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## **GCSE FRENCH LISTENING TEST SUMMER 2024 FOUNDATION LEVEL**

The unit was worth 50 marks and was divided into two sections: A and B. The first 12 questions, section A, were set in English (40 marks). The final two questions, Section B, were set in the target language (10 marks).

Candidates had 30 minutes in which to complete their answers, plus five minutes of general reading time at the start of the test.

### **SECTION A**

#### **QUESTION 1**

Candidates were asked to identify three items from a given list of seven, in the context of occupations. All of the answers were well known by candidates.

#### **QUESTION 2**

Candidates were asked to identify key points from someone talking about extracurricular activities. There were three multiple choice questions. The most frequent correct answers were part (ii), C, 'concerts', and part (iii), A. In part (i), less successful candidates failed to correctly identify *jeudi* in the extract and match it to answer D, 'Thursdays'. Incorrect answers were spread across A, B and C, with B 'Tuesdays' the most common incorrect answer.

#### **QUESTION 3**

Candidates were asked to identify where three people liked to go on holiday. They were asked to select one example for each person from a given list of seven. The most commonly correct answers given were A, 'I like big towns' and F, 'I prefer the beach'. The third correct answer, C, 'I go to the countryside', was generally well known, but where candidates got this wrong, D, 'I go to the mountains' was the most common incorrect answer.

#### **QUESTION 4**

Candidates were asked to identify what three young people recycle and to complete three sentences, choosing the correct word or phrase from seven options in a box. The most common correct answers were (a) 'video games' and (c) 'plastic bottles', with (b) 'mobile phones' proving the most difficult, some candidates failing to recognise the word *portables*. The most common incorrect answers in these questions were 'glass', 'clothes' and 'shoes', (candidates possibly linking *portables* to *porter*, in the sense of to wear clothes). There was evidence of some candidates not using the words or phrases given in the box to answer the questions and treating them as open-ended questions.

#### **QUESTION 5**

Candidates were asked to identify key points about the speaker's best friend. They had to answer four questions in English, worth 1 mark each. Questions (b) and (c) were the most common correct answers. In (a), the word *frère* was variously rendered as 'father', 'mother' and 'sister'. In (b), many candidates scored with either 'she is tall/ big' or 'she has black hair',

although answers like 'she has brown hair', 'she has brown/black eyes' were not uncommon. Some candidates put the two pieces of information together and gave incorrect answers such as 'she has big black hair'. Inevitably, some candidates confused *cheveux* and *chevaux* giving the answer 'she looked like a black horse'. In part (c), 'they go to the park' was the most common correct answer, 'they go on social media' was not frequently seen. Again, some candidates put together the two pieces of information and gave incorrect answers, such as 'they go to the park to socialise', 'they go to the resort'. In (d), the word *autoritaire* was not known and there were many incorrect answers such as 'nice', 'caring', 'annoying', 'protective', 'entertaining'. Some candidates misheard *autoritaire* as *ordinateur* and gave answers such as 'she likes going on the computer'.

#### QUESTION 6

Candidates were asked to identify what two young people liked about their work. They were asked to choose three from seven words given in a box. The most common correct answer was 'uniform' in part (b). In (a), the most common incorrect answer was 'hours'. In part (b), the most common incorrect answers were 'salary' and 'holidays'. Again, there was evidence of some candidates not using the words given in the box to answer the questions and treating these questions as open-ended questions.

#### QUESTION 7

Candidates were asked to identify what a young person does at the weekend. They were asked to choose three statements from a given list of seven. Answers D, 'visits her grandparents' and E, 'watches TV' were the most commonly correct answers. The most common incorrect answer was A, 'shops with her parents', with candidates failing to recognise the reference to *moi* in the sentence *Mes parents vont au supermarché, moi, je vais à un cours de danse*. Other incorrect answers indicated that less successful candidates often failed to listen to the whole sentence, choosing answers based on hearing single words, for example incorrectly ticking answer C, 'goes swimming' upon hearing the sentence *Mon frère va à la piscine*.

#### QUESTION 8

Candidates were asked to identify key points and details from someone talking about school. They were asked to answer three questions in English, worth 1 mark each. The most frequently correct answer was in (c), '(too) difficult'. In part (a), some candidates did not recognise *je vois* in the sentence *Le collège est important pour moi parce que je vois mes amis* and gave incorrect answers such as 'he can make friends or meet new people'. In part (b), the most common correct answer was 'they are useful', in the alternative answer, 'he likes speaking', some candidates didn't recognise the verb *parler*. Some heard it as 'Paris' and incorrect answers such as 'he likes going to Paris' were common as were answers such as 'he likes going to Spain'. Some candidates came up with answers which seemed unrelated to what was heard, e.g. in part (a) 'he likes basketball', 'he plays basketball', in part (b), 'it's easy' or 'it's fun'.

#### QUESTION 9

Candidates were asked to identify key points in an extract of someone speaking about a visit to a festival. There were four multiple choice questions. The most frequently correct answers were parts (ii) and (iv). In part (i), less successful candidates failed to recognise *dure 10 jours* and match it with answer B, '10 days'. Part (iii) was the least well done, with many candidates

failing to match *il y a de longs embouteillages* with answer A, 'causes lots of traffic'. The most common incorrect answer was B, 'creates a lot of rubbish', with less successful candidates failing to understand *il y a peu d'ordures*.

### QUESTION 10

Candidates were asked to identify key points and details of someone making a hotel booking. Candidates had to answer four questions in English, worth 1 mark each. The most frequently correct answers were in part (b), 'on television' or 'a documentary' and part (c), 'parking'. Part (d) was generally well done, but some candidates confused *chiens* with *chats* and wrote 'do they accept cats'. There was a choice of two answers for part (a), many candidates successfully identified *avec vue sur la mer* and gave the correct answer, 'with a sea view'. The alternative answer, 'with a (private) bathroom' was less well known and 'with a shower' was a common incorrect answer. Some candidates homed in on the word *premier* in *On arrivera le premier août* and gave answers such as 'a premier room' or 'a room on the first floor'. The word *août* also gave rise to quite a few answers in part (b), such as 'on the route'. Many candidates lost marks in part (b) by giving the answer 'from a document', a misunderstanding of the word *documentaire*. Quite a lot of candidates misread part (b) and answered the question 'What did the customer find out about the area?' (rather than 'How did the customer find out about the area?') and answers such as 'it is beautiful' were quite common. There were quite a lot of answers in parts (c) and (d) which were based on experience rather than what candidates heard, with answers such as 'is there a spa/ a lift/ a restaurant/ a swimming pool', 'do you get (free) food', 'are there meals', etc.

### QUESTION 11

Candidates were asked to identify the key points made by someone speaking about their future plans. They were asked to select three correct statements from a given list of seven. Successful candidates were able to recognise the use of tenses and time indicators and negatives to eliminate incorrect answers. The most common correct answers were G, 'Family is important to her', followed by D, 'She wants to be well paid'. The correct answer F, 'She plans to work part-time in the future' was not well done; many candidates did not know the meaning of *mi-temps* in *je vais travailler à mi-temps*. The most common incorrect answer was A, 'She is going to do volunteering', with candidates failing to recognise the negative in the *pas moi* in the sentence, *Beaucoup de mes amis veulent travailler comme volontaire mais pas moi*. Answer B, 'She wants to be a vet', was also a common incorrect answer, with candidates not recognising the tenses and time indicators in the sentence, *Quand j'étais petite, je voulais être vétérinaire mais maintenant je veux travailler dans le tourisme*.

### QUESTION 12

Candidates were asked to identify key points and details from someone talking about a charity event organised they had organised. Candidates had to answer three questions in English, giving four details, worth 1 mark each. Part (a) '(Christmas) presents/gifts' was generally well known, but common incorrect answers included 'Christmas cards/money/meals'. Candidates generally scored well in part (b), where there was a choice of two answers from three (clothes, coffee and toys). In part (b), 'video games' was a common incorrect answer, with candidates confusing *jeux vidéo* and *jouets*. The word *café* was often rendered as a *café* or *cafe*, with incorrect answers such as 'food in a *café*', 'go to a *café*' and, for part (c), where a lot of answers referred to 'open a *café*', 'run a *café*'. Again, there was evidence of mishearing, for example,

hearing *gâteaux* for *cadeaux* with references to cakes. In part (b), quite a lot of candidates gave the answer 'baguettes' or 'bread', possibly from the word *boîtes* or *paquets* and *vêtements* was heard as *vet* and there were answers such as 'visit to a vet', 'dog food', 'pet food'. In part (c), *gens* was often understood as *jeunes* with answers like 'get more young people to join in'.

## **SECTION B**

### **QUESTION 13**

Candidates were asked to identify key points and details about a visit to a restaurant. Candidates had to complete five sentences in the target language. They had to select five answers from a given list of 11. The most common correct answers were in part (a), *végétariennes*, in part (d), *désagréable* and in part (e), *la réservation*. In part (b), many candidates were unable to match *Il y avait beaucoup de gens* with the word *clients* in the box and chose answers which were grammatically incorrect such as *poli* or *cher*. In part (c), less successful candidates either did not hear the negative in the sentence, *Le repas était bon, on n'a pas payé cher* or read the negative in the question, *Le repas n'était pas ...* and *bon* was a common incorrect answer. As with other questions where candidates were asked to choose answers from those given in the box, some candidates ignored the given answers and attempted to complete the task as open-ended questions.

### **QUESTION 14**

Candidates were asked to identify information about a school trip. Candidates had to complete five sentences with the correct name from a given list of four. The most common correct answers were (b), 'Ahmed', (c), 'Sylvie' and (e), 'Elia'. In part (a), many candidates did not match the reference to *acheter des souvenirs* with the word *magasin* in the question, presumably because they did not listen to the whole sentence, but homed in on the single word *magasin*. The most common incorrect answer for part (a) was 'Sylvie', with candidates incorrectly matching *Sylvie a perdu 50€ dans le magasin* with this part of the question. In part (d), many candidates either did not understand the sentence *Ahmed a trouvé le voyage en bus amusant mais Gaspard était assis à côté du professeur, il ne s'est pas amusé* or again did not see the negative in the question (... *n'a pas aimé le voyage*), or because the candidates were operating at word level rather than understanding the full sentence, and 'Ahmed' was the most common incorrect answer for this part of the question.

## **SUMMARY AND ADVICE TO CENTRES**

Marks lost in this examination are most typified by answers provided for the following questions.

### **SECTION A**

Questions 1,2,3,4,5, and 6: These questions tested candidates' understanding of vocabulary items listed in the specification for Foundation level. Candidates should be aware that the items in the minimum core vocabulary list will be tested and also be aware of the pronunciation of individual words. This also includes days of the week, months of the year and numbers.

TIPS:

- The question title, e.g. 'Occupations', 'Holiday destinations', provides an important clue to comprehension.
- Advise candidates to use the reading time available to think about the question title and the key words they are likely to hear.
- Candidates sometimes ticked too many boxes in the grids.
- Advise candidates to check the number of marks available for each question. These are noted at the bottom of each question set.
- Where candidates have to choose answers from a box (Questions 4, 6, 13), advise candidates to choose from the answers given and to not to try and answer the questions in their own words.

Questions 5, 8, 10 and 12: These questions asked candidates to briefly respond to questions asked in English.

TIPS:

- Advise candidates to use the reading time available to think carefully about the questions asked. For example, in Q10 (a), How did the customer find out about the area? An answer such as it is beautiful does not answer the question set.
- Short answers only are required. Too much information given can sometimes negate the given response. for example, in Q5 (b), big black hair. Or in 12(b) coffee for adults.

Questions 7, 9, 11 (and Question 14): These questions asked candidates to pick out a required number of answers from a given list.

TIPS:

- Advise candidates to listen to the whole sentence and not just home in on individual words, they should listen for the use of negation, time indicators, tenses, the use of the comparative, qualifiers and positive and negative opinions.

## **SECTION B**

Questions 13 and 14: These are set in the target language and required candidates to complete sentences in Question 13 and to identify the views of named individuals in Question 14.

TIPS:

- Advise candidates to use the reading time to try and work out in Question 13 what part of speech is required to complete the sentences. For example, In Question 13 (b), *Il y avait beaucoup de ...* needs to be followed by a noun so adjectives such as *poli* or *cher* are incorrect. In Question 14, candidates should take time to work out the meaning of the individual statements. They should also listen for negative and positive statements, comparatives, time indicators and tenses.

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