Mr T Cherkaoui

Each essay is worth 30% of the paper mark: *Art and culture*

(a) اكتب عن قصّة عربية ظهرت خلال العشر سنوات الماضية تتناول مشكلة اجتماعية عربية. هل أعطت صورة حقيقية للمشكلة وللمجتمع العربي اليوم ؟ لماذا ؟

OR

(b) أعط أمثلة لبعض الرقصات الشعبية العربية والبلاد التي تمارس فيها هذه الرقصات. تكلّم عنها وعن أهميتها. ما أسباب هذهِ الأهمية ؟

a/ *Candidates are free to mention any recent Arab novel or short story that discusses current Arab issues. They must discuss whether or not it gave a realistic view of the problem (s) and of today's Arab society, plus substantiation.*

b/ *There are some obvious folk dances, such as the Debke (Lebanon), Raqs al Assaya (Upper Egypt) etc. Candidates would describe the dances and the costumes. Some of these dances have symbolic meaning, some are enacting a story and some religious. Some are just for entertainment purposes. The importance can be cultural heritage, nationalistic or for other reasons that the candidates can substantiate.*

Lemon Tree: *The film describes the legal efforts of a Palestinian widow to stop the Israeli Defence Minister, her next door neighbour, from destroying the lemon trees in her family farm. At the same time, she develops a human bond with the minister's wife.*

The traveller: *Three crucial days in a Hassan's life. First day. Autumn 1948, Port Said, Hassan's first day at work when he receives a telegram and decides to meet the beautiful and thrill-loving Nura by impersonating her long-distant fiancé. Hassan manages both to reach the cruise ship on which she is travelling and to charm her, until he impatiently rapes her and then accidentally sets the ship on fire. Second Day. Autumn 1973. Alexandria of Egypt. Hassan is in the city to meet Nadia, Nura's daughter, who is mourning her brother who has just died in a seaside accident. Hassan soon comes to believe he is Nadia's father, and helps engineer her marriage to a halfwit hanger-on. Third Day. Autumn 2001, Cairo. Hassan meets Alì, Nadia's son where he observes numerous similarities with the young man.*

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