

GCE

French

General Certificate of Education **2654**

Speaking and Reading

Mark Scheme for June 2010

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Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and the Report on the Examination.

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Any enquiries about publications should be addressed to:

OCR Publications
PO Box 5050
Annesley
NOTTINGHAM
NG15 0DL

Telephone: 0870 770 6622
Facsimile: 01223 552610
E-mail: publications@ocr.org.uk

Components 01 and 03: Speaking and Reading**Section A Discussion of Article**

Response to and understanding of article	10 marks (A02)	(Grid 4A)
Comprehension of and response to examiner	10 marks (A01)	(Grid 4B)

Section B General conversation

Spontaneity, comprehension, responsiveness, fluency	15 marks (A01)	(Grid 4C)
Pronunciation and intonation	5 marks (A01)	(Grid 1F)
Quality of language	10 marks (A03)	(Grid 4D)
Factual knowledge, ideas and opinions	10 marks (A04)	(Grid 4E)

Section A: Discussion of article: Grids 4A and 4B

20 marks

Grid 4A: Response to and understanding of article

10 marks

0–2	<i>Very poor</i>	Minimal understanding shown of article. Ideas largely superficial.
3–4	<i>Poor</i>	Limited knowledge shown of article. Considerable gaps in understanding.
5–6	<i>Adequate</i>	A reasonable level of understanding. Needs encouragement to develop ideas.
7–8	<i>Good</i>	Article generally well understood, but ideas rather limited.
9–10	<i>Very Good</i>	Excellent understanding of all aspects of the article.

Grid 4B: Comprehension of and response to Examiner

10 marks

0–2	<i>Very Poor</i>	Severe problems of comprehension. Very marked hesitation. Limited responsiveness.
3–4	<i>Poor</i>	Has general difficulty in understanding. Limited response to the majority of topics raised.
5–6	<i>Adequate</i>	Understands questions on basic concepts but has difficulty with more complicated ideas. Some delay in response.
7–8	<i>Good</i>	Few problems of comprehension. Responds readily and without undue hesitation. Quite forthcoming.
9–10	<i>Very Good</i>	No problems of comprehension. Prompt response to questions. Takes initiative in developing themes.

Section B: General conversation: Grids 4C, 1F, 4D and 4E

40 marks

Grid 4C: Spontaneity, comprehension, responsiveness, fluency

15 marks

0–3	<i>Very poor</i>	Severe problems of comprehension, Very marked hesitation. Limited responsiveness. No fluency or feel for the language.
4–6	<i>Poor</i>	Has general difficulty in understanding. Limited response to questions on majority of topics raised. Little fluency or feel for the language. Translates literally from the mother tongue.
7–10	<i>Adequate</i>	Understands questions on basic situations and concepts but has difficulty with more complicated ideas. Some delay in response. Needs encouragement to develop topics. Reasonable fluency and feel for the language with occasional use of relevant idiom. Limited expression of ideas.
11–13	<i>Good</i>	Few problems of comprehension. Responds readily and without undue hesitation. Reasonably forthcoming but tends to follow examiner's lead. Good fluency and feel for the language. Shows competent use of relevant idiom.
14–15	<i>Very Good</i>	No problems of comprehension. Prompt response to examiner's questions. Very forthcoming in developing topics. Able to guide the discussion and lead the examiner, offering and seeking opinions as appropriate. Very good feel for the language and is able to express concepts fluently and in the appropriate idiom.

Grid 1F: Pronunciation and intonation

5 marks

0–1	<i>Poor</i>	Only comprehensible with difficulty. Heavily influenced by mother tongue. Many sounds mispronounced.
2–3	<i>Adequate</i>	A number of errors, with particular problems with more difficult sounds. Otherwise intonation and pronunciation mostly acceptable.
4	<i>Good</i>	Pronunciation and intonation mostly correct, although there may be occasional mispronunciation with more difficult sounds.
5	<i>Very Good</i>	Only occasional errors of pronunciation and intonation. Sounds authentic most of the time.

Grid 4D: Quality of language

10 marks

There is a mark out of 5 for grammatical accuracy and another mark out of 5 for range, variety and appropriateness.

Grammatical accuracy

0–1	<i>Very poor</i>	Little evidence of grammatical awareness. Persistent serious and elementary errors in endings, tenses, genders.
2	<i>Poor</i>	Evidence of gaps in basic grammar. Frequent errors of an elementary kind, e.g. irregular verbs frequently not known; adjectival agreements and common genders faulty.
3	<i>Adequate</i>	Shows evidence of fair understanding of grammatical usage but performance is likely to be patchy and inconsistent. Attempts more complex language, but work is characterised by being inconsistent and with variable accuracy. Expression rather forced and problems with correct word order.
4	<i>Good</i>	Accuracy generally consistent. Shows sound grasp of A2 structures list. Tenses and agreements sound although there may be some inconsistency and errors in more complex areas.
5	<i>Very good</i>	High and consistent level of accuracy. Mainly minor errors. Confident and correct use of the full range of structures contained within the specification.

Range, variety and appropriateness

0–1	<i>Very poor</i>	Very limited vocabulary. Frequent anglicisms. Very limited range of structures. Only simplest sentence patterns.
2	<i>Poor</i>	Narrow range of vocabulary. Frequent repetition of common words. Some attempt at more complex sentence patterns, but errors still even in common structures.
3	<i>Adequate</i>	Some attempt to extend range of vocabulary but still rather repetitive. Shows some ability to produce syntax and structures appropriate to the task.
4	<i>Good</i>	Good range of vocabulary with little repetition. A positive attempt to introduce variety. Ambitious in use of a variety of complex sentence patterns but not always able to maintain correct usage.
5	<i>Very good</i>	Apt use of a wide range of vocabulary. Able to use idiom appropriately. Confident use of a wide range of complex sentence patterns and structures.

Grid 4E: Factual knowledge, ideas and opinions

10 marks

Note that it is not possible to be specific in the following grid because of the diversity of topics presented. The examiner should adapt the general statements below to the specific topics being addressed by the candidate. Grid 4E focuses on (i) knowledge and factual information; (ii) evidence of reading and preparation; (iii) ideas and opinions. Note that response to the examiner is assessed as AO1 in Grid 4C. The concern here is with knowledge and opinions.

0–2	<i>Very Poor</i>	Conveys very little information about the topics. Material very thin and vague. Much waffle or superficiality. Gives the appearance of not having studied the subject seriously. Insubstantial and hesitant delivery. No, or very few, ideas or opinions expressed.
3–4	<i>Poor</i>	Little information beyond the obvious or commonplace. Material thin, rambling, repetitious. Some evidence of preparation, but delivery is pedestrian, as are the one or two ideas expressed.
5–6	<i>Adequate</i>	Solid base of information with evidence of preparation. Material is factually sound, but with no evidence of wider reading. Material may not always be relevant. Exposition of topics is serious but somewhat stilted. Has begun to think about the issues and express ideas.
7–8	<i>Good</i>	Detailed exposition of the topics. Well-informed with a range of relevant factual information. Well prepared material. Interesting ideas and observations.
9–10	<i>Very Good</i>	Shows well-informed and consistently well-illustrated factual knowledge of the subject. Knowledge is allied to a clear grasp of the subject and understanding of the context and wider issues, and is expressed in a range of opinions and observations. Detailed preparation evident and topic presented with style and flair.

Note: In cases where candidates fail to offer some factual knowledge, ideas and opinions related to the country where the language is spoken, a maximum of 4 marks (Poor) will be available on Grid 4E.

OCR (Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations)
1 Hills Road
Cambridge
CB1 2EU

OCR Customer Contact Centre

14 – 19 Qualifications (General)

Telephone: 01223 553998

Facsimile: 01223 552627

Email: general.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

www.ocr.org.uk

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Head office
Telephone: 01223 552552
Facsimile: 01223 552553