

Sample Test Questions for CSET: Arabic Subtest I

In the sample questions below, you will be required to respond in Modern Standard Arabic for questions that directly assess your productive language skills and knowledge of particular linguistic issues. For other questions, you may respond in either Arabic or English. Each question will clearly state the requirements for your response.

1. The study of morphology is an important part of the study of language. Using your knowledge of linguistics, write a response, in either Arabic or English, in which you:

- define morphology; and
- explain two central concepts of morphology (e.g., morpheme, affix, inflectional vs. derivational morpheme, free vs. bound morpheme, root, stem, allomorph, back formation).

2. To demonstrate your understanding of the linguistic structures of Arabic and English, write a response, in either Arabic or English, in which you explain two main differences between the verb systems (أنواع الفعل واستخدامه) of Modern Standard Arabic and English. Give specific examples in Modern Standard Arabic and English to support your response.

3. To demonstrate your understanding of the sociolinguistic features of Arabic and the sociocultural norms of Arab culture, write a response, in either Arabic or English, in which you:

- identify two situations in which greetings and leave-takings in Arabic would be different based on the participants and the setting; and
- describe the ways in which greetings and leave-takings would differ in these two situations.

Be sure to provide specific examples to support your response. You may address both verbal and nonverbal communication in your response.

4. Part I

Rewrite each sentence below, transforming it according to the directions given. Your responses must be written in Modern Standard Arabic.

A. Rewrite the sentence below, transforming it from active voice to passive voice.

تكرم الدولة الباحثين النابغين

B. Rewrite the sentence below, transforming it from direct discourse to indirect discourse

سأل المدرس الطالب: "هل تعرف من الذي اخترع المصباح الكهربائي؟"

C. Combine the two sentences below into one sentence beginning with

عمل الرجل اليوم بأكمله. شعر الرجل بالإرهاق.

D. Rewrite the sentence below, transforming it from third person to first person.

اكتشفت الفتاة هدية أبيها تحت سريرها، وكانت تعتقد أنه قد نسي عيد ميلادها.

Part II

Rewrite each sentence below, correcting all errors while retaining the original meaning. Your responses must be written in Modern Standard Arabic.

E. عمل الرجل اليوم بأكمله. شعر الرجل بالإرهاق.

F. التوأمان متشابهون في درجة يصعب التفرقة بينهما.

G. اسمع يا بني، لا تصدق من يقل بأن مجالي الطب والهندسة هما المجالان الوحيدان اللتان يستحقان الدراسة.

H. أنا وصديقتي ليلى اتجهت إلى السوق لأشتري الملابس الجديدة.

5. Read the passage below from a poem by al-Mutanabbi (915–965); then complete the exercise that follows.

وَأَسْمَعَتْ كَلِمَاتِي مِنْ بِهِ صَمَمٌ	أَنَا الَّذِي نَظَرَ الْأَعْمَى إِلَى أَبِي
وَيَسْهَرُ الْخَلْقَ جَرَّاهَا وَيَخْتَصِمُ	أَنَامٌ مِلاً جُفُونِي عَنْ شَوَارِدِهَا
حَتَّى أَتَتْهُ يَدُ فَرَّاسَةٍ وَقَمٌ	وَجَاهِلٌ مَدَّهُ فِي جَهْلِهِ ضَحِكِي
فَلَا تَظُنَّنَّ أَنَّ اللَّيْثَ يَبْتَسِمُ	إِذَا رَأَيْتَ نِيُوبَ اللَّيْثِ بَارِزَةً
أَدْرَكْتُهَا بِجَوَائِدِ ظَهْرِهِ حَرَمٌ	وَمَهْجَةً مُهْجَتِي مِنْهُمْ صَاحِبِهَا
وَفَعَلُهُ مَا تُرِيدُ الْكَفُّ وَالْقَدَمُ	رِجَالُهُ فِي الرِّكْضِ رِجْلٌ وَالْيَدَانِ يَدٌ
حَتَّى ضَرَبْتِ وَمَوْجُ الْمَوْتِ مُلْتَطِمٌ	وَمُرْهَفٍ سِيرَتْ بَيْنَ الْمَوْجَتَيْنِ بِهِ
وَالسِّيفُ وَالرُّمْحُ وَالْقِرطَاسُ وَالْقَلَمُ	فَالخَيْلُ وَاللَّيْلُ وَالْبَيْدَاءُ تَعْرِفُنِي

Using your knowledge of literature, write a response, in either Arabic or English, in which you:

- describe the tone of the passage;
- analyze the way in which al-Mutanabbi uses metaphor to create the tone; and
- discuss one significant contribution that al-Mutanabbi made to poetry written in Arabic.

6. The family plays an essential role in Arab culture. Identify and discuss two important attributes of the family in Arab culture. You may write your response either in Arabic or in English. In your response, you may wish to include, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- the identification of two important attributes of the family in Arab culture;
- a description of how these attributes influence everyday life in Arab culture;
- an analysis of how these attributes reflect the perspectives of Arab culture.

Be sure to give specific examples to support your claims.