

Examiners' Report /
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2012

GCSE French (5FR03) Paper 3H

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Publications Code UG032214

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Question 1

Candidates were required to read a text in the form of an email about Jean-Yves' life, and to identify four correct statements from eight alternatives to demonstrate their comprehension. Most candidates scored three marks out of four. Gaining familiarity with texts of a similar complexity in the learning environment helps students to develop the skills needed to perform well in such exercises.

Question 2

The ability to read a short text and to identify which statement reflected each character's attitude was being tested. All parts were generally well answered. The ability to understand sections of text is required in such questions.

Question 3

Candidates had to read an email about a shopping trip and its consequences. Each of the questions was found to be of about the same level of difficulty, and the majority of candidates scored 2 or 3 out of 4. Access to similar texts would help students to gain the skills required.

Question 4

This was targeted at Grade A and was therefore found challenging by many candidates. Comprehension of a text based on an adapted authentic original was tested by questions in English. Candidates needed to find answers which were generally situated sequentially in the text. Some answers were obviously based on guesswork rather than any material in the text. Students need to have access to similar authentic materials containing some quite complicated structures to develop their ability to perform satisfactorily in this level of exercise.

Question 5

The question took the form of a letter about the problems a couple encountered during a stay at a hotel, with candidates being required to identify correct statements from three possibilities. Most scored at least 3 out of 4. Practice at reading short authentic texts for gist helps students to develop their ability to cope well with such tasks.

Question 6

Candidates had to read an email about life in Quebec based on an authentic model and identify the four topics mentioned in the text. Most scored at least 3 out of 4. The skills needed are similar to those tested in Question 1.

Question 7

Candidates had to read an online discussion about food and drink and identify which of the young people had expressed particular opinions. This was based on authentic sources, and access to similar online discussion in French would help to develop candidates' performance in such exercises.

Question 8

This was aimed at Grade A*. The text was adapted from an authentic original and contained some complicated material and structures, as is appropriate for a question at this level. The scores in this question were inevitably lower than in the others, which were less demanding. Candidates had to identify four correct statements from eight and then pair up the beginnings and ends of four statements, choosing from three alternatives. Access to authentic published material would help students to deal with such tasks.

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