

Edexcel GCE FRENCH

Unit 1 : Spoken Expression and Response in French 6FR01

Exemplar commentary 1

Controlled Assessment - Exemplar Material

PREFACE **Exemplar Use**

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Notes on the Exemplar

Please note that:

- Some items may have been removed, such as references to individuals and places. Please refer to the notes by the Principal Examiner for specific references.

General comments:

Format of the test

The assessment for this unit has two sections that total 50 marks.

Section A : candidates are required to respond to four set questions (which they will not have seen during the preparation time) on a stimulus related to their choice of a general topic area. The first two questions relate to the direct content of the stimulus text and normally require relatively short , factual answers. The next two questions invite students to express their opinions and/or give reactions to the content of the stimulus. Answers to the last two questions require to be detailed and developed. No rephrasing of questions is allowed (except from "vous" to "tu" forms of address) nor are any supplementary questions. In such cases, the answers elicited are discounted for assessment purposes.

Section B : the examiner engages the student in a discussion that, although still relating to the same general topic area and its linked subtopics, moves away from the main focus of the stimulus. It is very important that this part of the test should be a genuine discussion and not simply a question and answer exercise. Candidates should be deflected from reciting lengthy pre-learnt answers.

Candidates often require less than 4 minutes to provide good answers in section A. In that case, Section B should be extended by a sufficient amount of time for the overall test to last a minimum of 8 minutes. Short tests limit the mark for Accuracy, Range and Response. Long tests do not present any advantage, as examiners are instructed to stop listening soon after 10 minutes.

Assessment

Quality of language (Accuracy)

Genders, agreements, conjugation are the main elements considered, together with pronunciation and intonation. When the frequency and seriousness of errors start to impede communication, a mark of 2 or 3 or below is likely to be awarded.

Quality of language (Range of Lexis)

The range of general and topic-specific lexis is considered. There is no specific list of structures which ensure access to a top mark but, in the course of answering the set questions and in the following discussion, the candidate should be able to demonstrate command of various functions such as expressing opinions, agreeing, disagreeing, explaining, exemplifying and surmising. Examiners should challenge candidates in order to allow them to demonstrate this command.

Response

An overall judgement is made of the comprehension, fluency, spontaneity and development displayed by the candidate. It is very important that section B should consist of a real discussion and not a series of prepared questions and answers with no genuine discourse. In the case of totally recited tests, a cap is applied at 8/20 for this assessment.

Understanding (Stimulus Specific)

An overall judgement is made of the correctness of answers provided to all four questions. Q1 and 2 do not require the candidate to express opinions. Q3 and 4 bear more weight in the overall mark. Candidates should be trained to give a considered, balanced and developed answer to these two questions.

Understanding (General Topic Area)

Relevant (i.e. related to the chosen topic area) ideas and opinions are considered. The emphasis is on the quality of these ideas and opinions, not on their number. It is not necessary to cover all subtopics of the general Topic Area, as this approach tends to result in a superficial performance. Depth rather than breadth is what is required. A degree of reflexion and analysis is looked for. Basic, often personal questions of a GCSE standard kind, are not usually appropriate at this level.

Example 1

Stimulus/Task Title

Theme: Youth Culture and Concerns

Task: 2A Accros aux jeux vidéo

Principal Examiner's comments

Quality of language (Accuracy) mark : 6

The candidate speaks with a fair accent. Pronunciation and intonation are generally good. There is no problem with understanding. There is a lot of correct language but also quite a few errors of all kinds, particularly in conjugation. This performance fits well into the 6-7 box. The candidate was awarded 6 rather than 7 because of the frequency of errors which were not restricted to more complex language.

Quality of language (Range of Lexis) mark : 7

There is a good range of lexis, both general and topic specific, and we hear quite a few examples of more complex structures. Subordination is frequent, there is good use of pronouns and some idiomatic expressions. Again, this candidate's performance fits well into the 6-7 box.

Response mark : 16

This is a very fluent performance, with few hesitations, and it is largely spontaneous in the sense that, although it contains a lot of well-rehearsed language, all questions are answered in a natural way. There is often good development and most questions are dealt with adequately. It was felt, however, that this performance was not quite fluent and spontaneous enough to fit into the top **17-20 box**.

Understanding (Stimulus Specific) mark : 4

Q1: a good answer. Q2 : a good, full and detailed answer. Q3 : a good, well-balanced answer. Q4 : a very good, full and detailed answer.

Full and detailed answers, well worth full marks.

Understanding (General Topic Area) mark : 8

A well-prepared candidate who demonstrated good understanding of the topic area and who was able to express many relevant ideas and opinions.

Total : 41 marks

Timing: 9'25"