



Oral Component

GENERAL COMMENTS

The overall performance of students in the two parts of the examination was good, indicating that most had chosen an appropriate topic for the detailed study and had thoroughly prepared the selected topic.

Some students relied heavily on Arabic dialect, while others were not well prepared for the examination. In order to perform well, it is important that students prepare themselves thoroughly and that they understand the nature of the examination and how they will be assessed.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION

General conversation

Students were required to interact with a panel of two people on topic areas associated with daily life. Successful students provided extended responses rather than brief answers, and they were able to keep the conversation flowing. Those who performed poorly often did not understand the comments or the questions posed by assessors, and they were often unable to make use of cues or fillers to develop the interaction.

Detailed study

The detailed study provides an opportunity for students to explore and compare aspects of the language and culture of the Arabic-speaking community by developing knowledge and understanding of areas such as historical issues, aspects of contemporary society or the literary or artistic heritage of the community. The task itself is to introduce the sub-topic and focus of the student's particular study in no more than one minute, and then to discuss the sub-topic with assessors.

This year the topics for the detailed study were wide and covered a range of issues. The majority of the detailed studies and sub-topics were well structured and effectively organised. A large number of students showed evidence of thorough preparation and used adequate vocabulary and terminology; however, some students were not adequately prepared to cope with this part of the examination. Students need to be aware of the requirements of the detailed study.

Written component

GENERAL COMMENTS

Most students attempted all parts of the examination.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Section 1 – Listening and responding

Most students were able to complete these tasks fairly well, with 99% of students attempting to answer this part of the examination. The majority of students appeared to have understood the spoken passages, although some students found them challenging. Students should practise the aural section using past examinations, which can be accessed on the VCAA website. These can be a valuable preparation tool for all students.

Section 2 – Reading and responding

There was a lot of information in the two texts that could be used to accomplish the task efficiently. However, some students had difficulty in identifying and selecting the correct information from the texts and then using the information to respond appropriately. Students should be taught to use techniques such as highlighting to identify the relevant information needed to answer specific questions.

Section 3 – Writing in Arabic

All students attempted this section. Question 26, the story, was the most popular choice, and the necessary creative skills were evident in some students' responses. Generally, students' answers were expressed in good, clear language. Once again, students must understand the criteria for assessment if they are to achieve the maximum marks.