

ARABIC B

Overall grade boundaries

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

The range and suitability of the work submitted

Generally speaking, the level of essays submitted was good to satisfactory. There were instances where essays were submitted on inappropriate topics. This reinforces the fact that not all candidates are familiar with the guide and the outlined requirements. The stronger essays were essays based on literary issues. Topics of a cultural nature that are not tied to a certain country or region where the target language is being used are not appropriate. It is apparent that candidates need more guidance on how to develop a well focused research question. Many candidates come up with topics that are so broad that from the outset it seems unlikely that they will be able to address the question within the word limit.

Candidate performance against each criterion

Criterion A: research question:

Few candidates presented well focused research questions; moreover, the majority of candidates presented very broad questions. Students need to receive training and have the opportunity to practice developing a question, and bringing the correct amount of focus.

Criterion B: introduction

Many candidates do not know that the introduction of the essay should make reference to the research question. Many candidates in their introduction started writing biographically about the author. Candidates need to study the guide in order to learn how to produce an appropriate introduction which meets the criteria being assessed. Some candidates did not explain the significance of their topic and its importance in the introduction. This makes them unfortunately lose marks. Candidates who were very obviously familiar with the guide scored highly in this criterion.

Criterion C: investigation:

Some candidates listed some references on the last page of their essay, however, in the essay itself the reference was only to one of the works or sometimes a maximum of two. Candidates need to ensure that they refer to, and consult a wide number of references and

that they need to use them in the body of the essay, not just list them in the bibliography. A limited number of candidates demonstrated good planning techniques.

Criterion D: knowledge and understanding of the topic studied

Many candidates showed good knowledge and understanding of the topic studied, however, they did not always demonstrate it in the right part of the essay. Sometime knowledge was not appropriately demonstrated. Sometimes, due to the fact that the research question did not lend itself to systematic investigation, many candidates did not score highly in this criterion.

Criterion E: reasoned argument

Problems with the formulation of a focused research meant that there was a lack of focus and clarity with the approach, and this criterion was sometimes affected. Referring to the research question during the process of developing the essays and mentioning the relation between the argument and the research question is vital in the essay.

Criterion F: application of analytical and evaluative skills

There were very few papers with profound analytical and evaluative skills. Candidates need to give more to analysis when they use their sources. For example, candidates sometimes make their argument, use lines of few poems as examples and do not analyze them effectively. Students need to analyze and show their analytical skills.

Criterion G : use of language

Language used in most of the essays was appropriate to the subject.

Criterion H: conclusion

The conclusion of the essays should be derived from the argument, but many candidates faced problems in writing their conclusion. Many of them introduce new concepts that were never tackled in the essay, and these should not be introduced in the conclusion. Studying the guide will help avoiding these serious problems.

Criterion I: formal presentation:

Formal presentation in most of the essays was satisfactory.

Criterion J: abstract

Candidates should ensure that the abstract states the research question clearly, and that the introduction should refer to it as well. It cannot be emphasized enough that fulfilling the demands of the criteria requires familiarity with the guide.

Criterion K: holistic judgment

Only very few essays showed insight and intellectual initiatives.

Recommendations for the supervision of future candidates

Candidates need guided supervision to help them reach a focused research question. Candidates need to ensure that they relate the society of the environment of the language of study to their essay. Topics with no reference to certain cultures such as the harms of smoking or drug addiction are not appropriate. Supervisors should complete the supervisor report, as sometimes this helps the examiner to interpret criterion K.