

Moderators' Report/
Principal Moderator Feedback

Summer 2014

Entry Level Certificate
French (8924)

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PRINCIPLE MODERATOR'S REPORT 2014

The entry for this specification remains steady and the same centres enter year upon year; a different cohort and probably different staff but standards are maintained. It was particularly noticeable this year that very great care had been taken in the preparation of the samples.

Nevertheless things do change and this is particularly noticeable in the coursework tasks in which candidates embrace new technology and write about such things as their mobile phones and other electronic devices and of course footballers. Cultural insight will have been gained and candidates will have come to realise that they have much in common with their French counterparts. Many centres continue to make use of their candidates' IT skills, which seem to improve year upon year and these tasks are both colourful and original. This year every centre's candidates had used at least thirty words in the target language and without undue repetition. This is very much in the spirit of this specification.

It is obvious that these candidates have taken pride in their work and many had needed the additional support permissible within the specification. These personalised pieces of work have the edge over the work which is just rushed through and meets the minimum requirements.

The coursework tasks are a means of giving these youngsters an insight into French culture for example the differences in the school day.

If the correct paperwork is used and the records regularly updated there is very little that can go wrong. It remains a requirement that candidates authenticate their work and the up-to-date coursework record sheet allows for this. No centre should be using the old version of the coursework record sheet as there is no facility for the teacher's and the candidate's signature.

The tasks need to be carefully filed throughout the course and accurate records kept. All centres had correctly assessed the many tasks and submitted the appropriate levels.

A minority of centres are still recording the speaking tests on cassettes. The clarity of the recordings is much better if digital recordings are used.

NB: It should be noted that cassette tapes will no longer be accepted for moderation from September 2014. Centres are required to provide digital recordings (on CD or USB) of speaking assessments for moderation from Summer 2015 series onwards.

Once again there are teachers and support staff who have gone to a great deal of effort on behalf of their candidates to enable them to complete both the tasks and the coursework and their efforts are never underestimated by moderators.

The well-presented samples and careful administration greatly facilitated moderation. It is hoped that these comments will be helpful in the future.

