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GCSE

**POLISH**

8688/RF Reading (Foundation)  
Report on the Examination

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## General Comments

In this reading comprehension paper the overall range of marks was 3-58 with the mean mark approximately 45 out of 60 (78%). The great majority of the students (approximately 80%) scored 38 or above. Many students attempted all questions and gained marks in most of them. 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 or near the top marks, and relatively few students scoring bottom marks.

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.

Section C of the examination, where students are required to translate a short passage into English, proved demanding. Nevertheless, most students did relatively well on this task overall, where specific vocabulary is being targeted and a precise rendering of Polish into English is required.

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 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 consequently we will not be able to credit their answer.

## Report on Individual Questions

### Section A

#### Question 1

All three sub-questions proved to be relatively straightforward to students: the majority gave a correct answer to all sub questions.

#### Question 2

Students did very well on three items in this question. Specifically, approximately 85% provided a correct response for 02.2 and 02.4, and 99% for 02.3. In contrast to these three items, item 02.1 proved to be more difficult as only approximately 76% of students gained a mark in this item. The most common incorrect answer given by students in item 02.1 was 'lonely' which wasn't not a correct translation of the word in the text ('nieśmiała').

#### Question 3

This question was extremely well answered with the majority of students gaining the mark for 03.1 and 03.2.

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**Question 4**

This question was also answered well by most of the students: approximately 77% gained a mark for answering 04.1; with a slightly higher percentage who got a mark for 04.3; and the majority- for item 04.4. Students were more challenged by item 04.2 (slightly more than a half answered correctly) where some confusion arose as to where 'use of plastic bags' refers to past or present. Lots of students chose 'now' instead of 'past'.

**Question 5**

Most students answered both items of this question correctly. Most part of students were able to provide 2 correct answers for 05.1.

Item 05.2 was answered well too. Those who answered incorrectly usually described an advantage of summer holidays with his family as 'time for himself' instead of 'spending time with the family', or provided only one answer which prevented them for scoring full marks.

**Question 6**

This was the first of the overlap questions in this section of the paper. Most students found adapted extract from the novel '*Lalka*' by Boleslaw Prus challenging.

Item 06.1 was correctly answered by approximately 60% of the students. Item 06.2 was most likely to be correctly answered. Specifically, more than a half of students provided the correct answer and scored 1 point. Item 06.3 was well answered by approximately 78% of students scored a mark.

Item 06.4 and 06.6 was correctly answered by approximately 68% of students.

Only one quarter of students scored full marks (1 out of 1) on item 06.5. A lot of students gave incorrect answers '*false*' instead of '*not in the text*' making assumption while reading the text.

In item 06.7, many students failed to understand the details of the text correctly and couldn't find the right answer. As a consequence, only approximately one third of students provided the correct answer '*false*' while most of incorrect answers included '*not in the text*'.

**Question 7**

This question produced a mixed set of responses. Only half of students scored full marks (1 out of 1) on item 07.3. Questions 07.1 and 07.2 were correctly answered by most of students.

This type of question where students are asked to decide if the opinion is either positive or negative seems to differentiate well each year.

**Question 8**

The majority of items were answered correctly with the majority of students scoring full marks to items 08.1 - 08.4.

In item 08.1 most incorrect answers contained the specific jobs such as: '*teacher*', '*lawyer*' which were not included in the text.

In item 08.2 the answer '*need money*' was too vague to gain a mark.

## Section B

### Question 9

This question was answered relatively well. Overall, approximately 70% of students managed to score 3 marks (three out of three), whereas the majority of students scored at least 2 marks on this question.

### Question 10

This question was more difficult for students. Less than a half of students managed to score 3 marks (three out of three), whereas the majority of students scored at least 2 marks on this question.

### Question 11

This question produced a mixed set of performances. Only approximately 60% scored full mark for this question (four out of four).

In this question students were to complete the text using the words from the list. This task tested students' knowledge of Polish language very well and showed their understanding of the reading text. This question was very good at discriminating between students of different knowledge of Polish language.

### Question 12

This was the second of the overlap questions in the test; students could score a maximum of four marks on this question. For many students this question was really challenging. Most of the students gave a correct response to item 12.1; more than a half gained a mark in 12.2 and answered correctly in 12.3; and item 12.4 was answered correctly by less than a half. Many students erroneously interpreted the text rather than used the information from the text in order to answer last question.

### Question 13

This was the third of the overlap questions in the text. It produced a mixed set of responses. Item 13.1 was answered correctly by approximately 60% of the students, but only half of the students scored full marks (two out of two) on item 13.2.

In item 13.2 the most common mistake was providing too vague answer. The answer 'korzystać z telefonu' didn't gain a mark because it was not detailed enough. The text is telling us about Jurka's mum who is already using her mobile phone but only to phone and text people. She wants to learn how to use her phone in its full capacity in future. The answer needed to include words like 'w całości', 'w pełni' or 'lepiej'.

It was disappointing to note that items 13.1 and 13.2 were not attempted by approximately 11-17% of students.

Overall, the question was relatively good at discriminating between students of different Polish knowledge.

It is important to remind students that this question needs to be answered in Polish language. There were still lots of answers in English which did not score a mark.

### **Section C – Translation**

Here students were required to translate a short Polish passage into English. For this question, precise renderings of the text were required. It was pleasing to note that the question produced a full range of marks and discriminated between students of different levels of Polish knowledge exceptionally well.

58% of students gained 7 marks or less (5% of students did not attempt this question). Overall the question was relatively well answered.

Majority of students failed to gain the marks due to either lack of translation of key words included in the text or incorrect translation of these words such as '*tramwaj*' – tram, '*wystawa*' - exhibition, '*galeria sztuki*' - art gallery.

Some of them misunderstood '*art gallery*' and translated it as a '*shopping mall*'.

### **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.