

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) in the UK and USA

With effect from the June 2003 examination Cambridge International Examinations will only accept entries in the UK and USA from students registered on courses at CIE registered Centres.

UK and USA private candidates will not be eligible to enter CIE examinations unless they are repatriating from outside the UK/USA and are part way through a course leading to a CIE examination. In that case a letter of support from the Principal of the school which they had attended is required. Other UK and USA private candidates should not embark on courses leading to a CIE examination after June 2003.

This regulation applies only to entry by private candidates in the UK and USA. Entry by private candidates through Centres in other countries is not affected.

Further details are available from Customer Services at Cambridge International Examinations.

GCE Ordinary Level

3015 French

ASSESSMENT

AVAILABILITY

3015 French is available in both June and November. The optional Oral examination is available in November only.

RULES OF COMBINATION

Candidates take Papers 1 and 2. In the November session, they may also be entered for Paper 3, an optional Oral examination.

SCHEME OF ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Paper 1		Paper 2		Paper 3 (optional)	
duration	weighting	duration	weighting	duration	weighting
1 h 30 mins	50%	1 h 30 mins	50%	approx 10 mins	none

DESCRIPTION OF COMPONENTS

PAPER 1: Translation and Composition (1 hour 30 mins) (60 marks)

Candidates must attempt 2 questions only.

Question 1: A composition in the foreign language of approximately 140 words based on a series of pictures.

Question 2: A composition in the foreign language of approximately 140 words based on a choice of topics set in the foreign language in the form of a letter, dialogue or narrative.

Question 3: A translation from English into the foreign language.

PAPER 2: Reading Comprehension (1 hour 30 mins) (60 marks)

The test will be in three sections:

Sections 1 and 2 (40 marks)

All questions requiring written answers are to be answered in the foreign language. Marks will be awarded according to the comprehension shown.

- Signs, notices, advertisements etc. tested – multiple-choice questions.
- Brochures, guides, short texts etc. – objective questions testing specific detail; questions to test scanning for required information.
- Two or three longer texts. Questions will be set to test general and specific understanding. Candidates may also be asked to identify attitudes, emotions and ideas, the main points or themes, and to draw conclusions and make inferences.

Section 3 (20 marks)

- Cloze text with 20 gaps, mainly testing knowledge of structure.

In addition, in November only, candidates may be entered for **Paper 3**: an optional Oral examination. This consists of reading and conversation conducted by an external examiner. Candidates will be required to read aloud a piece of prose which they will be allowed to look through before reading and to hold a short conversation. A pass in the Oral examination will be indicated on the result slip and certificate, provided that the candidate reaches grade C6 in the subject. The examination will be held at some time before the beginning of the written examination to be fixed locally. The financial arrangements are made locally and no liability is incurred by Cambridge. Full instructions for the conduct and assessment of the Oral examination and a copy of the working mark sheet (to be photocopied by teacher/examiners as required) may be found on the following pages.

ORAL INSTRUCTIONS AND MARK SCHEME

The oral examination for **3015 French** is an optional test and can be taken only by candidates who are taking the written papers. Failure in the oral test will not prejudice the result in the written papers.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

The oral test is available in November only and will normally take place between 15 October and 15 November on a date to be arranged locally.

1 Standards

The numerical standards to be adopted are shown on the marking scheme.

2 The Oral Examination

Candidates will be required:

- to read a passage of prose which they will be allowed to prepare beforehand;
- to hold a short conversation in the language.

Approximately ten minutes should be allowed for each candidate. Each candidate should be allowed about ten minutes in which to prepare the reading passage (while the previous candidate is being examined). Please remember to allow ten minutes' preparation time for the first candidate to be examined.

- No communication should normally be allowed between candidates who have been examined and those who are awaiting examination. It is not expected that this rule can be observed rigidly during breaks for meals or at large schools where the oral examination takes more than one day, but in such cases the examiner should observe due precautions after a break by varying the topics for conversation.

- The use of English should be avoided throughout the examination.

5 Reading Test

Sets of printed passages are supplied for the reading test. These passages are intended to be used as alternatives, and no candidate should prepare or read more than one of them. The examiner may caution candidates not to read too fast but should avoid comment or correction during the reading.

6 Conversation Test

Questions which test comprehension of the reading passage should not be asked. Suitable subjects might be school (subjects, number of periods, times, games, etc.), home, town, journey to and from school, free time (evenings, weekends), holidays, hobbies. Candidates should not be expected to use complete sentences, particularly if an answer in another form is equally appropriate and correct. Some questions which require an answer in the form of a complete sentence may of course be asked. The examiner should take care to avoid questions which might cause embarrassment to those, e.g. orphans and adopted children, whose circumstances may be different from those of other children.

7 Completion of Mark Sheets

- (a) For each candidate's oral test the examiner must enter marks on the appropriate working mark sheet bearing candidates' names and index numbers, which must be despatched to reach CIE by no later than 1 December. **A copy of the working mark sheet is provided in this syllabus and teachers/examiners should photocopy this as required.**
- (b) Candidates who do not attend for the examination must be shown on the mark sheets as 'absent'. If the examiner is informed that they have withdrawn from the examination s/he should indicate this on the mark sheets. If, on the other hand, a candidate is absent because of illness, and the examiner makes arrangements to test him/her later at another Centre, this should be noted. Care must be taken to ensure that the marks for candidates who are transferred and examined at a Centre other than their own are entered on one of the working mark sheets provided, the candidate's full name and index number and the name of the school being quoted.
- (c) Examiners are asked to keep a duplicate record of the candidates and marks awarded as, after the detailed results have been communicated to schools, enquiries may be received about individual candidates.

- 8 Examiners are allowed, at their discretion, to discuss candidates' performance with the teachers in general terms, ie commenting on particularly weak or strong points, etc. but they should not discuss the marks they have awarded. These are confidential, and all results are liable to subsequent revision. Cambridge's Awarding Committee is authorised to scrutinise the marks awarded by oral examiners and to revise or interpret them as may seem necessary or desirable.

9 Return of Oral Mark Sheets

Immediately on completion of their work, examiners should hand their working mark sheets to the Local Secretary/Examinations Officer for transmission to Cambridge. These must be despatched to reach CIE by no later than 1 December.

MARKING SCHEME

This is a descriptive guide to the general aspects of the performance of candidates in various mark ranges and is to be used by examiners in their assessment.

Reading Test Marking Scheme

Examiners are urged to use the full range of marks, bearing in mind that it is not necessary for a candidate to be a native speaker in order to be given 9 or 10.

9-10	Outstanding pronunciation, intonation and fluency; an occasional slight mistake or hesitation. Not necessarily a native speaker.
7-8	Good pronunciation and fluency; makes a fair attempt at correct intonation and expression; some mistakes and/or hesitation.
5-6	A fair degree of fluency and accuracy in pronunciation; quite a number of errors; some attempt at intonation and expression.
3-4	Lacks fluency; very many errors; poor pronunciation.
1-2	Very poor; many gross errors; frequently incomprehensible.

Conversation Marking Scheme

Each category has two sets of descriptors. The first covers comprehension/responsiveness and assesses the manner in which the candidate responds in terms of comprehension of the examiner, immediacy of reaction/response, fluency of response. The second assesses the linguistic content of the candidate's answers in terms of the complexity and range of structures, vocabulary and idiom.

Examiners must award one global mark out of 20.

Category		Mark
Outstanding	(a) Not necessarily a native speaker. (b) Performs at the highest level to be expected of candidates at O Level.	18-20
Very good	(a) Generally understands questions first time, but may require occasional rephrasing. Can respond satisfactorily to both stock and unexpected questions. (b) Wide range of structures, vocabulary and idiom.	15-17
Good	(a) Understands questions but has difficulty with some unexpected ones and needs some rephrasing. Fairly fluent, but some hesitation. (b) Good range of structures, varied vocabulary.	12-14
Satisfactory	(a) Has no difficulty with stock questions and responds fairly well to unexpected ones, particularly when they are repeated. (b) Adequate range of structures and vocabulary. Can convey past and future meaning, some ambiguity.	8-11
Weak	(a) Has difficulty even with stock questions, but still attempts an answer. (b) Shows elementary, limited vocabulary and faulty manipulation of structures.	4-7
Poor	(a) Frequently fails to understand the examiner and has great difficulty in replying. (b) Shows very limited range of structures and vocabulary.	0-3

Centre Number						Centre Name	
Syllabus Title					Syllabus Code		

This Oral examination is available in November only.
A separate form must be used for each Centre and for each language.

Candidate Number	Candidate Name Names should be listed in the same order as they will be written on the entry forms for the written papers. Surname, Initials	For the use of the Oral Examiner			Comments
		Reading (Max 10)	Conver- sation (Max 20)	Total Mark (Max 30)	

This sheet must be signed by the Examiner when all the results have been entered on it. The addition of the marks must be checked. It must then be sent to reach CIE by no later than 1 December for the November examination (unless some other instruction is given).

Signature of Examiner		Date					
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