

Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2008

GCSE

GCSE French (1226) Paper 4H

Paper 4H

Question 1

(Paper 4F Question 4/ paper 4H Question 1)

Candidates are asked to write 70 to 80 words of French. If they write less than this, their answer will be self-penalising. If a candidate writes more than the recommended amount, the whole answer is to be marked.

Each answer needs to be read three times - once for Communication and Content, a second time for Knowledge and Application of Language, and the third time for Accuracy of Language.

In the first category, the candidate needs to address all the points in the stimulus - including the expression of opinions - and a mark out of 10 for Communication and Content is awarded.

In Question 4b/1b, the third bullet point might refer to the next New Year celebration, or to how the candidate is going to spend the coming year.

In the second reading, examiners need to look for points worthy of credit - appropriate vocabulary and structures, use of adjectives and adverbs, use of more complex structures such as subordination, pronouns, a range of tenses - even where these features are not entirely accurate.

The mark out of 5 for Knowledge and Application of Language is then awarded.

Finally, the work is read in order to assess the level of accuracy, and a mark out of 5 for Accuracy of Language is awarded.

Marks are awarded for **Communication and Content** as well as for **Knowledge and Application** and **Accuracy of Language**. Please refer to the following grids:

COMMUNICATION AND CONTENT	
9-10	Task clearly understood and responds fully to stimulus. Ability to narrate, expand, give full descriptions and express opinions as appropriate to task. Time sequence/verb tenses clear with no ambiguity. Piece clearly linked as a whole and relevant to set task. Coherent, pleasant to read.
7-8	Responds fully to all or nearly all of the task although there may be some minor omissions. Task clearly understood. Shows ability to go beyond a minimal response, and provides evidence of description and opinion as appropriate to the task. Time sequence/verb tenses generally sound with occasional lapses. Coherent with some lapses. Fairly clear, and reasonable attempt to link the piece into a whole. May be rather pedestrian or alternatively, somewhat over ambitious.
5-6	Majority of task completed and relevant information conveyed although there may be some omissions. There may be some misunderstanding of the question leading to some irrelevance. Evidence of ability to go beyond a minimal response, beginning to expand ideas and express opinions etc suitable for factual/imaginative tasks. Appropriate use of verb tenses with some lapses, sometimes leading to ambiguity. Comprehensible overall with some attempt at linking piece into a whole. Ambiguous in places especially if more ambitious language is attempted.
3-4	Main points of question completed but some of the task may have been misunderstood. Some relevant information conveyed but there may be major omissions and /or irrelevance, repetition. Level of response minimal with no evidence of description or opinions etc appropriate to task. Some attempt at verb tenses but inconsistent and unreliable/insecure leading to ambiguity. Just about comprehensible overall. Is not easy to read.
1-2	Little relevant information conveyed. Much ambiguity and omission. Task generally misunderstood. Substantial degree of irrelevance and incoherence. Time indications/verb tenses required by the task are absent or unreliable. Except for isolated items would not be comprehensible to a native speaker.
0	No relevant communication.

KNOWLEDGE AND APPLICATION OF LANGUAGE

5	Vocabulary and structures comfortably equal to the task. Variety of vocabulary, idiom and structures appropriate for narrative and description e.g. expressing and justifying opinions, ideas and points of view and to avoid repetition. Confident use of more complex structures such as pronouns, negatives, superlatives, range of tenses although there may be the occasional lapse. Clear ability to manipulate language to suit purpose.
4	Evidence of a range of vocabulary and structures appropriate to narrative and description, e.g. expressing opinions, justifying ideas and points of view. Some attempt to vary sentences by using more ambitious structures: subordinate clauses, pronouns, adverbial or other phrases, range of tenses, although these are unlikely to be wholly successful. Shows ability to manipulate language to suit purpose, albeit with mistakes.
3	Vocabulary and structures adequate to task. Language appropriate for purpose, there may be occasional mother-tongue influence, which does not impede communication. Style basic, correct syntax when using simple short sentences. Some longer sentences where syntax not always correct. Fairly correct use of standard idiom. Attempts enhancement of fact with adjectives and adverbial phrases with (some) success. Attempts to use subordinate clauses/simple linking. Evidence of correct formation of tenses with some lapses. Although there will be pre-learned, set phrases and attempts to manipulate the language, this may be only partially successful.
2	Limited vocabulary and structures, only just adequate to the task. Language basic and sometimes inappropriate to the task, some mother-tongue influence and words in non-target language. Sentences simple and usually short, syntactically more or less correct, occasional use of standard idiom. Some evidence of correct formation and use of verbs/tenses though frequent lapses. Pre-learned, set phrases predominate and there will be no evidence of any ability to manipulate the language. Some attempt at enhancement of fact with adjective or adverbial phrases though these are likely to be only partially successful. There may be some simple subordination.
1	Very limited language. Frequent use of mother-tongue or non-target language words greatly restricts communication. Language very basic and frequently inappropriate. Little understanding of language structures e.g. the formation and use of tenses. There may be the occasional almost correct phrase or short sentence but this will be pre-learned or stereotyped.
0	No language worthy of credit.

Accuracy of Language

5	High level of accuracy though not necessarily faultless. Spellings, genders, agreements, verb forms generally mastered with the odd slip. Secure when using more complex language but again there may be minor errors.
4	Generally accurate in straightforward language, most verb forms correct, secure in genders and agreements but the odd lapse. Spellings mostly accurate. Accuracy can be more variable when more complex structures are attempted.
3	Fairly accurate in simple language. Some lapses in spellings and genders and verb endings. Inconsistency in verb forms but more correct than incorrect. Spellings of common words generally accurate. About half of what is written should be free of major errors, inaccuracy increases if attempts more complex structures. Despite error the message is communicated.
2	Many basic errors but main points communicated. Some correct phrases but frequent misspellings, inaccurate genders, incorrect verb endings.
1	Frequent basic errors and inaccuracies prevent communication. Isolated examples of correct language. Spellings and genders very weak. Little or no evidence of correct verb formation.
0	No language worthy of credit.

Question 2

Candidates are asked to write 140 to 160 words of French. If they write less than this, their answer will be self-penalising. If a candidate writes more than the recommended amount, the whole answer is to be marked.

Each answer needs to be read three times - once for Communication and Content, a second time for Knowledge and Application of Language, and the third time for Accuracy of Language.

In the first category, the candidate needs to address **all** of the points in the stimulus, and to give appropriate comments, reactions, descriptions and opinions. A mark out of 15 for Communication and Content is then awarded.

In Question 2a, candidates are asked to describe the film. This means that reference to the circumstances under which the film was seen might well be irrelevant.

In Question 2b, it is important that the event described should be a bad experience. Failure to do this will count as an omission when awarding marks for Communication and Content.

In the second reading, assistant examiners need to look for points worthy of credit - appropriate vocabulary and structures, use of adjectives and adverbs, use of more complex structures such as subordination, pronouns, a range of tenses - even where these features are not entirely accurate. A mark out of 10 for Knowledge and Application of Language is then awarded.

Finally, the work is read in order to assess the level of accuracy, for which a mark out of 5 for Accuracy of Language is awarded.

This question attracts marks for **Communication and Content, Knowledge and Application of Language and Accuracy**. Please see the following grids:

COMMUNICATION AND CONTENT	
9-10	Task clearly understood and responds fully to stimulus. Ability to narrate, expand, give full descriptions and express opinions as appropriate to task. Time sequence/verb tenses clear with no ambiguity. Piece clearly linked as a whole and relevant to set task. Coherent, pleasant to read.
7-8	Responds fully to all or nearly all of the task although there may be some minor omissions. Task clearly understood. Shows ability to go beyond a minimal response, and provides evidence of description and opinion as appropriate to the task. Time sequence/verb tenses generally sound with occasional lapses. Coherent with some lapses. Fairly clear, and reasonable attempt to link the piece into a whole. May be rather pedestrian or alternatively, somewhat over ambitious.
5-6	Majority of task completed and relevant information conveyed although there may be some omissions. There may be some misunderstanding of the question leading to some irrelevance. Evidence of ability to go beyond a minimal response, beginning to expand ideas and express opinions etc suitable for factual/imaginative tasks. Appropriate use of verb tenses with some lapses, sometimes leading to ambiguity. Comprehensible overall with some attempt at linking piece into a whole. Ambiguous in places especially if more ambitious language is attempted.
3-4	Main points of question completed but some of the task may have been misunderstood. Some relevant information conveyed but there may be major omissions and /or irrelevance, repetition. Level of response minimal with no evidence of description or opinions etc appropriate to task. Some attempt at verb tenses but inconsistent and unreliable/insecure leading to ambiguity. Just about comprehensible overall. Is not easy to read.
1-2	Little relevant information conveyed. Much ambiguity and omission. Task generally misunderstood. Substantial degree of irrelevance and incoherence. Time indications/verb tenses required by the task are absent or unreliable. Except for isolated items would not be comprehensible to a native speaker.
0	No relevant communication.

KNOWLEDGE AND APPLICATION OF LANGUAGE

5	Vocabulary and structures comfortably equal to the task. Variety of vocabulary, idiom and structures appropriate for narrative and description e.g. expressing and justifying opinions, ideas and points of view and to avoid repetition. Confident use of more complex structures such as pronouns, negatives, superlatives, range of tenses although there may be the occasional lapse. Clear ability to manipulate language to suit purpose.
4	Evidence of a range of vocabulary and structures appropriate to narrative and description, e.g. expressing opinions, justifying ideas and points of view. Some attempt to vary sentences by using more ambitious structures: subordinate clauses, pronouns, adverbial or other phrases, range of tenses, although these are unlikely to be wholly successful. Shows ability to manipulate language to suit purpose, albeit with mistakes.
3	Vocabulary and structures adequate to task. Language appropriate for purpose, there may be occasional mother-tongue influence, which does not impede communication. Style basic, correct syntax when using simple short sentences. Some longer sentences where syntax not always correct. Fairly correct use of standard idiom. Attempts enhancement of fact with adjectives and adverbial phrases with (some) success. Attempts to use subordinate clauses/simple linking. Evidence of correct formation of tenses with some lapses. Although there will be pre-learned, set phrases and attempts to manipulate the language, this may be only partially successful.
2	Limited vocabulary and structures, only just adequate to the task. Language basic and sometimes inappropriate to the task, some mother-tongue influence and words in non-target language. Sentences simple and usually short, syntactically more or less correct, occasional use of standard idiom. Some evidence of correct formation and use of verbs/tenses though frequent lapses. Pre-learned, set phrases predominate and there will be no evidence of any ability to manipulate the language. Some attempt at enhancement of fact with adjective or adverbial phrases though these are likely to be only partially successful. There may be some simple subordination.
1	Very limited language. Frequent use of mother-tongue or non-target language words greatly restricts communication. Language very basic and frequently inappropriate. Little understanding of language structures e.g. the formation and use of tenses. There may be the occasional almost correct phrase or short sentence but this will be pre-learned or stereotyped.
0	No language worthy of credit.

Accuracy of Language

5	High level of accuracy though not necessarily faultless. Spellings, genders, agreements, verb forms generally mastered with the odd slip. Secure when using more complex language but again there may be minor errors.
4	Generally accurate in straightforward language, most verb forms correct, secure in genders and agreements but the odd lapse. Spellings mostly accurate. Accuracy can be more variable when more complex structures are attempted.
3	Fairly accurate in simple language. Some lapses in spellings and genders and verb endings. Inconsistency in verb forms but more correct than incorrect. Spellings of common words generally accurate. About half of what is written should be free of major errors, inaccuracy increases if attempts more complex structures. Despite error the message is communicated.
2	Many basic errors but main points communicated. Some correct phrases but frequent misspellings, inaccurate genders, incorrect verb endings.
1	Frequent basic errors and inaccuracies prevent communication. Isolated examples of correct language. Spellings and genders very weak. Little or no evidence of correct verb formation.
0	No language worthy of credit.