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GSCE

**Polish**

8688/RH Unit 3 Reading  
Report on the Examination

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8688  
November 2020

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## General Introduction to the November Series

This has been an unusual exam series in many ways. Entry patterns have been very different from those normally seen in the summer, and students had a very different experience in preparation for these exams. It is therefore more difficult to make meaningful comparisons between the range of student responses seen in this series and those seen in a normal summer series. The smaller entry also means that there is less evidence available for examiners to comment on.

In this report, senior examiners will summarise the performance of students in this series in a way that is as helpful as possible to teachers preparing future cohorts while taking into account the unusual circumstances and limited evidence available.

## Overview of Entry

Most students coped very well with the demands of this paper. The overall range of marks was 30-60 with a mean estimate of 54.2 (90.33%) out of 60. The relatively high mean estimate shows that although the range of scores was relatively wide, the distribution of scores was skewed, with more students scoring top marks (14) or near the top marks, and relatively few students scoring bottom marks, such as 3 (1).

Many students attempted all questions and gained marks in most of them and a small number of them achieved full marks on the paper. Most students appear to have been appropriately entered at this tier. Most of the students had neat and legible handwriting, but there were still several answers which were illegible. There was some extremely small handwriting which did not facilitate marking. Students should be reminded of the importance of clear presentation to ensure that their knowledge and understanding is recognised by an examiner.

It was pleasing to see that Section C of the paper (translation into English) produced many excellent and precise translations, with the full range of marks being scored on this question. As a general principle, students were given credit for all answers which conveyed the key idea intelligibly and without ambiguity, whether the answer was in English or in Polish. Marks were not awarded where errors in spelling, punctuation or grammar led to a failure to communicate the key ideas without ambiguity. Students should be discouraged from giving alternative or additional information in an answer as this may make the key idea ambiguous and therefore prevent their answer from being credited.

## Comments on Individual Questions

### Section A

#### Question 1

All sub-questions were answered very well. Item 1.1 was answered with 100% accuracy by all students. The rest of the items were answered correctly by 82 to 95% of the students.

#### Question 2

Most items in this question were answered very well except for item 02.1 (71%) where confusion over who was getting married sometimes resulted in a wrong answer or an ambiguous one.

In item 02.3 some students misread the information in the text and interpreted *'the cathedral in Gdansk'* as a place where the party will take place.

In item 02.4 lots of students provided a wrong translation of the word *'rycerze'* as *'soldiers'*, whereas the correct translation should have been *'knights'*.

**Question 3**

The majority of students scored four marks (out of five) on this question. However, many misread the information in the text and thought that it was Kinga who has had her access to social media restricted instead of Marta.

**Question 4**

All items were answered correctly by the majority of students (04.1 = 97%; 04.2 = 89%; 04.3 = 92%; 04.4 = 84%; 04.5 = 99%). Sub-question 04.4 proved to be the most challenging with many students confusing *low qualification* with *specific* or *high qualification*.

**Question 5**

All items were answered correctly by most students (05.1 = 99%; 05.2 = 91%; 05.3 = 85%; 05.4 = 98%). A number of students failed to gain a mark in item 05.3 because they were led astray by the first sentence describing Mikołaj's attitude as positive and negative.

**Question 6**

This question was very well answered by many students. 89% provided a correct response for 06.1, 91% for 06.2, 95% for 07.3, and 88% for 06.3.

In item 06.3, some students provided a very vague answer, e.g. *'It is dangerous, it is harmful'*, which did not answer the question.

**Question 7**

All items were answered correctly by 90% of the students or more.

**Section B****Question 8**

All items were answered correctly by 95% of the students or more.

**Question 9**

This question was answered well by many students. Most of them (95%) received 2 marks (out of 2) for item 09.1 and 84% scored full marks for item 09.2. In item 09.1 some students choosing *'biura'* instead of *'apteka'* while in 09.2 the most common mistake was writing *'plac zabaw'* instead of *'piekarnia'*. Both items were relatively good at discriminating.

**Question 10**

77% of the students scored full 4 marks on this question. Several of the students chose the answers which were not in the text.

**Question 11**

More than 90% students provided a correct response for most of the items except for items 11.4 (80%) and 11.6 (78%), where their lack of knowledge of family members was visible.

**Section C – Translation**

The final question on the paper required students to translate a short passage into English. It was pleasing to note that the question produced a full range of marks, and discriminated relatively well. Approximately 21% of students achieved mark 9 (out of 9) and 82% received 7 marks or less. In addition, mean performance mark was 7.51 (out of 9).

The most common mistake was imprecise translation of '*zgrany zespół*'. Some of the students misunderstood it and translated it as a '*znany – famous*' while '*zespół*' was translated as a '*band*' not a '*team*'.

Many students failed to gain the mark for the last key idea due to the lack of translation of all the words included in the text.

### **Concluding Remarks**

In the translation task students should be reminded of the need to be precise. The translated text should make sense, and students must ensure that they keep the text closely aligned to the original passage. It is also useful for students to re-read what they have written to make sure it makes sense.

### **Mark Ranges and Award of Grades**

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results Statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.