

ARABIC B

Overall grade boundaries

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

General comments

Generally speaking, there was a high number of disappointing essays.

The range and suitability of the work submitted

Some candidates presented topics that are totally inappropriate, other candidates presented topics of a cultural nature that are not tied to a certain country or region where the target language is being used. This is an indication that both teachers and candidates do not read the guide and are not at all familiar with it.

Many candidates unfortunately do not get sufficient guidance on how to focus their topics. A lot of the candidates come up with topics that are far too broad for the word limit of the extended essay.

Candidate performance against each criterion

A: research question:

Few candidates presented well focused research questions, however, the majority, presented very broad ones that are impossible to deal with given the word limit of 4000 words.

B: introduction

Many candidates did not refer to the guide with regards to their introduction, and therefore failed to mention the research question. Many candidates wrote biographical information within their introduction. Candidates tended to not explain the significance of their topic and its importance in the introduction, but rather, mentioned it in their conclusion.

C: investigation:

Many candidates have listed references on the last page of their essay, however, references were not all used in the essay. Candidates need to learn that they need to refer and consult a wide number of references and that they need to use them in the body of the essay not just list them at the end.

Candidates also need to learn that they need to show their plan of the essay. In many cases planning can hardly be understood.

D: knowledge and understanding of the topic studied

Many candidates showed good knowledge and understanding of the topic studied, however, they did not show that in the right places in the essay.

Due to the fact that in many cases the research question did not lend itself to systematic investigation, many candidates were awarded half the grade of this criterion.

E: reasoned argument

The problem mentioned regarding the research question and the broad ideas many candidates presented, led to many candidates being awarded half of the grades for this criterion.

Many papers needed to refer to the research question during the process of developing their essays and the relation between the argument and the research question must be clarified.

F: application of analytical and evaluative skills appropriate to the subject:

Very few papers with profound analytical and evaluative skills were encountered this year.

G: use of language appropriate to the subject

Language used in most of the essays was appropriate to the subject. Most of the candidates had few and minor language problems.

H: conclusion

Many candidates faced problems in writing their conclusion.

I: formal presentation:

Formal presentation in most of the essays was satisfactory.

J: abstract

Candidates need to learn that the abstract has to state the research question clearly and the introduction has to refer to it as well. In other words, they need to study the guide properly before writing their extended essays.

K: holistic judgment

Few essays showed insight and intellectual initiatives.

Recommendations for the supervision of future candidates

- Candidates need guided supervision until they are able to reach a focused research question.
- Candidates need more guidance when it comes to selecting topics related to the cultural field. They need to learn that they have to relate to the society of the environment of the language they study. Topics with no reference to certain cultures such as the harms of smoking or drug addiction are not appropriate.
- Teachers need to fill out the form on the cover page of the EE. Lots of papers did not have teachers' comments at all.
- Other essays indicate that teachers have spent quite some time with the candidates; however, the topics and the development of the essays show that both teachers and candidates need to refer more to the guide.