
GCSE

POLISH

8688/LH Higher Tier Paper 1 Listening
Report on the Examination

8688
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General Introduction to the November Series

This has been a similar pattern to last year, but very different from those normally seen in the summer series. Like last year, students had a very difficult and unusual experience preparing for these exams. The smaller entry means that there is less evidence available to 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

The entry for the November 2021 series for this component was much smaller than normally seen in the summer series and about half of the entries from last November; just under 200 students took this exam. Generally, the performance in 2021 was slightly weaker than in the previous year. In terms of cumulative percentages, half of the students scored 43 marks or more, and almost 75% of the students scored at least 40 marks. The maximum mark scored was 49/50 and the minimum mark achieved was 25/50.

All the questions mentioned below discriminated well between lower and higher attaining students. Across the Paper, students made similar types of mistakes as in the previous years, e.g. they did not read the questions carefully, had difficulties with recognizing the key information, drawing a conclusion or being unable to summarize. There were some clear indications that students were able to deal well with a range of non-verbal question types, some of which were done particularly well, especially in Section A. Some gaps in vocabulary were obvious, like *stypendium*. Most marks were lost in questions requiring verbal answers. In Section B, some students were unable to answer questions that required written responses in accurate and well-formed Polish. It is clear that some of the students didn't receive formal tuition in writing.

Comments on Individual Questions

Section A – answers in English

Question 01.1

Overall 79% of students scored 2 marks for this question. The “advantage part” was less well answered. Teachers should ensure that students are well prepared to deal with the demands of this kind of question type.

Question 03

Only 60% of students scored 2 marks for this low demand question, 34% scored 1 mark and 5.7% of students did not manage to score any marks. Students mostly thought of tourists rather than threats to nature. Words *zagrozić przyrodzie* were not understood by many of the students.

Question 6

The non-verbal questions in Section A were very well done, with only Question 6 posing some difficulty. Maximum 3 marks were scored by 70% of the students. The most common mistake was to pick option E – Global recession to express *Pieniądze na ratowanie klimatu*, which was incorrect.

Question 07.1

Less than 60% of students scored 1 mark in this question. Students were clearly asked to summarise what they heard. There was a lot of detail given to draw a conclusion. Answers like: *streets are traffic jammed, too many people live there*, were not awarded a mark. Students should be reminded that they need to arrive at their answer based on everything that they hear, rather than latching on to single words.

Question 07.3

There were two correct options to answer this question: *new ski runs* or *building new ski facilities*. Students who answered: *new paths, skiing, for sport uses or new buildings*, were not awarded a mark due to too little detail or incorrect meaning. A lack of precision meant that some students failed to score.

Question 17.1 – 17.2

In section A, Question 17 proved the most challenging for the majority of students. Only around 30% of students answered those questions correctly. The main issue with this question was the fact that most students did not understand the word *księgową*, which was translated as *lawyer, librarian, secretary or cashier* and students did not distinguish between types of higher education institutions in Poland. *Akademia Sztuk Pięknych* ended up being *museum, academy of dance, beauty or drama* and therefore marks were not awarded. Very few students gave the correct answer. Students needed to identify two key points: a) the speaker signed up to study in an Art School; b) the job the speaker wanted to do in the future was to become an artist. Students needed to draw a conclusion, rather than to repeat key words. This was a high-demand item and it differentiated well.

Question 18.2

Overall 58% of students scored 2 marks and 37% - 1 mark. The main weakness was that students often translated parts of the spoken passage instead of extracting the required information and evaluating it accordingly. *Czynsz jest wysoki* was given as a disadvantage, even though *ale wysokie koszty utrzymania nie przeszkadzają mi* followed these words, therefore no mark was scored. However, 1 mark was awarded for *costs don't bother him* as an advantage here. Some answers were clearly wrong, like *low cost to live, small area, the playground is small* and proved that students did not understand this utterance.

Section B – answers in Polish**Question 24**

Overall 72% of students scored 1 mark for this question, which was targeted at the low grade. This was the only non-verbal question in Section B, which scored less than 82%. This question was the least successful due to many students incorrectly selecting option C having been misled by the key words *seriale* and *filmiki*.

Question 26.1

Overall 72% of students scored 2 marks for this extended text question. Most students who did not score a mark used very simple language which did not give enough detail, like *za wolne* or misunderstood this utterance, like *szbka dostawa* or *używa Bistrobotą*. Some students answered it in English instead of Polish and lost marks.

Question 26.2

This question proved to be most difficult to answer. The percentage of students who scored 2 marks was barely 23 and 1 mark - 28. Nearly half of the students were awarded 0 marks for this question. Some students answered in English, however the majority seem to have made a mistake when understanding the question or recognising the key word *skłaniać się*. Students were asked about the foods that young people are giving up more and more. The most common answers presented the opposite things, for instance, a big percentage of answers were given *z mleka roślinnego* instead of *mleka krowiego* or *z jedzenia wegetariańskiego* instead of *mięsa*. Small group of students incorrectly answered *jedzenie dobrej jakości* or *jedzenie bez konserwantów*.

Concluding remarks

The answers produced by students in the Autumn 2021 Examination are broadly comparable with the Autumn 2020 Examination. Most of the multiple, table-selecting and table-matching questions were answered very well in Sections A and B.

More attention should be paid to the careful reading of the instructions and questions with more practice in answering the verbal questions.

Students must be reminded of the following key techniques:

- listen carefully to whole utterances before putting down an answer
- read each question carefully and check that your answer makes sense and fits the question set.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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