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# GCSE

# POLISH

8688/RH Reading (Higher)  
Report on the Examination

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## General Comments

Most students coped very well with the demands of this paper. The overall range of marks was 0-60 with a mean estimate of 47.52 (79.2%) out of 60. Many students attempted all questions and gained marks in most of them. A few students appear to have been inappropriately 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.

A small number of answers was given in Polish in Section A, but the incidence of this was lower than in previous years.

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 not able to be credited.

## Comments on Individual Questions

### Section A

#### Question 1

This was the first of the overlap questions in this section of the paper. Students performed well on items 01.1,01.2,01.3,01.4 and 01.6, where approximately 74%- 89% of the students scored full marks.

Item 01.5 was not very well answered as only approximately 34% of students scored a mark. A lot of students gave incorrect answers '*false*' instead of '*not in the text*' making assumptions while reading the text.

In item 01.7, many students failed to understand the details of the text correctly and couldn't find the right answer. As a consequence, less than a half of the students provided the correct answer '*false*' while most of the incorrect answers included '*not in the text*'.

**Question 2**

Most items in this question were answered very well except for item 02.3 (nearly one third scored a mark) where confusion over who values Polish specialist resulted in a wrong answer or an ambiguous one.

Incorrect answers contained: '*doctors*', '*lawyers*', '*Kamil*' while the text was talking about the '*British labour market*'.

In item 02.5 some students provided too vague an answer and failed to gain a mark.

This question asked specifically why British people admire the Polish community. Lots of students didn't mention the attachment to tradition which was crucial in order to receive a mark. More than a half of the students scored full marks in this item.

**Question 3**

Almost all students (95%) scored four marks (out of five) on this question.

**Question 4**

All items were answered correctly by the majority of students, however the item 04.5 proved to be the most challenging where many students confused '*personal reason*' with '*political reason*'.

**Question 5**

This question produced a mixed set of performances. Only approximately 40% scored full four marks for this question. In this question students were to complete the text using the words from the list. It tested students' knowledge of Polish language very well and showed their understanding of the reading text.

**Question 6**

This question was very well answered by many students. The majority provided a correct response for 06.1 and 06.2, while in item 06.3, some students provided an answer which was not in the text e.g., '*someone who helps them*', '*celebrities*', '*passionate people*' which failed to gain a mark.

**Question 7**

This question was answered well by many students. Approximately 84% provided a correct response for 07.1 and gained 2 marks, 07.2 was answered less well. In item 07.1 several students didn't understand the concept of '*cisza nocna*' and provided an incorrect translation of these words.

In item 07.2 the most common mistake was misreading the word '*internat*' as '*internet*' which led to incorrect answers.

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

This was the second of the overlap questions in the test; students could score a maximum of four marks on this question. More than a half of students scored full marks, whereas approximately 90% of students scored at least 3 marks on this question.

**Question 9**

This was the third of the overlap questions in the text. It was answered well by many students. Most of them (approximately 89%) received 2 marks (out of 2) for item 09.1 and approximately 78% scored full marks for item 09.2.

In item 09.2 the most common mistake was providing too vague an 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 is important to remind students that this question needs to be answered in the Polish language. There were still a lot of answers in English which did not score a mark.

**Question 10**

The majority of students scored three marks (out of four) on this question. However, many misread the information in the text and opted for the distractor and chose 'Julia is an American teenager' and as a consequence incorrectly answered the question.

**Question 11**

This question produced a mixed set of performances. Only one third of students scored full marks for this question (four). Many students erroneously interpreted the text rather than using the information from the text.

Most of the students gave a correct response to items 11.1, 11.4 and 11.6; more than a half gained a mark in 11.3 and 11.5; and slightly less than a half of students gained a mark for item 11.2. Within item 11.5, most incorrect answers included answer B '*przypada na początek sezonu letniego*'.

**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 well. Approximately 18% of students achieved mark 9 (out of 9) and approximately 76% received 7 marks or less. In addition, the mean performance mark was quite high.

Most of the students didn't receive marks for translating the first key idea. The most common mistake was imprecise translation of '*spotkanie autorskie cioci Krysi*'. Some of them misunderstood it and translated it as a '*meeting with auntie Krysia*'.

Majority of students failed to gain the marks for the rest of key ideas due to either lack of translation of key words included in the text or incorrect translation of these words such as '*księgarnia*' - bookshop, '*uczestnicy*'- participants, '*wydawała*' -published.

### **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.