



AS LEVEL FRENCH

7651/1 Paper 1 Listening, Reading and Writing
Report on the Examination

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General comments

The paper proved to be accessible to most students and they were well prepared by their teachers to tackle the various questions. This year there were far fewer students exceeding the 70 word limit on the summary questions (3 and 8). Nearly all students managed to answer question 8 well within the word limit, though there were still a few in the listening summary who wrote too much.

There were many pleasing results, with questions 01, 02, 04, 07 and 09 being particularly successfully answered by many students. As is usually the case, the questions which discriminated most effectively were the summary questions (questions 3 and 8) and also the French to English translation task (question 10).

Section A

Question 01

This question was well answered, with well over half of all students scoring two marks for each of the questions. The least successfully answered question was 01.3, where one or both of the correct answers (C and D) were omitted. Perhaps here the word *éclairage* was not well known. Moreover, the phrase *la fontaine mérite autant d'attention* was difficult to pick out in a listening test.

Question 02

Students also coped admirably with this question, with many scoring maximum marks. The main challenge was question 02.6 where *le dénouement* was not linked to *la fin dramatique*. The correct answer was P+N, which students sometimes find more difficult to work out.

Question 03

More than 60% of students scored 5 or more marks for content (AO1). Students missed the content points mainly because they went over the 70 word limit and so missed the one or two marks available for the third bullet point. The first bullet point was well answered, with most students mentioning the concert and entertainment, though there were a few incorrect spellings of *vente* which led to confusion. In the second bullet point, many scored for the rapid intervention of the charity following natural disasters, though the point about supplying water was often not made sufficiently clearly. The third bullet point was often accurately answered, though *estime de moi* caused some problems for students attempting to put the pronoun into the third person.

Since the award of five marks for AO3 requires a level of manipulation of the grammar as well as a good degree of accuracy, the full five marks were hard to achieve. Having said that, the vast majority of students achieved 3 or more marks for quality of language. There were some very impressive examples of manipulation such as *elle a récolté de l'argent en vendant des gâteaux* or *les bénévoles sont bien formés par l'organisation*.

Question 04

This was very well answered by many, especially 04.1 and 04.2. The main problem was in 04.3, where the phrase *les enfants se sentent obligés d'être présents* caused some confusion. In question 04.4, the expression *avoir envie de* was not always known and was sometimes rendered as *être en vie*. Occasionally, answers suggested that the children were scolding the parents rather than the other way round.

Section B

Question 05

Finding the correct synonyms in this text was pleasingly done by many students. The questions which caused most difficulty were 05.5, where the incorrect answer *achats* was often seen, and 05.7, where *apprentissages* was needed. Parts 05.3 and 05.8 were very well done.

Question 06

These multiple choice tasks were generally well answered, particularly 06.1. The main stumbling block proved to be 06.2, where perhaps the meaning of *le conservatoire* was not recognised.

Question 07

Generally, this question was very well done indeed, with parts 07.1, 07.2 and 07.4 giving rise to maximum marks for many. The main issues were the confusion between the feelings of the narrator in questions 07.3 and 07.4, where feelings of sadness, fatigue and weakness were transposed in some of the answers. In 07.5 some omitted the fact that Maurice fell to his knees and many students lost a mark due to the use of an incorrect pronoun for the second element: *il lui a demandé de s'épouser* was commonly seen. Question 07.6 was nearly always correctly answered.

Question 08

This was the reading summary task. The marks were pleasing both for content (AO2) and for quality of language (AO3). Very few student wrote too many words here. In the first bullet point, most students gained both marks, though some wrote the confusing answer *il s'a quitté*. In the second bullet, the vast majority understood the three key ideas of Marie not wishing to cause her mother anxiety, the desire to avoid disappointing her and wanting to make her proud. This final point was the least well conveyed. The last bullet point was well done by most students and gave rise to some good manipulation of the original text: *les autres ne l'ont pas jugée*.

The AO3 marks were sometime adversely affected by the amount of copying seen in answers. Those who scored highly for AO2 made genuine attempts to manipulate the original text, at the very least by adapting correctly their answers to the third person.

Question 09

This was successfully answered by many students. Some parts of this question had high success rates. The parts which were found to be more challenging were 09.3 and 09.4, where the correct answers were the information was not given in the text. In 09.4, many probably realised that students received a share at a reduced rate, though *à moitié prix* is not mentioned in the passage.

Question 10

The translation task always discriminates well, though some students may be writing quickly at this stage of the paper in order to meet the time limit. The main points were as follows:

- *Se poursuit* was not well known and many wrote answers about pursuit or following, rather than ongoing.
- The pluperfect tense was not always recognised and the word *concours* was not always correctly translated. Since the word was used later in the passage, no further penalty was paid for the second use of the word.
- *Le toit* was often wrongly translated and once again the no further penalty ruled was applied later in the text.
- The first part of the sentence about the architects was very well done.
- *Dont l'un* caused difficulties for some and the tense of *comprendait* was missed, often rendered as 'includes' rather than 'included'.
- The question posed in the text was often correct, though again some lost the mark for not spotting the past tense form of the verb.
- The section for *heureusement, ce désir à se moderniser* was very well answered, as was the next section, *n'a pas convaincu le Premier ministre*.
- The point about the competition being abandoned was very well done.
- Finally, the last section was well answered by many, though some did not convey *fidèlement* accurately.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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