

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 : (a) Vous êtes allé(e) au cinéma avec vos amis. Écrivez une description de votre visite. Vous devez mentionner :

- pourquoi vous avez décidé sur cette visite
- avec qui vous êtes allé(e)
- ce que vous avez fait en arrivant au cinéma
- vos opinions du film
- une chose que vous changeriez la prochaine fois.

The candidate has written 187 words.

Communication and content

The essay is clearly about a visit to a cinema. However, there is much that is not clear (Communication) and much that does not relate to the rubric (Content).

Communication

At the beginning of the essay, the candidate fails to convey whether s/he is writing about a specific visit to a cinema or if s/he is describing regular visits to cinemas. There are some rather random comments about the journeys to and from the cinema. It does seem strange that, following a film which started at 7 o'clock (morning or evening is not clear) the bus home did not depart until 2 o'clock.

On the one hand, examiners can glean some small amount of communication about journeys, opinions and the candidate's friend going to the bathroom, on the other hand, the following statements are completely unclear: *j'ai adoré la train parcé que ils sont independant; je voudrais aller regardé le film on puet; j'ai voudrais a viste la film, pacé que horrific; Ma mère et ma tante et moi visite la cinema a la denier.*

The candidate has been unable to recount the plot of the film seen. It is very rare that candidates will be asked to attempt such a complex task and less able candidates should not attempt to do so.

This level of achievement is considered to just reach Band 3-4 but at the bottom of the band.

#### Content

The reason given for going to the cinema is sketchy but just about conveyed. It is not clear whether the candidate went to the cinema with one friend or several.

There is no comment relating to what the candidate did on arriving at the cinema. This third bullet point was an invitation to candidates to talk about buying tickets, having a drink in the cinema café, buying pop-corn or meeting more friends. Here the candidate would have done well to replace *j'ai mangé du chocolaté* with *en arrivant au cinéma j'ai acheté du chocolat*. Candidates will glean some credit for content even if they copy directly from the rubric.

There are fleeting comments on the film being "good" and "horrific", but thereafter the candidate attempts to tell the story of the film. This attempt fails entirely. The candidate should have kept more closely to the rubric.

The last bullet point guides the candidate toward using the conditional tense. This candidate was unable to use correctly the conditional tense or to make his / her opinion intelligible.

The candidate has included much irrelevant material such as the journey to and from the cinema, the plot of the film and his/her friend's reaction.

On the whole, it would be considered that "the response is barely relevant to the task" and so would be placed in Band 1-2. As there is some passing relevance to the rubric, the higher of the two marks is appropriate.

#### Overall, for Communication and Content

The candidate would be awarded a mark of 3 as it is borderline between two bands and so is given the benefit of the doubt.

#### How to improve the Communication and content mark

Candidates almost always do better when they remember to use a paragraph for each bullet point. This discipline will help them to keep their essays relevant to the rubric.

#### Knowledge and application of language

The candidate has a very “narrow range of vocabulary”, consisting mainly of English cognates: *weekend, cinéma, film, train, independent, opinion, chocolaté, sœur, maison, salle de bains, autobus, mère, tante*. The candidate is aware neither of the false friend *ournée* or of the common use of the suffix *-que* to replace the *-ic* ending in English (*horrific*). There are some attempts at structures (*au cinéma; parcé que; à ma maison*) but overall the candidate has used simple sentences and has shown very little awareness of French structures.

Tenses are very confused. The candidate lurches from attempts at the past tense to the present tense. There is an attempt at a conditional tense. Overall, this essay must be placed in the lower part of Band 1-2.

### Accuracy

Candidates are not expected to use accents accurately in most of their writing. However, the accent indicating a past participle is required. Equally, an accent placed at the end of a verb which the candidate has intended as a present tense will be considered as an error (eg. *j'adoré*).

In the work of this candidate, correct verb formation is extremely limited. The candidate has attempted to use twenty nine verbs (including dependent infinitives). Of those, the only correctly, or nearly correctly, formed ones are *ils sont, cest / ces't, je voudrais, j'ai mangé, cetait*. The correct use of the dependent infinitive has eluded the candidate.

Genders are poor (*la film, la cinéma, la train*) and the candidate has a poor grasp of plural formation (*cinemaux; mes ami, ma opinions*). The candidate has spelled many words in a very anglicised manner (*choosé, lemonadé, horrific, américa, discussé*) and whereas there is one correct adjectival agreement resulting from a consequential error (*La cinema ces't tres grandé*), in other parts of the essay it is quite clear that the candidate has very little concept of agreement either for verbs or adjectives.

Overall the accuracy of this candidate must be placed in Band 1-2. As there is nothing of Band 3-4 in the work, the piece gains no more than 1 mark.

### Overall mark

Communication and content = 3

Knowledge and application of language = 1

Accuracy = 1

Total 5/20