Arabic Continuers – text types

# What are texts (text types)?

Texts (text types) are various forms of spoken and written language, such as articles, conversations, letters and so on. Each text type varies in its characteristics of format, style, and language. In the Arabic Continuers HSC written examination, the following text types are specified for production:

1. article
2. diary entry
3. email
4. letter
5. message
6. note
7. notice
8. postcard
9. recount
10. report
11. script of an interview
12. script of a speech/talk.

Note: In the oral examination, you participate in a conversation.

In the written section of the HSC examination, you are required to produce 2 different styles of writing:

* the first style is informative or descriptive
* the second style is reflective, persuasive or evaluative, and could require you to explain or justify a point of view.

Using the correct text type and including the correct style of content is important.

# Sample tasks and practice questions

Past HSC papers can be downloaded from the [NESA website](http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/Understanding-the-curriculum/resources/hsc-exam-papers). Some past HSC questions have been used as sample tasks in this document.

**For each task, identify the following:**

* **What is the purpose?**
* **Who is the audience?**
* **What is the context?**
* **What is the required text type?**
* **What is the style?**

## The texts (text types)

### 1 – article

#### Purpose

* to sustain an argument
* to describe
* to inform, persuade, amuse or entertain

#### Structure

* titles/headings (if appropriate)
* development of ideas/arguments
* sequencing and linking of ideas
* statement of conclusion or advice

#### Language features

* range of tenses (past, present, future, conditional)
* language can be descriptive, factual, judgemental, emotive or persuasive, depending on context
* informal or formal register (be consistent throughout the article)

#### Sample questions

Write approximately 200 words in ARABIC. Write an article to an Arabic youth magazine in which you reflect on the importance of having some free time as a student.

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### 2 – diary entry

#### Purpose

* a personal reflection on a theme, place or situation

#### Structure

* date
* opening (*لم يُمكِنُني تَصديق ما حَصَلَ مَعي اليَوم، اليَوم هوأَول يَوم في المَدرَسَة*)
* development of ideas/arguments
* sequencing and linking of ideas
* concluding statement (for example *لَن أَنسى تِلك الصُّدفَة أَبَداً، لَقد كانَ يَوماً رائعاً ومُسَلياً للغايَة)*
* sign off with name (optional)

#### Language features

* written in the first person (keep the tone/perspective of the character from whose perspective you are writing)
* usually written in past tense (perfect/imperfect)
* language can be descriptive, factual, judgemental, emotive or persuasive, depending on context
* informal register

#### Sample question

Write approximately 200 words in ARABIC. You have just come back from a camp organised by the school. Write a diary entry reflecting on the most disappointing aspects of the camp.

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### 3 – email

#### Purpose

* to use technology-based methods of communication
* to send greetings
* to retell events
* to inform
* to seek a response

#### Structure

* email conventions (you are not usually required to write an email address in the exam)
* specific details without elaboration
* salutation (for exampleسَيِّدَتي عَزيزي/عَزيزتي، سَيِّدي/)
* conclusion (for example*أَراك َغداً مَع جَزيل الشّكر أَتَمَنَّى مِنكُم الرَّدَّ السَّريع وشُكراً،)*

#### Language features

* range of tenses (present, perfect, imperfect, conditional)
* language can be descriptive, factual, judgemental, emotive or persuasive, depending on context
* informal or formal register (be consistent throughout the email)

#### Sample question

Write approximately 200 words in ARABIC. The year coordinators are planning a program to promote good health throughout the school. They have asked all students to contribute their ideas. Write an email to your year coordinator to persuade him/her to include your ideas in the program.

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### 4 – letter

#### Purpose

* to communicate in writing with acquaintances, friends, family or the public
* to inform, amuse, persuade

#### Structure

* your name and address on the right (informal)
* date below your address (informal)
* salutations (for example *عَزيزي /عَزيزَتي، صَديقي/صَديقَتي، تَحيَّة طَيّبَة وَبَعد*)
* letter conventions (for example *أَكْتُبُ إليكَ هَذِهِ الرِّسالة وكُلّي شَوق لِرؤيَتِكَ، مُتَمَنّياً أَن تَكون بِخَير وعافيَة*) تَحيَّةٌ طَيّبَةٌ أَرسِلُها لَكِ، مُتَمنّياً لكِ الصّحَة والتّوفيق))
* ending (for example *تَحيّاتي وسَلامي لأفْراد أُسْرَتك، أُكْتُبْ لي جَواباً فَأَنا بِأَحَرّ الشّوق لِسَماعِ أَخْبارِكَ، صَديقك* )

#### Language features

* range of tenses (present, perfect, future, imperfect, conditional)
* descriptive, factual, judgemental, emotive or persuasive, depending on context
* formality of language will depend on relationship with audience (for example, letter to a friend or letter to a newspaper)

#### Sample question

Write approximately 200 words in ARABIC. A technology-free day for everyone has been proposed. Write a letter to be published in your local newspaper to persuade readers of your point of view on this.

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### 5 – message

#### Purpose

* to inform
* to request
* to instruct
* to remind

Note: The difference between a message and a note is that a message can vary in type, such as voicemail message, text message, email, social media.

#### Structure

* succinct (short and to the point)
* general statement, description, procedure
* lack of descriptive detail

#### Language features

* shorter than a standard letter
* informal or formal register (be consistent throughout the message)
* frequent use of colloquial language if to a close friend/family member

#### Sample question

Answer the following question by writing approximately75 words in ARABIC. Your friend was absent when the teacher gave new instructions regarding tomorrow’s school excursion. Write the text of the message you are going to send your friend about these instructions.

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### 6 – note

#### Purpose

* to inform
* to request
* to instruct
* to remind

Note: The difference between a message and a note is that a message can vary in type such as voicemail message, text message, email.

#### Structure

* succinct (short and to the point)
* general statement, description, procedure
* lack of descriptive detail

#### Language features

* shorter than a standard letter
* frequent use of colloquial language (does not necessarily mean informal register)
* formality of language will depend on relationship with audience (for example friend or boss)

#### Sample question

Answer the following question by writing approximately 75 words in ARABIC. Write a note to your friend informing him/her why you have changed the plans for Saturday’s fishing trip.

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### 7 – notice

#### Purpose

* to inform
* to seek a response (for example looking for a roommate to share accommodation)

#### Structure

* heading/addressee
* specific details without elaboration
* statement of conclusion or advice (for example giving contact details)

#### Language features

* often written in the present tense
* language can be descriptive, factual, judgemental, emotive or persuasive, depending on context
* informal or formal register

#### Sample question

Write approximately 75 words in ARABIC. A famous sportsperson is going to visit your school and make a speech. Write a notice for the noticeboard.

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### 8 – postcard

#### Purpose

* to provide information, amuse or entertain
* to retell events and experiences (for example who, where, what, when)

#### Structure

* salutations (*عَزيزي/عَزيزَتي، والِدي الغالي)*
* brief description or message
* formulaic ending (*إلى اللّقاء قَريباَ، أَراك قَريباً)*

#### Language features

* descriptive language
* personal impressions
* present or past tense, for example what it is like, or where you went, what you did, what you saw

#### Sample question

Answer the following question by writing approximately 75 words in ARABIC. You are on holidays in Australia. Write the text of a postcard to your friend describing your favourite place in Australia.

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### 9 – recount

#### Purpose

* to inform or entertain
* to retell past events or experiences
* to retell a series of events

#### Structure

* introduction/orientation (set the scene – who, what, where, when)
* events sequenced in chronological order
* closing statement

#### Language features

* often told in the first person (*أَنا*)
* descriptive language
* often told in past tense (imperfect, perfect)
* time words to connect events (for example *أَولاً، ثانياً، بَعدَها، في البِدايَة، أَخيراً* )
* words which tell us when, where, with whom and how
* linking words (for exampleثمّ*، إلا أنَّه، بَيْنَما، حينَما، بَعدَ ذَلِكَ أَيضاً، كَذَلِكَ، لِذَلِكَ،*)

#### Sample question

Write approximately 200 words in ARABIC. Write a recount for your school blog reflecting on a special family celebration.

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### 10 – report

#### Purpose

* to present information about a class of things (to classify) OR
* to describe the way things are
* to organise facts
* to draw conclusions

#### Structure

* general statement or classification
* series of paragraphs that describe
* logical progression
* concluding statement or summary

#### Language features

* supporting evidence, such as statistics, examples
* factual
* language specific to the topic
* objective language
* linking words (for example *لَكن، لأنَني، ثُمّ، كَما، لِكَي، لِذَلِكَ* )

#### Sample question

Write approximately 200 words in ARABIC. You have just finished your HSC examinations. Write a report for a youth magazine reflecting on the positive lifestyle strategies you used during your HSC year.

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### 11 – script of an interview

#### Purpose

* to find out information (for example a story or a response)
* to communicate ideas, opinions and attitudes
* to draw conclusions

#### Structure

* salutations
* clear idea of the purpose of the interview (*في هَذا اللّقاء، سَيُحدِّثُنا المُطرب الشَّاب عَن مِشْوارِهِ الفَنّي* )
* question and response sequence, initials followed by a colon, for example A: and B:
* use of filler expressions ( *حَسَناً، طَبعاً، بالتأكيد* )
* conclusion (for example *استَمْتَعْنا كَثيراً بالحَديث مَعَكَ وأَشكُرُكَ مُجدداً على هَذا اللّقاء الشَّيّق* )

#### Language features

* question forms (by the interviewer)
* register – use polite language (for example *مِن فَضْلِكَ، هَل مِنَ المُمكن أَن تَتَفَضَّل* )
* phrases to delve deeper (for example  *برَأيكَ ما المَقْصود بِذَلِكَ؟ رَجاءً، وَضّح ماذا تَعني بذَلِكَ؟* )
* transition strategies when switching topics ( *لِنَنتَقِلُ إلى مَوضوعٍ آخر، الآنَ، لا بُد أَن نَتَحَدَّثَ عن ...* )

#### Sample question

Write approximately 200 words in ARABIC. A group of exchange students has been at your school for six weeks. You interviewed one of the students for the school magazine. Write the script of this interview in which the student reflects on his/her experience at the school.

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### 12 – script of a speech/talk

#### Purpose

* to communicate ideas, opinions and attitudes
* to entertain
* to persuade
* to welcome
* to thank

#### Structure

* salutations (for example صَباحُ الخَير زُملائي الأعِزّاء، أعزّائي الطَّلبَة )
* introductory statement of purpose (for exampleيُسعِدُني اليَوم أَن أَتحدَّثُ إليكُم عن مَوضوع يُهِمُّكُم *سَأَتحدَّثُ إليكُم اليومَ عَن أَهميَّة الرّياضة في حَياتِنا،*)
* ideas and information are organised and linked
* concluding remarks (for example  *شُكراً لَكُم على إصْغائِكُم، أَشكُرُ لَكُم إصغاءَكُم* )

#### Language features

* choice of expressions to engage the audience
* descriptive words
* range of tenses
* usually subjective language (this depends on the context)

#### Sample question

Write approximately 200 words in ARABIC. You are a member of the Multicultural Day organisation committee at your school. You have been asked to speak at the school assembly about the importance of participating in this special school event. Write the script of the speech.

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