

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2010

IGCSE

IGCSE French (4365)
Paper 01 Listening

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Section A

Questions 1-5

Although the overwhelming majority of candidates gained maximum marks for these questions, the item which related to "Le hockey" attracted a number of incorrect attempts. The item concerning "Le ski" was the most successful, overall. On a number of occasions, candidates were unable to distinguish between "ski" and "rugby".

Question 6

A significant percentage of candidates secured maximum marks across this question. Candidate knowledge of "dîner", "garage" and "chambre" contrasted against occasional knowledge gaps in respect of "jardinage" and "café au lait".

Question 7

In question 7(a), it was pleasing to note that an overwhelming majority of candidates succeeded in distinguishing between the correct nationality and the distracter. Whereas most candidates secured a mark for 7(b), it nevertheless proved to be the most challenging of the five items. 7(c) provided the opportunity for candidates to discriminate between "employés" and "étudiants". However, it was noted that a fair number of candidates selected neither of those two responses. In 7(d) most candidates understood at least one of the two clues pointing towards the correct response. 7(a), the vast majority of candidates secured the mark for 7(e), clearly aware of the strong link between "sympa" and "gentil". The overall approach to question 7 really indicates that candidates had been well advised on how to reflect before choosing an appropriate response, thus avoiding the distracters.

Section B

Question 8

Question 8(a) proved successful in most cases, with candidates seeming to have practised the use of synonyms. Mastery of this technique is almost bound to be needed at some stage within the listening component. It was very pleasing to note that item 8(b) proved even more successful, as it required awareness of numbers and included use of comparatives. A minority of candidates seemed unable to deal with a numerical component. Item 8(c) elicited the highest proportion of correct responses across the question. Overall, candidates responded well to the inclusion of relatively complex vocabulary in the recording, thus endorsing the success of emphasis which teachers seem to be placing on vocabulary learning.

Question 9

Candidates once again achieved relatively successful outcomes across this question, displaying a good degree of confidence in navigating a range of structures, including several negatives and other lower frequency constructions. Candidates' appreciation of irregular verbs in differing formats is very pleasing to report, at this level. It was extremely rare for candidates to misinterpret the question's requirements. Evidently familiar with this style of task, candidates performed better overall than one would anticipate at this stage of the examination.

Questions 10-12 General remarks.

It was again extremely encouraging to note that most candidates managed to resist the temptation of lifting phrases heard during the recording. This means that the responses on offer tended to be more concise and targeted, based upon specific interpretation of the recording. At this point, a few candidates deployed unusually complex structures, to very good effect. Candidates in possession of core and more complex vocabulary tended to stand out in this question. Whereas most responses were clearly legible, candidates would benefit from a general reminder of this requirement.

Question 10

In 10(i), one key requirement here was the reference to "foot" within the response. "Les grands matchs de foot" contained all the essential elements to secure the mark, whereas "Les grands matchs" did not specify the sport. Although the recording seemed to be well understood overall, there were numerous instances where relevant information was omitted. The most able candidates discriminated well in conveying only key facts.

In 10(ii), a minority of candidates successfully conveyed the idea of "moins passionnant qu'au stade". There were two main reasons for which others struggled to do this. Firstly, due to incomplete responses, such as "pas comme au stade" and equally when misinterpreting the message by offering responses such as "moins passionnant d'aller au stade". These two were quite common amongst very strong candidates.

Question 11

Most candidates clearly conveyed the idea of "jeu" in 11(i), although "joue" was not accepted, nor was the title of the programme.

Candidates had two opportunities to succeed in their attempt at 11(ii), as either "Ça fait rêver" or "L'idée de gagner" were accepted. However, "Sa fait rêver" was ambiguous. There were equally lots of references to "réveille".

In 11(iii), two specific details were required: "présentatrice ennuyeuse". Some misspellings led to ambiguity, as did reference to "actrice ennuyeuse". Occasionally, responses were not written in the appropriate column of the answer grid.

Question 12

12(i) caused few difficulties, with care generally taken to avoid ambiguous spellings of "actualités". As an example, "actualites" was accepted, whereas "actuellites" lacked clarity.

In 12(ii), the issue tended to be that of clarity, so "vue sur le monde" was awarded, whereas "vue sur son pays" was rejected.

12(iii) was the most challenging item within questions 10-12. Nevertheless, a small proportion of candidates correctly responded with "manqué de reportages sur le sport". Both details were required here.

Grade Boundaries

Grade	Max Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Raw mark boundary	30	26	23	20	18	15	12	10	8	0

Overall (Papers 01 & 02)

Grade	Max Mark	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Raw mark boundary	90	88	78	68	59	50	42	34	26	0

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