



Singapore Examinations and Assessment Board



Cambridge Assessment  
International Education

**Singapore–Cambridge General Certificate of Education  
Ordinary Level (2026)**

**Arabic  
(Syllabus 3186)**

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## INTRODUCTION

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This document provides details of the O-Level Arabic syllabus for candidates in Singapore.

**Note:** Centres and candidates should note that the use of dictionaries is **not** permitted in this assessment.

## AIMS

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The aims of the syllabus are the same for all students. The aims are set out below and describe the educational purposes of following a course in Arabic for the O-Level examination.

- To enable students to communicate accurately, appropriately and effectively in writing.
- To enable students to understand and respond appropriately to what they read.
- To encourage students to enjoy and appreciate a variety of language.
- To complement the students' other areas of study by developing skills of a more general application (e.g. analysis, synthesis, drawing of inferences).
- To promote the students' personal development and an understanding of themselves and others.

## ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

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There are three assessment objectives:

### A Continuous Writing

Candidates will be assessed on their ability to:

- articulate experience and express what is felt and what is imagined
- order and present facts, ideas and opinions
- communicate effectively and appropriately
- demonstrate an awareness of the conventions of paragraphing, sentence structure, punctuation and spelling
- express thoughts, feelings and opinions in order to interest, inform or convince
- demonstrate adequate control of vocabulary, syntax and grammar, punctuation and spelling.

### B Writing for a specific purpose

Candidates will be assessed on their ability to:

- understand and adequately convey information
- understand, order and present facts, ideas and opinions
- evaluate information and select what is relevant to specific purposes
- articulate experience and express what is felt and what is imagined

- communicate effectively and appropriately
- show a sense of audience and an awareness of register and style in both formal and informal situations.

### C Language Usage/Reading Comprehension

Candidates will be assessed on their ability to:

- exercise control of appropriate structures
- understand and employ a range of apt vocabulary
- recognise implicit meaning and attitude
- evaluate information and express it in their own words.

## ASSESSMENT

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### AVAILABILITY OF COMPONENTS

This syllabus is available in November only.

### RULES OF COMBINATION

Candidates will take Component 1 (Composition) and Component 2 (Translation and Reading Comprehension).

### SCHEME OF ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

	Component 1		Component 2	
	duration	weighting	duration	weighting
<b>O-Level</b>	1 hour 30 minutes	45%	1 hour 30 minutes	55%

## DESCRIPTION OF COMPONENTS

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### COMPONENT 1: Composition

1 hour 30 minutes, 45 marks

#### Section A: Letter, Report or Speech, Dialogue (15 marks)

From a choice of three topics, candidates must write one composition of about 120 words in Arabic. The choice of topics will allow candidates to demonstrate ability in using the written language to:

- communicate by letter
- compose a report or speech
- compose a dialogue.

#### Section B: Essay (30 marks)

From a choice of four topics (narrative, descriptive or argumentative), candidates must write one essay of about 200 words in Arabic.

Dictionaries may **not** be used in the examination.

### COMPONENT 2: Translation and Reading Comprehension

1 hour 30 minutes, 55 marks

#### Section A: Translation (30 marks)

Candidates must:

- translate a passage from Arabic into English (10 marks)
- translate a passage from English into Arabic (20 marks).

#### Section B: Reading Comprehension (25 marks)

Candidates must answer a variety of questions testing their understanding of a set passage.

Dictionaries may **not** be used in the examination.