



GCSE

French

8658/RF Reading (Foundation)

Report on the examination

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General

This paper appeared to discriminate well, and the vast majority of students completed the whole paper. The students were well prepared to answer questions in all topic areas. Unclear handwriting appeared to be less of an issue this year. Many students did find the translation task challenging but there were some very accurate responses to several of the questions.

Question 1

This question was very well done by almost all students and there were many students scoring the maximum of four marks.

Question 2

This question was also very well done by almost all students and there were many students scoring the maximum of four marks.

Question 3

Since more than half of students scored two marks in 03.2, it was more successfully answered than 03.1, where many realised that B was correct (she enjoys art at school) but chose D rather than C which suggests that they did not read to the end of the paragraph, where the sentence *Quel plaisir pour moi !* should have led them away from option D.

Question 4

This question was very well done by the vast majority of students with many scoring the maximum score of four marks. 04.4 was slightly less successfully answered, perhaps because some did not notice the negative form in the question.

Question 5

This question also appeared on the higher tier paper and was therefore aimed at the higher grades. Despite this, many students scored well on parts 05.1, 05.3 and 05.7. The least successfully answered parts were 05.4, where the correct answer (not in text) proved elusive and 05.6 where many chose to answer (not in text) whereas the sentences *Voici les clés de la maison. Cette petite clé est pour mon bureau* showed that the statement was false.

Question 6

There was a mixed response to this question. In 06.1 many understood that meditation can reduce the risk of falling ill but fewer were able to give the meaning of *des pensées tristes*. In 06.2, many conveyed the disadvantage of needing water or keeping hydrated but very few understood *ils dorment mieux*.

Question 7

This was also well done by most students, with the majority scoring at least two of the three available marks. Many chose E rather than the correct answer D, since she took part in the Eurovision song contest but there was no reference to her winning it.

Question 8

This question discriminated well. In 08.1, many realised that she could not go on holiday but failed to convey the idea of not being able to buy clothes. There were many incorrect guesses of the meaning of *vêtements*. In 08.2 many realised her pension was too small but struggled to gain the second mark since *cadeaux* was not well-known. Many wrote that she was not able to attend her grandchildren's birthday party.

Question 9

Parts 09.1. 09.3 and 09.4 were nearly always correct but many did not see the positive **and** negative opinions expressed in 09.2. 09.5 gave rise to a variety of answers with only about half of students answering with the correct answer of negative.

Question 10

This question was aimed at higher grades, and a large spread of marks was to be expected. A small number of students scored the maximum of four marks, but many struggled with this gap-filling task though very few failed to gain any marks at all.

Question 11

This question also appeared on the higher paper and therefore some students found it challenging. Many struggled to note the word *acheter* in question 11.1 and copied out the wrong answer with references to adopting chimpanzees. Excessive copying was also penalised, as it suggested the students did not know where to find the correct information to answer the question. 11.2 was more successfully answered, though the selling of animals was less commonly seen than their capture. A small number of students answered in English and, sadly, were unable to score any marks.

Question 12

This question was very well done with almost all students gaining high marks. The main stumbling block was in 12.5 where D was often given as an incorrect answer, suggesting that the word *mode* was not well-known by many.

Question 13

The translation into English question always discriminates effectively. This year, there were very few blank scripts, though students did have difficulty with conveying some of the details of the text.

Je passe une semaine	This section was often correct though some used the past tense in error.
au bord de la mer.	This section was often correctly translated.
Aujourd'hui, je vais	A small number used the future tense here.
à un restaurant assez cher	This was also often correct though some failed to translate <i>assez</i> .

où j'espère manger du poisson.	This was challenging for many. Some took <i>poisson</i> to be a reference to food poisoning and <i>où</i> was often omitted.
Il a fait chaud hier.	This was almost always correct though a small number used cold rather than warm or hot.
Je ne veux pas	This was often correct.
rentrer chez moi	Some here ignored <i>chez moi</i> and wrote about returning to school.
car le collège est si ennuyeux.	The <i>si</i> was often omitted and many translated <i>ennuyeux</i> as annoying.

Overall, there were very few scripts achieving no marks at all, but the majority were unable to score more than half of the available marks.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results Statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.