ARABIC

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| **Paper 3180/01** |
| **Composition** |
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Key messages

Candidates should focus on the following common grammatical errors:

- Subject-verb agreement (ذهبوا أمي وأبي إلى السوق، الناس يأكلو، الحفلة كان جميلة).

- Use of verbal nouns المَصدر in context (قمت بالصراخ for قمت بإصراخ).

- Use of the accusative case for the predicate after كانَ وأخواتها.

- The use of attached pronouns, verbs and adjectives following non-human plurals: (أهميتهم، دروس حصص الفن الموسيقى مهمون)

- Application of the definite article with 'idafa phrases' (العيد ميلاد، الحصص موسيقى).

- The use of incorrect prepositions after verbs (ذهبنا على الرحلة، اتصلنا مع الشرطة).

General comments

The average performance for all candidates across both sections (**A** and **B**) ranged from good to very good. A good number of candidates wrote excellent and impressive pieces, demonstrating a good choice of diction, an accurate and effective use of a variety of grammatical structures, imageries and similes. It has also been observed that many candidates understood the task for each question very well and addressed it adequately and, in a number of cases, presented extremely high standards. Furthermore, a substantial number of candidates planned their essays effectively in terms of an introduction, presentation and conclusion, with good implementation of paragraphing, punctuation marks, linking words/phrases and connectors.

Regarding word count, many candidates adhered to it in the questions. There were cases though where candidates exceeded the word count by a slight margin, but few others have exceeded it extensively. By the same token, a few candidates wrote well short of the word count, particularly for the questions in **Section B**.

For a small number of candidates, the use of colloquialisms has been observed. They have addressed the tasks well, but the extensive use of colloquialisms affected the spelling of words and the correct application of the grammatical rules:

أشتريلك، أقلك، الشتاء يوصل، بتكميل الرحلة، ضليت بوحدي، جبت معي، ماشي الحال، ضهرت من البيت، الريحة التي تطلع، أنا وعيلتي.

It is worth mentioning that the average performance for both sections was very good, but by comparison, the average performance for **Section A** was slightly better.

Stronger candidates appeared to have sufficient knowledge of Arabic grammatical structures to enable them to complete the paper without undue difficulty, but there were some persistent basic spelling errors (see below). As for weaker candidates, they were able, in the majority of cases, to address the tasks successfully in terms of content, but their writing was overwhelmed with spelling mistakes (see below), grammatical mistakes (such as the ones mentioned above) and the use of colloquialisms.

One final point to note is that very few candidates wrote completely irrelevant pieces, and many have adhered to the word count.

Comments on specific questions

Section A – Letter, Report, Dialogue or Speech

A This question was the most popular and the vast majority of candidates selected it. Their performance was on average very good, and some candidates produced some excellent pieces addressing all aspects of letter writing.

B Very few candidates answered this question; it was the least popular. Candidates' performance was also very good.

C It was the second most popular and performance ranged from weak to very good. Overall average performance is quite good but slightly lower than that for **A** and **B**. Generally, for some candidates, there were issues with the application of punctuation marks, direct and reported speech. Very few did not adopt the dialogue style.

Section B – Essay

A This was the third most popular question. The overall average performance was good. Many candidates were able to address it adequately, with good use of imagery and similes. Very few candidates deviated from depicting the Spring season and included in their description the Summer.

B It was the most popular question. Over two-third of the candidates selected it. The overall average performance was also good and slightly better than **A**. Many candidates came up with interesting stories, demonstrating a good sense of imagination.

C The question was the least popular and average performance was good, but it was the lowest average performance compared to the rest of the questions (**A**, **B**, **D**).

D Many candidates opted for this question, as it was the second most popular. The average performance was very good and the highest in the paper.

Common Spelling mistakes

The following spelling mistakes were predominant in the writing of many candidates, particularly the weaker ones:

- Incorrect use of the nunation with adverbs: خاصتاً، عادتاً
- Use of the letter ن instead of 'tanwiin' for adverbs: كان الظلام دامِسَن (دامساً)، خاصتن (خاصةً)
- Adding the feminine 't' التاء المربوطة to the end of verbs: نجحة الحفلة، ذهبنة، أكلةُ
- Many candidates wrote يالونات instead of بلالين and هدايا instead of هداية.
- Incorrect adjoining the prepositions with the definite article: فلعلم (في العلم)، بل قلم (بالقلم)، بي الباص، أصيبو بي
  الخوف، بي سبب الحشرات، فالكثير (في الكثير)، بل اختبارات (بالاختبارات)
- Using empathic letters instead of non-empathic and vice versa: لم تصطع النوم، أنقظتنا، يسطيقظو، سوط مسيقى
- Adding ياء المخاطبة to different parts of speech: كيف حالكي، أنتي، لأخبركي، لكي، معكي
- Adding the 'alif to demonstratives and comparative particles: هذا، لاكن، ذالك، أجمال (أجمَل)
- In good number of cases, no use of the glottal stop (hamzah) with the 'alif as well as writing shortened 'alif ى instead of ي.

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General comments

The overall performance of the candidates this year was very good. They attempted all the questions and the majority of them scored well. Good translation skills were displayed with a good knowledge of grammar and vocabulary.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1 Translate into English

The standard of translating this question was good and many candidates achieved high marks. Good syntax was evident in the rendered translation. However, some candidates did not do so well in certain vocabulary. They either translated them literally or did not translate them at all. Examples of incorrectly translated terms/words included:

- وسائل التواصل الاجتماعي الحديثة (modern social media).

- التي أنستنا (which made us forget): few candidates translated أنستنا as 'entertained us'.

- تقاليدنا العريقة (our ancient roots/traditions). Many candidates translated العريقة as Iraqi.

- لنشتري مجموعات كبيرة (to buy a big/huge/large collection/pack/quantities). Some candidate used 'groups' for مجموعات.

- ومنزلته وشخصيته (his status/position/value and personality). Many candidates translated منزلته as 'his house/home'.

- اختيار نوعية الظرف: a number of candidates translated الظرف as 'folder' instead of 'envelope'.

- وعنوان الشخص : a number of candidates translated عنوان as 'location' or 'where the person lives' instead of 'address'.

Candidates can also benefit from being trained on the use of conjunctions such as 'كما' and 'حيث'.

Question 2 Translate into Arabic

The majority of candidates coped well with this translation and the results range from good to excellent. Some candidates struggled with several expressions such as:

- terrifying monster (وحش مرعب/مخيف)

- as seen (كما تُرى)

- said proudly – some candidates did not translate 'proudly' so no mark was awarded.

- a masterpiece – was not translated correctly as 'تُحفة' by some candidates.

Questions 3–13

Almost all candidates were able to answer these questions successfully and confidently. However, some candidates struggled with **Questions 4**, **8** and **12**. Some points to consider are that candidates should answer all parts of the question where there are 2 or 3 marks to that question. **Question 4**, for example, had two points and some candidates answered only one.

In **Question 12** no mark was awarded to those candidates who answered by saying لتخليد ذكراه because this will refer to the perfume itself rather than to the famous personalities who had perfumes named after them.

For **Question 13**, teachers need to encourage candidates to answer all five words, and not just three as the questions states, in order to secure better marks. This is because, when it comes to marking this question, the examiner will mark the best three and ignore the rest. Each correct answer has two marks, so candidates have a better chance of achieving full mark for this question. In this paper, candidates were awarded one mark only to the word خلاب if they answered as جميل only instead of جميل جداً (please refer to the mark scheme).