



Épreuve du 1^{er} groupe

A N G L A I S

Arabic (العربية) is a Semitic language, in the same family as Hebrew and Aramaic. Around 260 million people use it as their first language. Many more people can also understand it, but not as a first language. It is written with the Arabic alphabet, which is written from right to left, like Hebrew. 4 Since it is so widely spoken throughout the world, it is one of the six official languages of the UN, alongside English, Spanish, French, Russian, and Chinese.

Many countries speak Arabic as an official language, but not all of them speak it the same way. There are many dialects, or varieties of the language, like Modern Standard Arabic, Egyptian Arabic, 8 Gulf Arabic, Maghreb Arabic, Levantine Arabic, and many others. Some of these dialects are very different from each other; as a result speakers find it hard to understand the other.

Most of the countries that use Arabic as their official language are in the Middle East. They are part of the Arab World. This is because the largest religion in the Middle East is Islam. The language 12 is very important in Islam because Muslims believe that Allah (God) used it to talk to Muhammad through the Archangel Jibreel (Gabriel), giving him the Quran in Arabic. Many Arabic speakers are Muslims, but not all are.

Arabic is also becoming a popular language to learn in the Western world, even though 16 Arabic grammar is sometimes very hard to learn for native speakers of Indo-European languages. Many other languages have borrowed words from Arabic, because of its importance in history. Some English words that have Arabic origin are: sugar, cotton, magazine, algebra, alcohol, and Emir. Arabic is an official language of many 20 countries such as Algeria, Mauritania, Iraq, Bahrain...

Adapted from <https://simple.m.wikipedia.org>

I. TEXT COMPREHENSION: 08 marks

A) Indicate the numbers of the paragraphs in which the following ideas are developed in the text. (03 marks)

Ideas	Paragraph n°
1. The influence of Arabic on other languages	
2. The relationship between the language and religion	
3. Various types of Arabic	

B) Are these statements TRUE or FALSE? Quote specific text passages to justify your answers. (03 marks)

4. Arabs and Jews (Israelis) speak languages which have a common origin.

5. It is difficult for two Arabs to have a discussion if they speak different types of Arabic.

6. People in European countries are more and more interested in learning Arabic.

C) Read the text again and find the passages which contain the following information: (02 marks)

7. The number of people who speak Arabic at home.

☞ _____

8. Proof that Arabic is used by the world’s biggest organization.

☞ _____

9. A major difficulty for Europeans who learn Arabic.

☞ _____

10. Arabic vocabulary which is now used in other languages.

☞ _____

II. LINGUISTIC and COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE: 07 marks

D) Indicate the correct correspondences between the statements (11-14) and the notions (a-e). (02 marks)

a) **Contrast** * b) **Addition** * c) **Listing** * d) **Consequence** * e) **Reason**

11. *As a result*, speakers find it hard to understand the other. ☞ _____

12. This is *because* the largest religion in the Middle East is Islam. ☞ _____

13. Arabic is *also* becoming a popular language... ☞ _____

14. English words from Arabic origin are: *sugar, cotton, magazine*, etc. ☞ _____

E) Choose the right options in parentheses to complete this passage. (03 marks)

Arabic is an international language. It is one of the (15) _____ (*more/much/most*) spoken languages in the world. Indeed, it is used by Arab people, but also by Non-Arab Muslims who (16) _____ (*need/want/like*) it to read The Quran. The type of Arabic spoken can vary depending (17) _____ (*on/in/of*) the nationality of the speakers. However, when it comes to reading the Holy Quran, there are very (18) _____ (*many/few/little*) differences which do not affect the meaning of the text. In fact, Muslims believe that God (19) _____ (*has preserved/preserves/is preserving*) the Book in the same version as the one it was some 1,500 years (20) _____ (*since/for/ago*).

F) Use an appropriate form of the word in parentheses to fill in the blank. (02 marks)

21. The Arabic language is not just about religion; it is also about _____ (*cultural*).

22. By the way, some Christians speak Arabic _____ (*good*) than many Muslims.

23. The Arab League is essentially _____ (*composition*) of Asian countries. But some of its members are on the African continent.

24. Most Arab governments have no _____ (*diplomat*) relationships with Israel.

ANSWER KEY**I. TEXT COMPREHENSION: 08 marks****A) Ideas/Paragraph Matching: (01 x 3 = 03 marks)**

1. Parag.4

2. Parag.3

3. Parag.4

B) True or False Statements + Justifications: (01 x 3 = 03 marks)

4. True: "Arabic is a Semitic language, in the same family as Hebrew and Aramaic."

5. True: "Some of these dialects are so different from each other, as a result speakers find it hard to understand the other"

6. True: "Arabic is also becoming a popular language to learn in the Western world"

C) Finding Specific Info: (0.5 x 4 = 02 marks)

7. 260 million people;

8. It is one of the six official languages of the UN;

9. Arabic Grammar;

10. Sugar, cotton, magazine, algebra, alcohol, and Emir

II. LINGUISTIC and COMMUNICATIVE COMPETENCE: 06 marks**D) Statements/Notions Matching: (0.5 x 4 = 02 marks)**

11. Consequence;

12. Reason;

13. Addition;

14. Listing

E) MCQ (0.5 x 6 = 03 marks)

15. most

16. need

17. on

18. few

19. has preserved

20. ago

F) Word Building: (0.5 x 4 = 02 marks)

21. culture

22. better

23. composed

24. diplomatic

III. WRITING: 05 marks

Topic understanding, relevance of ideas and illustrations: 03 marks

Coherence, cohesion and language accuracy: 02 marks