Arabic A

Overall grade boundaries

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

Recommendations for IB procedures, instructions and forms

Supervisors are encouraged to ensure that all candidates are equipped with the EE guide and assist them with essay-writing techniques where they are lacking. Supervisors are also reminded to sign the coversheet and state the number of hours spent with each candidate, as well as completing the supervisor comment which forms part of the examiner's consideration when reward criterion K.
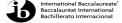
The range and suitability of the work submitted

The majority of candidates presented works based on Arabic literature. Only few candidates selected their topics from a literature originally from a different country or culture. Different literary periods were acknowledged for the selection of topics to fit the research process. This variety of the literary eras offered a substantial field from which candidates could choose to select their focus. They presented good essays which seemed appropriate in nature and suitable for investigation. On the contrary, some candidates, as it appeared, were completely influenced by their school instructions without being given the chance to choose their topics freely by themselves – this impacts candidate engagement substantially.

Candidate performance against each criterion

It has been well observed that the majority of candidates clearly stated the research question in the introduction. In the introduction, the context of the research question was stated with an explanation of the significance of the selected topic in addition to the worthiness of the investigation. These enabled candidates to make their treatment of the selected topics possible within the word limit of the essay. The context itself was well treated although some candidates failed to reach the required level they were aiming for. Candidates, generally speaking, consulted a satisfactory number of references in book form without forgetting those available on the internet. The proper usage of the register was acceptable and only few candidates appeared to lack the techniques of accurate writing style and appropriate academic formality, resulting in inconsistency and some incoherence in their communication. Reasoned argument varied in level and quality.

Conclusions were relevant to the research questions but some candidates seemed to omit one or more of the listed requirements, or produced conclusions which were inconsistent with the evidence

presented in their essays. The formal presentation of essays was well organized with all the formal requirements such as introduction, conclusion and abstract. The holistic judgment varied in level and standard. Some essays seemed mediocre in all aspects while others were successfully presented in a good manner with insight, depth of research and intellectual initiative.

Recommendations for the supervision of future candidates

The teaching of good essay writing techniques and academic research are highly recommended. More attention is needed on the proper usage of register to avoid grammatical and linguistic lapses and the wrong application of the accurate terminology. Addressing these issues adds to an increased level of academic formality. Some candidates also need to be instructed not to depend, in their references, invariably on websites but should also make an effort to consult other sources such as journals or periodicals.