2012 HSC Arabic Extension 'Sample Answers'

When examination committees develop questions for the examination, they may write 'sample answers' or, in the case of some questions, 'answers could include'. The committees do this to ensure that the questions will effectively assess students' knowledge and skills.

This material is also provided to the Supervisor of Marking, to give some guidance about the nature and scope of the responses the committee expected students would produce. How sample answers are used at marking centres varies. Sample answers may be used extensively and even modified at the marking centre OR they may be considered only briefly at the beginning of marking. In a few cases, the sample answers may not be used at all at marking.

The Board publishes this information to assist in understanding how the marking guidelines were implemented.

The 'sample answers' or similar advice contained in this document are not intended to be exemplary or even complete answers or responses. As they are part of the examination committee's 'working document', they may contain typographical errors, omissions, or only some of the possible correct answers.

Section I — Response to Prescribed Text
Part A

Question 1 (a)

Sample answer:

Fred Simon appeared to be old, weak and neglected.

Question 1 (b)

Sample answer:

This saying reflects the views of the villagers about marriage and age gaps. They prefer girls to marry men who are able to provide them and their families with the support they need. In their opinion, older and wealthy men are more mature and can spoil their wives, offering them a better lifestyle. On the other hand, young men in the village are usually unemployed, immature and unable to offer the same lifestyle.

Question 1 (c)

Sample answer:

Fida and Fred appear to be two different people. Their lifestyle, their social status, their age groups and their experiences are significantly apart.

Through the use of metaphors, the author portrays Fred as a very old man 'creeping' to describe his physical state. Fred's old age is emphasised by the repetition of the expression 'the old man . . .'.

On the other hand, Fida's youth is described as a blooming flower. This highlights the age gap between the pair.

In addition, she uses a simile to stress the difference in Fred and Fida's social status. Fred is portrayed as a rich and experienced man, whereas Fida is described as an innocent, inexperienced and poor girl who comes from a modest family: 'she is like a wild flower, innocent and poor'.

Question 1 (d)

Sample answer:

The issue of immigration and integration is revealed throughout the whole story of *Al Lu'ba wa Baytuha*. It is evident in this extract that many people leave their villages in search of a new future. The best example is portrayed through the character of Fida who agreed to marry a wealthy migrant in order to flee her poverty and change her dull life. People in her village believed that migration is the only way to a better life; therefore, young girls were encouraged to marry a wealthy migrant regardless of their age. This issue is also apparent through the character of Fred who left his country searching for work.

The theme of integration is also evident through the life of Fred who succeeded financially, only because he was able to integrate to his new society, which he called home. He became wealthy and developed a strong sense of belonging to the country that he migrated to, 'He went back to: his work and his home'.

Similarly, Fida found herself obliged to focus on establishing a new life in her new country. She integrated with the new culture as she moved on with her life away from Fred. She had to compete tirelessly with others in order to build a better future. This affected her relationship with her old friends back home. Her connection to her old life, village and friends was lost; 'The curtain of migration went down, separating us'.

Section I — Response to Prescribed Text
Part B

Question 2

Sample answer:

NA

Section I — Response to Prescribed Text
Part B

Section II — Writing in Arabic

Questions 3 and 4

Sample answer:

NA