

28.0 ARABIC (503)

The following papers comprised the KCSE Arabic examination of 2011:

- 503/1: Listening Comprehension and Dictation
- 503/2: Grammar, Comprehension and Composition
- 503/3: Oral

28.1 CANDIDATES' GENERAL PERFORMANCE

The table below shows the performance of candidates in Arabic (503) in 2011

Table 39: Candidates Overall Performance in Arabic in 2011

Year	Paper	Candidature	Maximum Score	Mean Score	Standard Deviation
2011	1	862	20	11.61	5.78
	2		60	33.36	12.49
	3		20	15.87	3.17
	Overall		100		

The following observations can be made from the above table:

- i) Many candidates got very high marks in paper 3, hence the high mean.
- ii) The overall subject mean was very high.

28.2 Paper 503/1

The paper demanded that the candidates listen to recorded comprehension and dictation passages then answer questions.

Weaknesses

It was observed that:

- Some of the candidates were poor listeners hence failed to comprehend the questions.
- Spelling errors were evident in the candidates' work

Advice to teachers

There is need for students to be given more practice in listening comprehension and dictation.

28.3 Paper 503/2

Grammar

In this section candidates were required to exhibit their competence in basic Arabic grammar. The following areas were tested:

- Feminine and masculine numerical
- Grammatical categories: tense, plural,

Weaknesses

A few candidates failed to answer correctly.

Advice to teachers

Students to be exposed to more practice through structured exercises.

Comprehension

Candidates were required to read the comprehension and answer the questions.

Majority of the candidates understood the questions and answered correctly.

Advice to teachers

Teachers to enhance reading and comprehension skills through exposing candidates to different types of passages

Composition

Candidates were expected to write one functional composition and one other.

Weaknesses

Most candidates had challenges in writing an official letter.

Advice to teachers

Teachers to train students on all types of functional writing..

28.4 Paper 503/3

The paper required the candidates to read passages loudly and answer questions.

Weaknesses

Language transfer where candidate' pronunciation was influenced by their mother tongue.

Advice to teachers

Teachers to put more emphasis on the following language skills:

- Speaking
- Reading
- Pronunciation
- Writing