

Mark Scheme (Results) Summer 2007

GCE

GCE French (6446) Paper 3

Q1

In the novel *Grandeur nature* Christian, son of a second-rate actor Antoine Vautier, has a screen test for the starring role in a new film. Antoine sees Christian's prospects as a vicarious way of reviving his own career and solving the family's financial problems. In this incident, the director Despagnat describes to Christian the scene he has to play for his screen test. Christian goes on to star in the film, to hysterical acclaim, thus eclipsing his father.

The task requires the candidate to relate an incident inspired by one of the examples in the extract - being abandoned by a parent, stood up by a friend or having hopes of a particular present dashed. It could perhaps be widened to allow the candidate to recount any incident involving feelings of disappointment, in which case the stimulus would be superfluous. The past tense narrative will require a mixture of first and third person discourse. The scene should be set, the event narrated, feelings described and the answer brought to a clear conclusion.

Q2

The men might be resistance fighters or insurgents of some sort, or undercover police protecting against terrorism, etc. There should be some identification of the men, how and why they came to be sheltering in the doorway, what one of them is pointing at, how the incident concluded.

Q3

The answer should begin by setting the scene: where the arrest took place and how, who was arrested, what their nationality was, etc. This might be followed by an account of what crimes the gang had committed - what papers they forged, where, for whom, for how much money. The article might end with a narration of how the gang's activities came to the attention of the police and how the arrest was planned.

Q4

Long term, effective protection of the planet can no doubt only be done on an international level. Already international agreements on pollution controls have been drawn up but they are not effective if some countries do not abide by them or if others, particularly powerful, heavily industrialised ones do not sign up in the first place. Candidates may well contend that all efforts of individuals and of smaller countries will be wasted if the US and countries such as India and China are not persuaded to join in the fight to protect the environment. Other governments must persuade the powerful countries of the urgency required to save the planet. Within their own areas governments can introduce measures to encourage the production and use of green energy, encourage public transport, control pollution. Other candidates may contend that the need to protect the environment is exaggerated. Many will no doubt say that single individuals can do little on their own but that a difference can be made if a significant proportion of a population can be persuaded to recycle, to walk or use public transport, to control consumption, buy green, local products, and support politicians who pledge to pursue measures to protect the environment. Individuals can also join campaigning groups.

Q5

The question of telling the truth could be answered from the point of view of an individual or of an institution or both. No doubt most candidates will say that in general it is better to be honest. If a person habitually does not tell the truth in a wide variety of situations then others will not put their confidence in, trust or believe that person. Politicians who do not usually tell the truth are often eventually found out and removed from office. Even when it is harder to tell the truth than a lie it is often best to be honest in the long term. However, there may be times when it is better to hide the truth to spare someone's feelings or if it is simply not necessary for a person to know the whole truth. Candidates will no doubt come up with all sorts of examples such as in questions of health, the protection of a dead person's reputation, to save a friend from harm or embarrassment. At government level it may sometimes be necessary not to tell the whole truth in the interests of national security. This may be particularly true in times of war.

Q6

It would be legitimate for candidates to start with a discussion of the present situation as far as families are concerned. The traditional family consisting of children, two parents and extended family living in close proximity is no longer the norm. It might be contended that the absence of one parent makes the rearing of children more difficult, discipline is harder for a single parent, some children lack role models. In the past the presence of grandparents and other family members may have had a stabilising effect which made it easier to pass on values and supervise the development of children and adolescents. Some candidates may wish to discuss the recent campaigns to allow same sex couples to raise children but one would not expect this discussion to dominate the discussion to the exclusion of all else. The value of the traditional family may be seen as a nostalgic myth. In ages when the family concept was strong problems still existed. Problems in modern society might be attributed to all sorts of other causes, such as increased affluence, exposure to instant violence in TV and video games, the availability of drugs and other substances, changing patterns of education, the decline in the influence of religion. Some might contend that modern society is no worse than that of other ages.

Q7

This question should allow candidates to discuss issues which are obviously widely covered at the moment but we should beware rehashed material concentrating solely on obesity, eating disorders, fast food etc. Over-indulgence in food and/or drink and a predilection for the wrong type of food can lead to problems. Overeating leads to obesity and attendant health problems, inertia and lethargy. Temporary health scares have arisen concerning certain foods eg BSE, salmonella. Some people are dangerously allergic to certain products and obviously need to be very careful. Over-indulgence in drink can lead to disorder, crime, aggression and serious health problems connected to alcoholism. One should, therefore, be careful and sensible about what one consumes. This can, however, be taken to extremes - faddish diets, eating disorders, over prescription of what individuals eat and drink. One needs to eat a reasonable amount of a range of food to remain healthy. Drinking in moderation can have positive health effects, (especially red wine - author) can make people more relaxed and sociable. It might be legitimate to mention government attempts to control what people eat and drink. A duty to inform but not to dictate. A balanced viewpoint might be that one should consume in moderation.

Q8

In order to answer effectively, the candidates will have to show in their letter that they have absorbed the essentials of the Situation and the three documents, and that they have used the data plausibly to solve the problem posed.

The formal letter can imitate the layout of docs 1 and 2. It should begin with an acknowledgement of the letter of 20th May and its contents. Logically, given the tone of doc 3, the writer should accept the offer of the additional 5 000 bottles. There should then be a financial proposition offering to buy the bottles at a reduced price but perhaps not so low that Établissements Decrauzat would suffer a loss. There might also be mention of arrangements for collection of the order.

Q9

The style and format of the article could be informal or formal. The candidates are free to highlight whatever aspects attract their attention. Salient points might be the apparent obsession of the French with British royalty, the contrasting views of each other's cuisine, weather and influence in Europe. However, in all cases they should support their ideas with reference to the Data. They might quote figures but this is not essential. The Task also requires the candidates to try to account for the views held (rivalry? ignorance? Impact of travel or lack of it, national pride, stereotypes, etc) and give their own standpoint.

TOTAL FOR PAPER: 40 MARKS