

French 7193

This subject may be taken at the May/June examination only.

The Examination

The examination will consist of three written papers. The allocation of marks is as follows:

Paper 1 – 10 marks;

Paper 2 – 30 marks;

Paper 3 – 45 marks.

Paper 1 – Dictation (30 minutes)

A passage of modern French of about 140 words will be read aloud, first straight through, then in repeated groups, and finally straight through again. The candidates will write down the passage in French during the reading of the repeated groups. After the final reading, five minutes will be allowed for revision.

The intention of this paper is to test the candidates' grasp of the orthography and grammatical structure of French by requiring them to relate the language as written to the language as spoken.

Paper 2 – Listening and Reading Comprehension (1 hour)

(a) Listening comprehension (30 minutes) – 15 marks

There will be 15 questions in English on a passage of modern French about 300 words long. The passage will be read aloud three times, once right through, a second time in three sections, and finally right through again. The candidates will write their answers in English.

The intention of this part of the paper is to test the candidates' understanding of spoken French. They will be expected to understand the passage as a whole as well as significant details.

(b) Reading comprehension (30 minutes) – 15 marks

There will be 15 questions in English on a printed passage of French about 350 words long. The candidates will write their answers in English.

The intention of this part of the paper is to test the candidates' understanding of written French. They will be expected to understand the passage as a whole as well as significant details, and to show some appreciation of idiom and usage.

Paper 3 – Translation and Composition (1 hour 30 minutes)

(a) Translation from French – 10 marks

A passage of modern French of about 140 words will be set for the candidates to translate into English. The passage will consist of narrative, description or conversation, or any combination of these.

The intention of this part of the paper is to test the candidates' understanding of a passage of written French and their ability to render the text accurately into acceptable English.

(b) *Either Structured Composition – 20 marks*

An outline situation or a description of an incident or a dialogue or some other form of written stimulus material in French will be given. The candidates will be required to write about 140 words, in French, directly related to this material. They may be required, for example, to fill out the details of an outline or recount an incident from a point of view other than that given, or compose a dialogue.

Or Translation into French – 20 marks

A passage of English of about 140 words will be set for the candidates to translate into French.

The intention of this part of the paper is to test the candidates' ability to write accurate French within defined limits.

(c) *Free composition – 15 marks*

Two subjects, one of which will be a series of pictures, will be set. The candidates will be required to choose one of these on which to write about 120 words in French.

The intention of this part of the paper is to test the candidates' ability to express ideas freely in accurate French on a given subject, using a variety of vocabulary and idiom.

Syllabus Guidelines

The following notes are designed to give teachers an idea of the scope of the Ordinary level French question papers. The notes are not intended to be comprehensive but they provide guidance on the linguistic content of the examination.

Knowledge of, and ability to use, the structures listed below may be tested in any language areas within the normal range of the imaginative or real experience of the average school pupil of 15 or 16. It would clearly be impossible to produce a comprehensive list of such areas but they would include the family, school, life in town and country, transport and travel, shopping, eating and drinking, holidays, sport, usual professions and occupations.

The language of Ordinary level, as compared with Advanced level, is more straightforward and does not involve very complex description or complicated intellectual processes. The registers are narrative with simple description, or conversation; a very colloquial flavour, as well as a very literary or technical flavour, is avoided. It should, however, be noted that where no production of French is required (eg, in Paper 2) the language may well be more complex and may contain some lexical items not necessarily actively known by pupils for whom the examination is intended.

1. Formation and use of all regular and common irregular verbs, including reflexives, in all simple and compound tenses of the indicative (excluding the subjunctive for active use); interrogative, negative and imperative forms; passive and avoidance of the passive; participles, infinitive, common impersonal verbs; agreement of participles; government of verbs; inversion.
2. Pronouns: conjunctive, disjunctive, demonstrative, common indefinite, interrogative, possessive, relative and use of *même* in *lui-même* etc; *en*; position of pronouns; use of *tu* and *on*.
3. Articles: use of the definite, indefinite and partitive.
4. Nouns: gender and number, single and compound, common forms of feminines of occupations and animals.

5. Adjectives: qualifying, numeral, demonstrative, indefinite, interrogative, negative, possessive, compound, masculine/feminine and plural forms (of regular and common irregular adjectives), comparative and superlative; agreement and position; adverbial use (eg *tout* and *parler fort*).
6. Adverbs: form and position, comparative and superlative; adverb phrases (eg *avec plaisir*); negative expressions.
7. Conjunctions and prepositions in common use, including those used with verbs and adjectives and in adjectival phrases (eg *une montre en or*); prepositional phrases (eg *au bout de, en train de*); common idiomatic uses like *couvert de* and *prendre dans*; use of *depuis*.
8. Time by the clock; dates, numbers, quantity and distance measurement.
9. Common idioms (eg expressions with *avoir; il y a = ago, venir de*); exclamatory phrases (eg *comme il fait beau!*); weather expressions.

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