

KFR0/02

Paper 2 Question 6

The aim of this question is to test the candidates' ability to write in French. Three stimuli will be provided, each with four or five bullet points which must be addressed by the candidates. Each bullet point need not be addressed in detail, but overall the candidates must write approximately 150 words on the given topic.

Marks will be awarded for Communication and Content (10 marks), Knowledge and Application of Language (5 marks) and Accuracy (5 marks). The mark grids are printed on page 13 of the Specification (Issue 1).

- Rubric : Un voyage scolaire
- Vous allez partir en visite scolaire, après les examens. Vous devez mentionner :
- où vous allez et pourquoi (Task 1)
 - ce que vous allez faire pendant la visite (Task 2)
 - comment vous avez préparé ce voyage (Task 3)
 - vos opinions sur les voyages scolaires (Task 4)
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The candidate has written 137 words and has done well to concentrate on quality rather than quantity.

Communication and content : This is always the first mark to be awarded. The examiners read the essay through and consider to what extent the response

a) is clear (Communication) and

b) addresses all bullet points of the task (Content).

Communication

It is unnecessary to look at the three lowest bands of the marking grid (0-4) as the reader does not have to struggle unduly to understand the text. It is therefore reasonable to start by looking first at Band 5-6. There is "some ambiguity":

je vais aller un scolaire

apprendre les enfants

si je réussais

preparer moi pour les longues jours

le voyage était très cher (the candidate has lost sight of the need for a future tense)

tu apprend l'expérience de nouvelle

The next step is to check whether the higher bands are more appropriate. If the essay is "clear with occasional ambiguity", then Band 5-6 is appropriate. If there is "clear communication with occasional ambiguity", then the essay should be placed in Band 7- 8. It is important to see how misleading the ambiguity might be. Is the language merely a little odd, or does the reader have to struggle to understand the writer's intentions? The overall information conveyed by the piece must

be taken into account. In this essay, the candidate has used 137 words and has managed to communicate the following ideas very clearly:

going to Africa (Task 1)

learning maths is important (Task 1 – additional information)

going to a safari park (Task 2)

mother might give money (Task 2 – additional information)

mother and daughter went shopping (Task 3)

to buy equipment for the trip (Task 3)

went for a walk with father (Task 3)

mixed feelings about school trips (Task 4)

mother unhappy about expense (Task 4 – additional, relevant information)

school trips are great (Task 4)

The essay is preponderantly clear but there is a significant amount of ambiguity, which would put the essay in Band 7-8 but nearer to 7 than 8 as there are possibly elements of Band 5-6.

Content

Again, starting at Band 5-6, it would be harsh to say that any of the candidate's comments were merely "mostly relevant" and that only "some aspects of the task" had been conveyed. The next band up then must be considered.

In Band-8, the candidate must have given a completely relevant response and have addressed "most aspects of the task". This certainly seems to have been achieved by the candidate. The examiner then checks whether the essay might deserve to be placed in the top band. There is no doubt that "the response is relevant". It is not evident that it "fully addresses all aspects of the task". It is not immediately obvious "why" the candidate is going to go on the school trip, but the attempt at *pourquoi* is there. It would be reasonable to award 9 marks for Content.

Overall mark Communication and Content

With 7 for Communication and 9 for content, this essay very neatly fits into the top of Band 7-8. It was awarded 8 marks.

Knowledge and application of Language

Starting with Band 1-2, the examiners first look at the vocabulary and structures to see if there is merely a "narrow range" at this level. There are many cognates or near cognates: *mathes* (sic), *importante*; *animals*, *parc*, *souvenirs*, *shopping*, *equipement*, *content*, *experience*. The candidate has also made use of much of the vocabulary of the stimulus: *visite*; *scolaire*; *voyage*. Much of the remaining vocabulary is fairly pedestrian: *amies*, *enfants*, *examens*, *jours*, *mère*, *père*, *fatigant*. This level of vocabulary would not place the candidate much above a mark of 2. However, a small handful of lexical items just manage to lift the essay out of Band 1-2 and into Band 3-4: *apprendre*; *Afrique*; *quelquefois*, *cependant* and *chouette*.

As far as structures are concerned, the candidate has put some effort into displaying a knowledge of structures which justify placing the essay in Band 3-4: *je pense que, afin de* + attempted infinitive, *si je* + attempt at finite verb, an object pronoun *me* and the subordinating conjunction *parce que*. The notion of “structures” also encompasses the use of idiom (*en Afrique*). Three of the structures are used twice as is allowed for within Band 3-4: “with some repetition”.

The candidate’s use of tenses is not secure, but there is “some use of tenses to vary the sentences”. It is therefore appropriate to look first at Band 3-4. The candidate is clearly able to manipulate the future tense, moving from *vous allez aller* of the stimulus to *je vais aller*. The candidate has attempted to use, mainly recognisably, the present, the imperfect (*était* is misplaced but *donnerais* correctly deployed) and the passé composé. The only use of a verb which does not fit a recognisable tense is *reussais*.

At this point, it must be remembered that the candidate has attempted to use these tenses in a form which can be recognised. Whether they have been used accurately or not is dealt with under the next marking grid (Accuracy) and is not relevant here. It is very important to keep the Accuracy mark separate from the Knowledge and application mark and not blur the two.

The range of tenses is adequate for Band 3-4.

Had the candidates successfully mastered expression such as *aller en visite* (which could have been gleaned from the stimulus), *aider à apprendre; apprendre aux enfants; pour acheter; de l’argent* (partitive article), *je me suis promené(e)* (with or without agreement which is the domain of “Accuracy”), *longtemps* (instead of *pour une longue temps*), (*pour*) *me préparer* the essay would have been awarded 4, but overall the level of language is not much more than just above average and so 3 was awarded.

Overall mark of Knowledge and application of language

A mark of 3 was awarded as there were several gaps in the candidate’s knowledge, the vocabulary was limited and knowledge of appropriate tenses not always shown.

Accuracy

It would be appropriate to first consider Band 1-2. The key word is possibly “Very” in the phrase “Very little evidence of correct verb formation”. The candidate has mastered the first person singular of the future, but not the first person plural. The present tense is sound in *je pense* and *sont* but inaccurate in *j’adoré* and *tu apprend*. The candidate has little control of the passé composé but has been able to use the imperfect (*était*) confidently and accurately. Overall, there does seem to be some evidence of correct verbs, so the mark could be placed just inside Band 3-4.

Gender, on the other hand, is quite sound (*la visite, un parc, ma mère, mon voyage, mon père*) with the exception of the repeated error: *longues temps* and *longues jour*. There are few errors of agreement: *c’est importante, content, chouette*.

Spelling is not always secure, but is more than “limited”, *mathes; voire, promenadé*, being the only very serious errors.

Overall mark for Accuracy

The candidate was awarded 4 for Accuracy.

General comment

It is important to distinguish “Knowledge and Application of Language” from “Accuracy” as it is imperative that marks are not withheld twice from a candidate. For example, in this essay, it is important to recognise that the candidate has not mastered partitive articles (*donnerais d'argent*). Once this lack of knowledge has been taken into account, the examiner will not take this 'aspect of the candidate's work' into consideration again when awarding a mark for Accuracy.

Overall mark

Communication and content = 8

Knowledge and application of language = 3

Accuracy = 4

Total = 15/20