



Questions matter



GCSE

Modern Hebrew

8678/WH Paper 1 Writing Higher Tier

Report on the Examination

8678

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General comments

This year's exam format was back to pre-covid format.

575 pupils sat the higher paper this year.

Student performance this year has generally been of a very good standard. Many students were able to answer the questions following the requirements and many had very good content which included enough options with justifications enabling them to score high grades.

There are still some concerns about students not following the bullet points of each question sufficiently closely. A further aspect that students could improve on is ensuring that they answer every bullet point in the correct tenses.

Question 1.1/1.2

The majority of students, almost 65% chose to answer question 1.1 which was about festivals. Students were well prepared on this topic, which is clearly close to their hearts, and the answers were well-developed and offered a wide variety of ideas.

For this question, there are 10 marks for content and 6 marks for quality of language. Students are required to write approximately 90 words in total about four different bullet points. All bullet points should be covered, but there is no requirement for equal coverage of the bullet points. Students need to be reminded that coverage of all the bullet points is key, as misinterpreting or omitting even one means the award of a mark above 6 for content is not possible. All aspects of the task must be covered for a mark in the range of 7 to 10. Some students did not write about all four bullet points and therefore these responses were limited in the marks that could be awarded. Students must also be reminded of the importance of answering in the correct tenses. Additionally, pupils should be encouraged to pay more attention to their spelling as too often native speakers spell as they hear words and the wrong spelling delays communication and results in a lower mark awarded for content.

The remaining 33% of students answered question 1.2, but unfortunately many misunderstood the 4th bullet point requiring them to write about a time table in the future and this also resulted in a lower mark for content.

Well-prepared students made a list of requirements at the top of the essay and crossed each off as they fulfilled it. This is a good way of working as these students didn't forget any of the requirements and were able to achieve full marks.

Question 2.1/2.2

A similar number of students answered both 2.1 and 2.2 For these questions, students are marked for content, range of language, and accuracy, and have to perform well in order to achieve high marks. Many students were familiar with how to gain marks, but there were students who only answered one of the bullet points or students who did not develop the ideas enough; as it is a high demand question pupils are required to address each bullet point with more than one idea ie a developed answer. Teachers should guide students to choose the question where they understand both bullet points. Students shouldn't attempt to answer a question that they don't fully understand. They should also be made aware of the importance of answering in the correct tense and of staying on topic.

In question 2.1 students were asked to write about holidays, a topic that was clearly close to their heart. In question 2.2 pupils were asked to write about relationships in the family and keeping in touch in

the future. Again, there were pupils who didn't follow the instructions and wrote about anything they wanted to whether or not it related to the bullet point. Students should be reminded to stay focused and follow instructions.

Students should be advised to:

- write approximately the suggested number of words
- refer to all of the bullet points.
- try to write something about the bullet points rather than omitting them
- identify which bullet points target the different time frames and check that your verb formation is accurate.
- make sure you include opinions, reasons and justifications as required by the task.

Question 3

For this question, there are 6 marks for conveying key messages and 6 marks for application of grammatical knowledge of language and structures. Again, familiarity with the mark scheme will enable students to achieve high marks on this question. It is important that students understand they receive marks for content even if the grammar is not fully accurate. Therefore, students should try and express ideas even when they are unable to be accurate. Many students were not aware of the importance of accuracy in this exercise, especially with the tenses.

There were a couple of words that students found difficult but overall, they were familiar with most of the words and many achieved good marks in this question.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results Statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.