

Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations

General Certificate of Secondary Education

FRENCH READING
FOUNDATION TIER

1925

MARK SCHEME

Specimen Paper 2003

FRENCH GCSE READING

GENERAL MARKING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Mark correct marking points with a tick in red. Ticks should normally be on the right hand side of the page but left-handed markers may place them on the left if this is easier. Do not use crosses for wrong answers. A red dot will indicate that the answer has been read but has failed to score.
2. Total the marks for each double page and write at the bottom of the right hand page. The final total for the paper should be written on the front of the paper.
3. Do your best to decipher poor handwriting and be tolerant of poor spelling in both French and English.
4. If a candidate writes information in brackets, ignore the brackets, marking anything inside them in the usual way.
5. The mark scheme is intended to enable markers to operate in a consistent and reliable way. The standardisation meeting will go through the scheme in detail with illustration from photocopied scripts. Examiners will be able to seek clarification of doubtful points then. The scheme should be followed scrupulously and referred to frequently through the marking period. Conventional features of the scheme are: alternative answers separated by an oblique stroke, e.g. (closed/shut), brackets to indicate that information within them is optional, underlining to indicate that a key word or idea is essential for the answer, t.c. (tout court), h.a. (harmless addition).
6. Further general instructions for marking are included in the booklet “Instructions for Examiners”.

There are three broad types of exercise on the Reading Comprehension papers, requiring objective answers, answers in French and answers in English respectively.

1. OBJECTIVE ANSWERS

These can be exercises requiring the ticking of a box or the writing in of a letter or choosing “Oui” or “Non” by circling etc. If more than one box is ticked the mark is lost. If more than one letter is written, mark the one inside the box. In cases of doubt examiners must use their judgement to interpret the candidate’s intentions. In some cases candidates are required to write in a single word or name. In these cases, if two words are written, one after another, mark the first one. If two words are given, one above the other, mark the one on, or nearest to, the line. Correct spelling of the word or name is not required, as long as there is no ambiguity.

Examiners should be vigilant when marking objective answers and refer frequently to their mark scheme.

2. ANSWERS WRITTEN IN FRENCH

These answers are likely to be the most problematical for examiners because of the wide variation of candidate response. The understanding of marking principles is essential and this will be supported by numerous examples at the standardisation meeting.

We are expected to mark reading comprehension, not the quality of written French. Each answer should, as far as possible, be read as by a “sympathetic native speaker who knows no English.”

Answers in English, therefore, gain no credit though cognates and near cognates are acceptable. A candidate’s answer does not need to be grammatically accurate, nor correctly spelt, nor in the form of a complete sentence. In some cases a noun alone could be an adequate answer, as would a verb in the infinitive. A correct tense or pronoun may also not be required. The standardisation meeting will clarify such answers and include them in the mark scheme.

Often a key idea is being looked for as an answer and if this is present the mark can be awarded. In some cases sections “lifted” from the text may be acceptable. If a candidate adds incorrect information to an otherwise correct answer that distorts the degree of comprehension that has taken place no mark is awarded. The harmless addition of correct information can be ignored.

The sample scripts issued at the standardisation meeting will form an essential part of the mark scheme for these exercises.

3. ANSWERS WRITTEN IN ENGLISH.

Each section of the paper contains an exercise to be answered in English. Again, answers do not need to be in the form of full sentences, nor do they need to be in correct English. Answers in French gain no credit. The mark scheme will indicate acceptable answers. There may be synonyms and paraphrases, which are other acceptable answers. The examiner must use his/her professional judgement. The photocopied scripts will provide a number of possible answers.

GCSE FRENCH NEW SPECIFICATION SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPERS FOR READING MARK SCHEME

SECTION ONE

	ACCEPT	REJECT
1	B	
2	C	
3	B	
4	B	
5	A	
6	D	
7	C	
8	E	
9	F	
10	I	
11	A	
12	B	
13	C	
14	A	
15	C	
16	près	
17	caravanes	
18	fermé	
19	provisions	
20	venir	
21	A	
22	C	
23	B	
24	D	
25	E	
26	D	
27	E	
28	J	
29	A	
30	C	

SECTION TWO

	ACCEPT	REJECT
1	F	
2	C	
3	A	
4	B	
5	D	
6	G	
7	F	
8	C	
9	pharmacie	
10	avec sa fille	
11	du patinage	
12	maths	
13	chers	
14	choisir un métier plus tard	
15	doit	
16	She has red hair	
17	She was dumb/could not speak	
18	From her clothes	
19	She wrote it down	
20	None	