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# GCSE POLISH

8688/RH Reading Higher Tier  
Report on the Examination

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8688/RH  
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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 49 (81%) out of 60. The performance was similar compared to previous cohort of the 2022 . 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. 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 very well on items 01.2, 01.3, 01.4, 01.5, 01.6 and 01.7, where approximately 78%- 97% of the students scored full marks.

A lot students gave incorrect answers '*not in the text*' instead of '*true*' making assumption while reading the text. Some students might have 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 .

Some 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 2

Most items in this question were answered very well except for item 02.2. In this item some students provided answers that were not included in the text such as '*to help their development*', '*to learn new words*' or '*help them to read*' and failed to gain a mark. Nearly all students scored full marks on item 02.1 and 02.3.

**Question 3**

All items were answered correctly by the vast majority of students.

**Question 4**

This question produced a mixed set of performances. Item 04.1 proved the most challenging for most of the students. A majority of them didn't include Poland in the answer which resulted in only about 30% correct answers.

Under 50% of students scored a mark on item 04.3 where most students chose the beginning of the space mission, which was 27<sup>th</sup> June, as their answer.

**Question 5**

This 4 mark question was answered reasonably well with just under 70% of students scoring full marks. 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. Over 70% provided a correct response for 06.2 and over 80% for 06.3.

In item 06.1, some students provided an answer which was too vague to gain a mark such as; *'they built a tent', 'they unpacked' or 'set up a camp'*.

**Question 7**

This question proved to be quite challenging for many students with just under 40% scoring the full 4 marks available. The most common mistake was describing advantages of Marks work as: *'having his own business', 'earning a lot' or 'easy life'*.

Lots of students provided the *'need to be smart and determined'* as disadvantage, 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. All items were answered correctly by most students.

**Question 9**

This was the third of the overlap questions in the text. It proved a difficult question for many students. Many did not provide four details in order to gain the full 4 marks.

In item 09.2 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.

### Question 10

This question was relatively well answered with almost 75% of students gaining the mark for 10.1 and just under 70% for 10.2.

### Question 11

This question produced a mixed set of performances. Many students erroneously interpreted the text rather than used the information from the text.

Most of the students (around 70%) gave a correct response to item 11.1. Within item 11.1, most incorrect answers included answer A '*ekologicznym hotelu*'.

Within item 11.2, most incorrect answers included answer B '*kupować niedrogie pamiątki*'. Performance in item 11.3 was slightly better than the other sub-questions where nearly 90% of students answered correctly.

### 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 relatively well. Approximately 54% of students achieved mark 9 (out of 9) and around 90% received 7 marks or less. In addition, the mean performance mark was 8.01 (out of 9).

The most common mistake was imprecise translation of '*na przedmieściach dużego miasta*'. Some of them translated this phrase ; '*on the side of a big city*' , '*outside of the big city*', '*not far from the big city*', or '*next to the big city*' .

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 '*wnuki*' – grandchildren , '*wspólne zainteresowania*' -common interests, '*wkrótce*' -soon

### 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 contains no errors and 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.