



GCSE **Polish**

8688/RH

Report on the examination

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General Comments

This year the performance in the exam was slightly lower than in 2024 but many students attempted all the questions and gained marks in most of them which was pleasing to see.

Most students had neat and legible handwriting, but there were still several answers which were illegible and there were some responses with extremely small handwriting which did not facilitate marking. Students should be reminded of the importance of clear presentation to ensure that their knowledge and understanding is recognised by an examiner.

Section C of the examination, where students are required to translate a short passage into English, proved successful for most. Many responses produced excellent and precise translations, with the full range of marks being scored on this question.

As a general principle, students were given credit for all answers which conveyed the key idea intelligibly and without ambiguity, whether the answer was in English or in Polish. Marks were not awarded where errors in spelling, punctuation or grammar led to not communicating key ideas without ambiguity. Students should be discouraged from giving alternative or additional information in an answer as this may make the key idea ambiguous and consequently, we will not be able to credit their answer.

Section A

Question 1

This was the first of the questions in this section of the paper that was common with the higher paper. Students found the adapted extract from the novel *Granica* by Zofia Nałkowska challenging to respond to. Many students did not understand the details of the text and struggled to find the correct answer.

Question 1.7 proved the most difficult for students. A vast majority gave incorrect answers 'true' instead of 'not in the text' assuming that 'Mr Posztraski left the gate open the night before' while reading the text. The gate was opened for Posztraski in the morning - as was mentioned in the text.

Question 2

Students scored relatively well across the items, but there was some variation with question 2.1 being most successful and 2.2 being the least successful.

Most incorrect answers in item 2.1 included '*so they can find new friends or learn new skills*' which does not answer this question.

In item 2.2 many students provided the answers 'help others' which was already included in the question. They either did not notice the word '**beyond** helping others' in the question or did not understand the word correctly.

In item 2.3 most incorrect answers included either '*helping in animal/pet shelter*' or '*organizing the events*'.

Question 3

This question was well answered with question 3.5 demonstrating the most successful responses.

Question 4

This question produced mixed success; question 4.1 and question 4.4 proved challenging for most.

In item 4.1, the students did not gain a mark for providing answers such as: '*market*', '*contact with clients*' or '*popularity*' which was not mentioned in the text.

In item 4.4, many students failed to understand the question correctly and provided the answer '*ineffective*' instead of '*effective*'.

A small number of students did not attempt this question.

Question 5

In this question students were to complete the text using the words from the list. This task tested students' knowledge of Polish language very well and showed their understanding of the reading text.

This question was answered well with over half of students gaining full marks for this question (four out of four).

Question 6

Again, this question showed mixed success; question 6.2 proved challenging for most.

In Item 6.2 there were many answers which were too vague to gain a mark such as '*eat fish*', '*drink water*', '*eat healthy*' however '*eat glucose*' was the most common incorrect answer.

Question 7

This question was successfully answered by the majority of students with many receiving full marks (two out of two) in both question 7.1 and question 7.2..

The most common mistake was describing the advantage of taking a gap year from Gosia's perspective as: '*get qualification*' or '*visit lots of places*' or '*one life opportunity*' which led to incorrect answers.

Section B

Question 8

This was the second of the common questions in this exam; students could score a maximum of four marks on this question. For many students this question proved successful with the majority gaining full marks.

Question 9

This was the third of the common questions in the exam. Overall there was mixed success with this question but lots of responses gained full marks in at least one of the questions.

In item 9.1 the answer '*szef kuchni od 10 lat*' did not gain a mark because the students didn't focus their responses on the work in the restaurant and instead focused on his position. The answer needed to include words describing either the work in the restaurant or the restaurant, which was crucial to receive a mark.

Similarly, the answer '*ona jest szefem*' didn't lead to scoring a mark in 9.2. The answer was not detailed enough to score a point. It was crucial to include '*ona jest /lubi być **swoim** szefem*'

It is important to remind students that this question needs to be answered in Polish language. There were still lots of answers in English which did not score a mark

Question 10

Overall, this question saw mixed success with very few gaining 4/4 marks.

Question 11

This question proved challenging for the vast majority of students. The majority chose option 'A - *białoruskie*' instead of '*polskie*'; choosing a place where he was born instead of nationality of his family.

Section C – Translation

This question required students to translate a short passage into English. As expected there was varying success with this question and the full mark range was seen.

The most common mistake was imprecise translation of '*akademiki*'. Some students translated this word as; '*academics* ' or '*university*'.

The less successful responses did not gain the marks due to either lack of translation of key words or incorrect translation of all the words included in the text. The most challenging words to translate were '*przygoda* ' – adventure, '*jednak* ' - 'however', '*w przeciwnym razie*' - 'otherwise'. Some misunderstood the text completely and used either the wrong tense or the wrong pronoun while translating.

Concluding Remarks

In the translation task students should be reminded of the need to be precise. The translated text should make sense, and students must ensure that they keep the text closely aligned to the original passage. It is also useful for students to re-read what they have written to make sure it makes sense.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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