

# GCE French – 6FR04

## Research-based Essay Guide

### Exemplar 1 – Zone géographique

Summer 2014

#### **PREFACE**

##### **Use of Exemplar Material**

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##### **Notes on the Exemplar Material**

Please note that:

- Some items may have been removed, such as references to individuals and places. Please refer to the commentaries by the Principal Examiner for specific references.
- In order to maintain the authenticity of the writing, some errors and mistakes have been reproduced from the original candidate's response.

### Question 3 (a) – Zone géographique

***Jusqu'à quel point la région que vous avez étudiée a-t-elle été affectée par des changements sociaux ou politiques récents ?***

La région de Rhône- Alpes est la deuxième région par son poids économique et démographique. Avec plus de 6 millions d'habitants les problèmes sociaux ne sont pas rares mais sont quand même en baisse. Quel a été l'effet de ces changements sociaux sur la région ?

Une dichotomie en terme de précarité existe en Rhône- Alpes. Car le Nord-Est est plus précaire que le Sud-Ouest, cette dichotomie s'étend aussi à l'échelle communale car certaines communes comme Vaux-en-Velin sont plus pauvres que d'autres comme Meylan. Ce problème a été pris en considération par Jean-Jack Queyranne, le Président du conseil régional qui a aidé à augmenter les impôts pour les plus riches et les prestations sociales pour les plus pauvres. Ce changement, une meilleure redistribution fiscale, est assez récent et un vrai effet sur la région n'a pas encore été observé. Mais, à long terme, je pense que la décision prise par le conseil régional est intelligente car elle va rééquilibrer les différences sociales – un vrai effet positif.

Le chômage des jeunes, a été empiré après la crise économique de 2008, avec plus de 10% des 800000 jeunes sans emplois et seulement 30% avec. La création de contrats de générations et d'emplois francs en Rhône- Alpes a permis aux jeunes de milieux défavorisés et sans expérience de trouver du travail car les entreprises concernées comme « Renault Trucks » ont eu des incentives financières pour les embaucher. De plus, la région a aussi développé des zones-franches où les entreprises ont été données des incentives fiscales pour se installer et embaucher la population locale, ce qui a permis de réduire le taux de chômage à 8,9% ca aussi sous la moyenne de France métropolitaine 9,7%.

En conclusion, les changements sociaux récents sont le résultat d'actions prises par le conseil régional. À long terme elles ont pour but d'avoir un effet positif sur la région et réduire le taux de problèmes sociaux.

(285 words)

## **Commentary on Exemplar - Zone géographique**

In the Geographical part of Section C, candidates are invited to study an area relating to a French-language community. The region Rhône-Alpes fits this requirement and has enough material associated with it to cover potential questions on the sub-topics described in the specification and is thus an appropriate choice.

The essay is of an appropriate length, it goes only marginally beyond the upper word limit. It could be said that the candidate has slightly misinterpreted the question. This is suggested in the introduction which talks more of social problems, whereas the task refers to social or political change. The first of the major aspects treated in the body of the essay, the differences between the rich and the poor areas could more accurately be termed a problem than a development but, when describing attempts to deal with the situation, it can be considered that social change has been documented. The candidate points out that parts of the region are more favoured than others and is able to give examples of this unequal diversity.

The candidate also explains efforts by a local politician to mitigate the effects of this unequal distribution. At the end of this section the candidate is able to include a personal observation that the full long-term effects of these measures have yet to be seen, a very tenable contention.

The second aspect, youth unemployment, can be seen as more closely in line with the precise terms of the question. The candidate has clearly studied recent developments in the region and has given some useful detail derived from personal research. Some of this might give a little more precise information, for example on the incentives to reduce unemployment, but the candidate does illustrate the points being made in an informed way and has enough regional knowledge to explain what measures are being taken by firms on the ground to improve the situation in this regard. Factual knowledge of the region and the ability to analyse initiatives are evident. For Reading, Research and Understanding the candidate can be placed on the boundary of the Good and Very Good categories.

The essay has good shape. In a concise introduction it clearly sets out what is to be dealt with. The middle consists of two major paragraphs, each dealing with a recent development in the chosen region. Both paragraphs make internal, logical progress, are easy to follow and give a clear overview of the social aspect under consideration.

A short conclusion sums up the points made and puts them into a wider context. Very little, if anything, can be considered irrelevant or digressive.

For Organisation and Development the essay can be placed in the 7-8 range.

The language has errors in forms which reveal a certain phonetic quality in the French. However, it is naturally fluent, is easy to read and communication of the intended message is not compromised. There is some good vocabulary which is diverse and appropriate to the subject matter.

Some lexical items such as *précarité* and *dichotomie* reveal a richness not normally encountered. When discussing economic subject matter the candidate is able to use suitable vocabulary such as *impôts* (although *taxes* may really be intended), *prestations sociales*, *redistribution fiscale*, *milieux défavorisés*, *entreprises*, *le taux* and *embaucher* amongst others. A variety of structures and tenses is used successfully. The present, future and past tenses are all included quite naturally. Use of the passive is a little inconsistent but the candidate is at home with constructions involving *permettre*, with *ce qui* and with comparisons. All these and others are used accurately and appropriately. For Quality of Language the piece merits a score in the range 5-6.