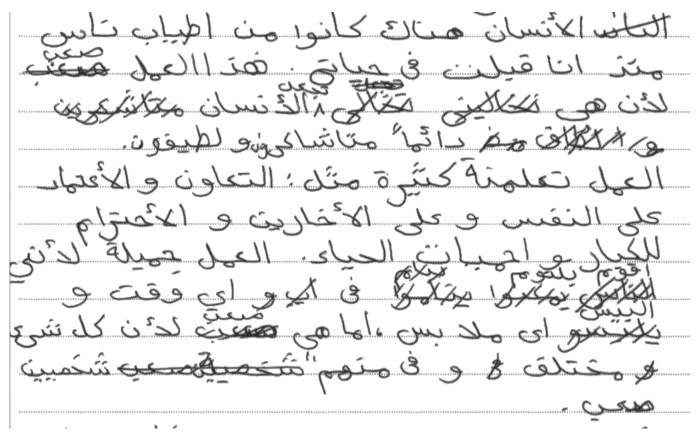
This response scored 8 marks for Content and Communication and 4 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language and 3 for Accuracy.



Candidates would benefit from more essay writing practice.

Question 2 (d)

This was the least popular question in Section B (longer writing task). Candidates were asked to write about their work experience with the elderly, in a nursing home. Many found this question very demanding and were unable to use the right vocabulary or terminology to express their thoughts. However, most of those who chose to respond to this question were more able and confident candidates who managed to manipulate language and produce excellent pieces of writing.





This candidate achieved a reasonable mark for Content and Communication (11) as they were able to mention many bullet points. As for Knowledge and Application of a Language they obtained 7 and 3 for Accuracy.



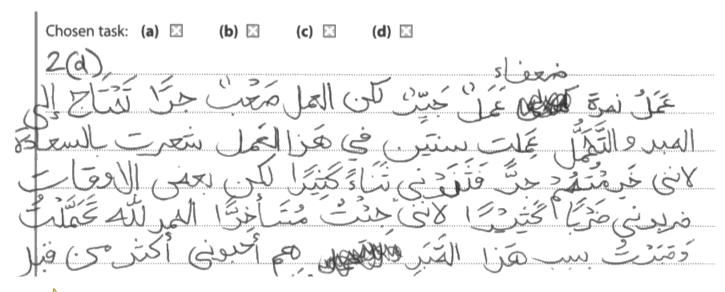
Indicate which task you are answering by marking the box \boxtimes . If you change your mind, put a line through the box \boxtimes and then indicate your new task with a cross \boxtimes .



Excellent detailed response, but this student failed to elaborate on certain issues such as their advice to others. This response scored 12 marks for Content and Communication and 8 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language and 5 for Accuracy.



Candidates should use past papers when preparing for the exam.





ResultsPlus

Examiner Comments

Fair command of language but this candidate missed out on marks. The response scored 10 marks for Content and Communication and 6 marks for Knowledge and Application of Language and 3 for Accuracy.



More training needed



Éxcellent answer, candidate obtained full marks, except for Accuracy which was awarded a mark of 4.



Paper Summary

Based on their performance on this paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- Candidates seemed to be more familiar with the layout of questions than previous years. However, they are reminded to read well into the questions before answering, so that they do not lose any of the information required by the questions.
- Candidates should use past papers when preparing for the exam.
- Each question consists of a number of requirements. Candidates are advised that when the requirement of a question is presented in the plural form, then they are expected to produce more than one answer for that particular requirement to secure full marks.
- It was apparent that a number of candidates chose to write pre-learnt essays, especially for the travel question, 1(a). Candidates are advised to avoid writing pre-learnt essays as these will not secure full marks.
- The use of English words should be avoided.

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link: http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx





