

**ADVANCED GCE  
FRENCH**

Listening, Reading and Writing 2

**SPECIAL SHEET**

**FRIDAY 18 JANUARY 2008**

**2655**

Afternoon

Time: 2 hours 45 minutes



**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

This Special Sheet is for use with Section B and Section C.

This document consists of **4** printed pages.

**Text for use with Section B: Reading Comprehension Tâches 3–6**

**Taizé accueille des jeunes de toute l'Europe**



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**Text for use with Section C: Writing in French Tâche 7****Pyrenean farmers win battle against bears**

As four-year-old Balou, a brown bear imported from Slovenia, took his first steps in the Pyrenees at the weekend, local farmers celebrated their success in forcing the authorities to cut short a programme to restock the Franco-Spanish mountain range with bears.

French and Spanish authorities have announced that only one more of the 15 Slovenian bears originally intended to arrive in the Pyrenees this summer will now be released, after those already transported to the area were greeted by protests and deadly traps made of pots of honey laced with broken glass.

The introduction of the bears is part of an attempt to save a dying population that has dropped dramatically because so many have been killed by hunters, traps or poison. But the release of bears has brought protests on both sides of the border from farmers and local people who fear that the animals will attack livestock and frighten tourists away. Last week protesters from both countries met in northern Spain to call for an end to the project.

Farmers claim that bears attacked many sheep and cattle last year. "We are compensated for each dead sheep, but that doesn't take into account other financial losses such as stillbirths and reduced milk production caused by the stress suffered by some animals," said one farmer.

French authorities have cut the programme short, despite complaints from environmentalists.

"It is true that originally 15 bears were mentioned but France has now said it will not introduce any more until the environmental and social effects of this restocking can be determined," the environment minister told a parliamentary committee.

Environmentalists say that the introduction of foreign bears several years ago has helped the Pyrenean bears to start breeding again, but more must be introduced if a stable population is to be re-established. They also point out that these bears, which roam freely in the Pyrenees, are unlikely to be a danger to people.

Balou, who weighs 88kg, is one of two male bears released along with three females. They each carry a chip that allows them to be tracked. "That way we can tell if one of them gets into trouble," said the environment ministry spokesman.

Adapted from Giles Trimett, *Pyrenees Farmers win battle against bears*, The Guardian, 6 June 2006 © Guardian News & Media Ltd 2006

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