
GCSE POLISH

8688/RF Reading Foundation tier
Report on the Examination

8688/RF
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General Comments

In this reading comprehension paper the overall range of marks was 0-60 with the mean mark approximately 42 out of 60 (70%). Many candidates attempted all questions and gained marks in most of them. The mean performance was a bit lower compared to that of the 2022 cohort, when a mean estimate of 45 (78%) out of 60.

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. On average around 90% gave a correct answer to 01.1, 01.2, and 01.3.

Question 2

Students did very well on three items in this question. Specifically, approximately 84% provided a correct response for 02.1 and 02.2, and just over 70% for 02.3.

In contrast to these three items, 02.4 proved more difficult as only about 60% of students gained a mark in this item. The most common incorrect answer given by students in item 02.4 was '*spending money*' or '*going to the cinema*' which wasn't a correct. The correct answer was '*travelling*'.

Question 3

This question was relatively well answered with just over 80% of students gaining the mark for 03.1 and almost two thirds for 03.2.

Question 4

This question was answered well by most of the students with the exception of item 04.1 which students found more challenging. Just under 60% answered correctly whereas around 80% of students answered correctly for the other three sub-questions. Some confusion arose as to where '*remembering their origins*' refers to past or present. Lots of students chose 'past' instead of 'now'.

Question 5

Most students answered both items of this question correctly. Over 60% of students were able to provide 2 correct answers for 05.1. Those who answered incorrectly usually described a disadvantage of art lesson as '*dirty books*' or '*dirty table*' instead of '*dirty uniform*', or provided only one answer which prevented them for scoring full marks.

Item 05.2 was answered well by almost 80% of students. However those who described an advantage of art lesson as '*learning to draw*' was not specific enough and as a result prevented them scoring full marks.

Question 6

This was the first of the overlap questions in this section of the paper. Like last year this question was very difficult for most students. They found adapted extract from the novel *Nad Niemnem* by Eliza Orzeszkowa not easy to answer correctly. A lot students gave incorrect answers '*not in the text*' instead of '*true*', making assumption while reading the text.

Some students had a problem with understanding the meaning of 'fair hair'. There is a clear description of a character in the extract, who has black hair .

Items 06.2, 06.5 and 06.7 saw more correct answers. Item 06.3 was well answered by approximately 56% of students and. Items 06.4 and 06.6 were correctly answered by approximately 70% of candidates.

Many students failed to understand the details of the text correctly and couldn't find the right answer. As a consequence, students provided incorrect answers.

Question 7

The majority of items were answered correctly with approximately 80%- 85% of students scoring full marks on items 07.1 -07.3.

Usually this type of question where students are asked to decide if the opinion is either positive or negative seems to be difficult to answer for them, however this year they coped with it very well .

Question 8

This question produced a mixed set of responses. Only just under 50% scored full marks (2 out of 2) on item 08.1. Question 08.2 was correctly answered around 45%.

The answer '*she had fun*' was too vague to gain a mark on item 08.1 and the answer '*go to the beach*' was too vague to gain a mark on item 08.2.

It was a very difficult question for students. Lots of them didn't provide two details in order to gain the full 2 marks available. Around 10% of students did not attempt item 08.1 or 08.2.

Section B

Question 9

Overall, under 50% of students managed to score the 3 full marks for this question whereas about 70% of students scored 2 marks.

Question 10

This question was also difficult for students with just under a third of students managing to score 3 marks out of the 3 available. Around 85 % of students scored at least 2 marks on this question.

Question 11

This question produced a mixed set of performances. Just under 60% of students gained the full 4 marks.

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 4 marks on this question. For many students this question was challenging. Only about half of the students gave a correct response to item 12.1; just under 70 % gained a mark in 12.2 and around 60% answered correctly in 12.3 and 12.4.

Many students erroneously interpreted the text rather than used the information from the text in order to answer the questions.

Question 13

This was the third of the overlap questions in the text. Many students did not provide two details in order to gain the full 4 marks available.

Approximately 30% of students did not attempt items 13.1 and 13.2. On item 13.2 only about 7% gained full marks and almost 35 % scored just one mark. In both items there were lots of answers that were not detailed enough to score a point. In item 13.2 the answer '*wielu utalentowanych muzyków*' didn't gain a mark because it was too vague. The answer needed to include words like '*wygrało czterech Polaków*'. This question asked specifically about Polish musicians.

Similarly, the answer '*bedzie jeszcze jeden Polak*' didn't lead to scoring a mark. The answer needed to include '*w jury będzie Polak*'. Lots of students didn't mention the word '*jury*' or '*sędzia*' which was crucial in order to receive a mark.

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.

Just over 50% of students gained 7 marks or less (around 10 % of students did not attempt this question compared to 5% last year). Overall, the question was relatively well answered though.

For the majority of students who failed to gain the marks, this was due to either lack of translation of key word or incorrect translation of all of the words included in the text. The most difficult words to translate were '*przeciwnicy*' - '*opponents*', '*obóz sportowy*'- '*sports camp*' , '*na pewno*' – '*definitely*'. Some of them misunderstood the text completely and used either the wrong tense or the wrong pronoun while translating.

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 check for errors and 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.