

OxfordAQA International GCSE Arabic (9267)

Switching guide

Switching from Cambridge International Examinations and
Pearson International Examinations to OxfordAQA Examinations

For this new International GCSE Arabic – First Language specification, OxfordAQA has designed a specification that enables students of all abilities to develop their Arabic language skills to their full potential, equipping them with the knowledge to communicate in a variety of contexts with confidence.

We're passionate about the benefits that learning a language can bring. We strongly believe in languages as a skill for life and something students should enjoy and find rewarding. We know you want a specification which you can enjoy teaching, and one which expands your students' cultural knowledge whilst developing their language skills.

We are confident our assessments will deliver the right results for your students. We want to help you to attract students of all abilities to languages and to deliver the assessments and results you and your students deserve.

Our specification offers students a firm foundation of the knowledge and skills required for further study and future employment.

OxfordAQA specification (9267)	Pearson International Arabic (First Language) specification (4AA1)	Cambridge International Examinations 9-1 Arabic specification (7180)	Cambridge International Examinations A*-G First Language Arabic iGCSE specification (0508)
Overall structure			
The specification covers three distinct themes and associated topics and sub-topics: 3.1.1 Theme one: Identity and culture Topic 1: Me, my family, friends and people I know - Relationships with family - Relationships with friends and people I know Topic 2: Technology in everyday life - Social media - Mobile technology Topic 3: Free-time activities - Music - Cinema and TV - Sport - Customs and festivals 3.1.2 Theme two: Local, national, international and global areas of interest Topic 1: Home, town and region	The specification assesses reading, grammar and writing skills across a range of topic areas: - youth matters - education - media - culture - sport and leisure - travel and tourism - business, work and employment • environment - health - technology.	There are no set themes and topics in the 7180 specification. Instead, it offers students the opportunity to develop practical communication skills in reading and writing. Learners are encouraged to read a wide variety of texts and to engage with a diverse range of social and cultural topics throughout the course and use the knowledge gained to inform their own writing. They will be able to communicate facts and express their own viewpoints in writing and write effectively for different purposes and audiences.	There are no set themes and topics in the 0508 specification. Instead, it offers students the opportunity to respond knowledgeably to a range of reading texts during the course as a whole. Students use some of these texts to inform and inspire their own writing and write in a range of text types for different purposes and audiences. The reading texts cover a range of genres and types, including fiction and non-fiction, and may also include other forms of writing, such as plays, essays, reviews and articles.

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Topic 2: Social issues - Charity/voluntary work - Healthy/unhealthy living Topic 3: Global issues - The environment - Poverty Topic 4: Travel and tourism 3.1.3 Theme three: Current and future study and employment Topic 1: My studies Topic 2: Life at school/college Topic 3: Education post-16 Topic 4: Jobs, career choices and ambitions			

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Paper-by-paper breakdown			
The OxfordAQA international GCSE in Arabic - First Language consists of two externally-examined papers. Paper 1: Reading comprehension and grammar Written examination: 2 hours; 50 marks; 50% of the qualification <i>Section A (20 marks)</i> Reading comprehension questions in Arabic based on a stimulus text. <i>Section B (15 marks)</i> Reading comprehension (5 marks) and summary (10 marks) questions based on two stimulus texts. <i>Section C (15 marks)</i> Grammar questions related to Arabic syntax and morphology. Grammar questions in section C to be sampled from on section 3.3 of the specification.	The Pearson International GCSE in Arabic (First Language) consists of two externally-examined papers. Paper 1: Reading, Summary and Grammar Written examination: 2 hours and 15 minutes; 75 marks; 60% of the qualification <i>Part One: Reading (49 marks)</i> Short- and extended-response questions on two texts. <i>Part Two: Summary (6 marks)</i> Summary of the main points of a third text. <i>Part Three: Grammar (20 marks)</i> Four questions on a range of aspects of grammar.	The Cambridge International Examinations 9-1 Arabic specification (7180) consists of two externally-examined papers. Paper 1: Writing Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes, 50 marks, 50%. The paper contains two sections and candidates answer two questions in total. Candidates answer one question from a choice of two in Section A. Candidates can choose between a letter or a speech or report and are expected to write an extended answer of continuous prose. Candidates answer one question from a choice of three in Section B. Candidate can choose between a descriptive, a narrative or a discursive question and they will be required to write an extended answer of continuous prose.	The Cambridge International Examinations A*-G First Language Arabic (0508) consists of two externally-examined papers. Paper 1: Reading and Directed Writing Written examination: 2 hours, 50 marks, 50%. <i>Question 1 Comprehension task (15 marks)</i> Candidates respond to a series of sub-questions based on Text 1, a fiction text. Text 1 will be approximately 600–700 words long and will be from either the twentieth or the twenty-first century. <i>Question 2 Use of Language task (6 marks)</i> Candidates respond to a series of sub-questions based on Text 1. <i>Question 3 Grammar task (9 marks)</i> Candidates respond to a series of sub-questions relating to grammar. This question will

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			require short-answer responses worth a total of nine marks in a variety of different formats including, but not limited to, fill-in-the-gap, cloze, MCQ, and ‘circle the correct answer’ <i>Question 4 Directed Writing task (20 marks)</i> Candidates answer one compulsory question on two non-fiction texts – Text 2 and Text 3. Candidates use and evaluate the information in the two texts to create an argumentative/discursive response. Candidates write about 250–300 words, responding in one of the following text types: email, report, article or speech.

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Paper 2: Writing Written examination: 2 hours; 50 marks; 50% of the qualification Two extended writing tasks (25 marks each). Students will answer two questions from a choice of five. Questions will focus on different forms of writing such as an essay, a narrative or story, an article, or a letter/email. Please note that this list is not exhaustive.	Paper 2: Writing Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes; 50 marks; 40% of the qualification Two extended-response writing tasks (25 marks for each task).	Paper 2: Writing Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes, 50 marks, 50%. The paper contain three sections and candidates should answer all questions. In Section A, candidates read a short non-fiction text with gaps to be filled from multiple-choice options. The exercise tests understanding of grammatical usage in context. In Section B, candidates read a short non-fiction text and answer a series of short-answer questions testing their understanding of the text. Candidates are then required to write a paragraph length summary (of around 100 words) about an aspect or aspects of the text. In Section C, candidates read a short fiction text and answer questions that test their understanding of grammar or	Paper 2: Writing Written examination: 2 hours, 50 marks, 50%. <i>Section A</i> <i>Discursive/Argumentative Writing (25 marks)</i> Candidates answer one question from a choice of two titles: one discursive and one argumentative. <i>Section B</i> <i>Descriptive/Narrative Writing (25 marks)</i> Candidates answer one question from a choice of two titles: one descriptive and one narrative

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		rhetoric and that require answers of a single word or phrase. Candidates are also required to transform four sentences, using the given prompts.	

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Assessment Objectives			
AO1 (25%) Understand, interpret, and respond effectively to written language, demonstrating comprehension.	AO1 (44%) (i) Read and understand a range of texts, selecting and interpreting information, ideas and opinions. (ii) Understand how the writer uses techniques to create effect. (iii) Compare and contrast information. (iv) Summarise information	AO1 Writing (55%) Candidates should be able to: - W1. Present facts, and express ideas and opinions in order to interest, inform or convince. - W2. Communicate experience and express what is felt and what is imagined. - W3. Use appropriate register and style for the given audience. - W4. Organise ideas into coherent paragraphs using a range of appropriate linking devices. - W5. Manipulate the target language accurately to use appropriate examples of grammatical structures and vocabulary in context.	AO1 Reading (40%) Candidates will be assessed on their ability to: R1 demonstrate understanding of explicit meaning R2 demonstrate understanding of implicit meaning and attitude R3 analyse, evaluate and develop facts, ideas and opinions, using appropriate support from the text R4 demonstrate understanding of how writers achieve effects and influence readers R5 select and use information for specific purposes R6 demonstrate understanding of the Arabic sentence structure, word patterns and the fundamentals of Arabic grammar.
AO2 (45%) Use and manipulate language, employing a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures to communicate meaning accurately.	AO2 (40%) (i) Communicate in writing effectively and imaginatively in different forms for particular audiences and purposes.	AO2 Reading (45%) Candidates should be able to: - R1. Understand ideas, opinions and attitudes. - R2. Recognise explicit meaning, attitudes and ideas. - R3. Recognise implicit meaning, attitudes and ideas.	AO2 Writing (60%) Candidates will be assessed on their ability to: W1 articulate experience and express what is thought, felt and imagined W2 organise and structure ideas and opinions for deliberate effect

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AO3 (30%) Express ideas, opinions, and information clearly, adapting style and register for a variety of purposes, audiences.	(ii) Organise writing into clear and coherent sentences and whole texts. (iii) Use accurate spelling. (i) AO3 (16%) (ii) Show an understanding of grammatical terminology and structures. (iii) Demonstrate an ability to manipulate language. Demonstrate an ability to analyse linguistic features	• R4. Identify information and select what is relevant to specific purposes.	W3 use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures appropriate to context W4 use register appropriate to context W5 make accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar.