



General Certificate of Secondary Education

French 4655

Specification

46551 Listening

Report on the Examination

2011 examination - January series

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Foundation Tier

General Comments

Most candidates attempted all the questions on the paper, though there were a few blank spaces on Questions 20, 21 and 22. Many candidates managed to gain some marks for each question, with few very high or very low scores. Once again, it cannot be stressed too strongly that candidates should be encouraged to write their answers as clearly and as legibly as possible in the spaces provided in the answer book.

Question 1

This question was well done, as candidates were very familiar with the key word, though some did answer using anniversary rather than birthday.

Question 2

This question was very well answered by nearly all candidates.

Question 3

This was nearly always correctly answered.

Question 4

This question caused some difficulties, since many candidates wrote the incorrect number, ranging from 5 to 5,000.

Questions 5-8

All four questions were well answered, with a small number choosing C for Question 8 rather than B.

Questions 9-12

The main difficulties here occurred in Question 10 where many went for the incorrect distractor (*les maths*) and in Question 12 where many opted for A rather than B and therefore the wrong gender.

Questions 13-16

Questions 13 and 14 proved straightforward for the vast majority of candidates. However, Questions 15 and 16 were rather more elusive with many choosing D or H (honesty and kindness) rather than the correct answers A and E respectively.

Questions 17-19

Generally, the first element of each question (the item of clothing) proved straightforward. However, many struggled to give the correct reason for purchasing the item. Question 18 in particular proved challenging.

Question 20

Any idea of good weather gained the mark for the advantage. However, the omission of weather (e.g. it's nice) was quite common and scored zero. Other errors showed considerable lack of understanding and included frequent references to the convenience, Dad speaks Spanish, she lives in Spain or references to bars and nightlife in Spain. Candidates showed much better understanding of the key idea of difficulties in speaking the language. Where there were errors, they included references to difficult, long journey or the weather being too hot.

Question 21

No reference to mountains was quite a common error for the advantage. As for the disadvantage, the main pitfall was giving a vague answer such as 'it's not interesting' with no mention of food. Kitchen was also seen occasionally.

Question 22

There were many blank spaces in the advantage column, with many incorrect references to the weather and to family living there by those who did attempt to answer. Very few managed to understand the idea of a short journey.

'Boring' or 'nothing to do' were the most commonly seen correct answers in the disadvantage column. However, the use of the word *fois* led many to talk about the weather being too cold.

Questions 23-25

There were many pleasing responses to these questions. The success rate ranged from 84% in Question 25 to 90% in Question 24.

Questions 26-29

Many struggled here and this proved to be the most challenging part of the paper for most candidates. Questions 27 and 29 in particular caused problems. The majority of candidates failed to score in Question 29 by selecting G (holidays), possibly because of the mention of *travail* causing confusion with travel.

Higher Tier

General Comments

There were a small number of pleasing, high scoring scripts though many clearly struggled, especially with the later questions. A minority of candidates had very poor handwriting and it was often very difficult for examiners to work out what had been written in the questions requiring answers in English. In the multiple choice style questions it is also essential that candidates write letters clearly. If they cross a letter out, they must write their final answer alongside rather than altering their original answer.

Questions 1-4

This was generally very well answered by most candidates, especially Questions 1 and 2. Questions 3 and 4 were also successfully answered by most though some chose a variety of incorrect options.

Question 5

Some very good responses were seen, with candidates showing excellent understanding of all details. The most common error was omitting a reference to the weather in the advantage column. The disadvantage proved straightforward for most.

Question 6

This was also well done with many candidates scoring maximum marks.

Question 7

This question discriminated well. Able candidates scored well in both parts of the question but some less able candidates were unable to pick out *pas trop loin* in the first part.

Questions 8-10

These questions proved to become progressively more difficult. Almost half scored maximum marks in Question 8, but there was much confusion in Question 9 as to which group of people supported school uniforms. In Question 10, most managed to score one of the two marks available but there was evidence of guesswork here in an attempting to gain the second mark.

Questions 11-12

The first part of each question was well done, with 96% of candidates answering correctly 12(i), but the second part caused some difficulties in both questions. Many chose B (music is played) in Question 11(ii) and quite a few were tempted by answer A (champagne) in Question 12(ii).

Questions 13-16

Questions 13 and 15 were generally well answered. A substantial number of candidates chose E (the journey) for Question 14 because they heard the word *journée*. Similarly, the use of the word *travail* in Question 16 caused many to choose the wrong answer G (the holidays).

Questions 17-18

Question 17 proved a good discriminator with a large variety of incorrect answers suggested by candidates. Question 18 was answered far more successfully.

Questions 19-21

Most candidates scored some marks here but inevitably some were tempted by the distractors in the multiple choice task. In Question 19(ii), for example, many chose C because of the reference to *téléchargement* resulting in confusion with TV. In Question 21(i) the words *avec seulement l'aide d'Internet* were not picked out which led many to choose A.

Question 22

Most candidates attempted to identify 4 details so often scored a maximum of 3 marks. The ideas of deforestation and loss of animal habitat were well done. For the third mark, many negated their answer about growing vegetables with references to poisoned soil. The fourth detail was much harder to identify with considerable confusion about what was being polluted by pesticides. Various environmental issues were aired as guesses which bore no relationship to what was heard. There were several unfortunate references to the sheep who give cotton becoming extinct.

Question 23

This question proved challenging. There were vague references to water without the idea of cleaning or improving it. When the idea of cleaning was picked up, it was often linked wrongly to cleaning the local environment generally. A number of scripts had answers that referred back to the previous question or were made up, such as references to prices for cotton or wages for the workers. A small number scored both marks for understanding that sand could be used to clean the water, though others who attempted this confused sand with salt

Question 24

This question also proved challenging. Where only one mark was scored it tended to be for few girls going to school. However, there were frequent errors for this detail with the opposite idea expressed or with no reference to gender. For the other details, it was common to see answers which had no reference to the text, such as the school facilities or the quality of teaching. The third detail about health of family proved difficult to identify for most. There were numerous references to girls learning about good hygiene. It is worth emphasising to candidates that these questions targeted at A* need to be answered with some precision.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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