



# Examiners' Report Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel GCSE  
In French (1FR0)

Paper 1F: Listening and Understanding in  
French

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## Introduction

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 television. All the answers were well known by candidates.

### Question 2

Candidates were asked to identify key points from someone talking about caring for the environment. There were three multiple choice questions. The most frequent correct answer was part (iii), C, "forests". In part (i), D was less well known and answer C, "by bus", was a common incorrect answer. In part (ii), less successful candidates failed to correctly identify *douche* in the extract and match it to answer A, "always showers". Incorrect answers were spread across B, C and D.

### Question 3

Candidates were asked to identify how three people are good students. They were asked to select one example for each person from a given list of seven. The most commonly correct answers given were D, "listen to the teachers" and G, "always have his/her books and pens". The third correct answer, A, "always do homework", was generally well known but where candidates got this wrong, answer F, "get good grades", was the most common incorrect answer.

### Question 4

Candidates were asked to identify what three young people liked about their town and to complete three sentences, choosing the correct word or phrase from seven options in a box. All of the answers were well known by the candidates.

### Question 5

Candidates were asked to identify key points about the speaker's job. They had to answer four questions in English, worth 1 mark each. Questions (b), (c) and (d) were the most common correct answers. In (a), the word *boulangerie* was not well known, many candidates gave the incorrect answer "launderette", "laundry shop", presumably from a misunderstanding of the *langerie* sound. Another common incorrect answer was "butcher's", other incorrect answers were sometimes guesswork, such as, "office". In (b), incorrect answers were often from rendering the word *amusant* as amazing in English. In (c), most candidates gave the correct answer of "good pay/salary" etc and the correct alternative answer, "the customers/clients are nice", was much less common. In (d), the candidates had the choice of two possible correct answers but unfortunately, less successful candidates picked correct elements from the two choices to form incorrect answers e.g., "the uniform is tiring".

## Question 6

Candidates were asked to identify which activities two young people did at school. They were asked to choose three from seven words given in a box. The most common correct answer was, "football team", in part (b). In (a), the most common incorrect answers were "science club" or "chess club". In part (b), the most common incorrect answers were, "orchestra", and again, "chess club", or "science club".

## Question 7

Candidates were asked to identify what a young person liked about her holiday. They were asked to choose three statements from a given list of seven. Answers B, "the people" and G, "the weather", were the most commonly correct answers. Incorrect answers indicated that less successful candidates often failed to listen to the whole sentence, choosing answers based on hearing single words. The most common incorrect answer was D, "the shops", with candidates failing to recognise the negative in *les magasins ne sont pas intéressants* or D, "the hotel", from misunderstanding, *notre hôtel est nul*.

## Question 8

Candidates were asked to identify key points and details from someone talking about how they celebrate their birthday. They were asked to answer three questions in English, worth 1 mark each. The most frequently correct answers were in (b), either "bowling (alley)", or "cinema" and (c), "(mobile) phone". In part (c), the alternative answer "trainers" (from *baskets*) was less well done, and a common incorrect answer was, "a basketball", and even, "basketball hoop". Again, some candidates took key words from the two alternatives to form incorrect answers such as, "portable basketball". In part (a), *repas* was not well known and many interpreted, *je mange un repas spécial en famille* as going to a restaurant with family. *Ma mère achète un grand gâteau* was often rendered incorrectly as, "his mother makes a cake", and the word *achète* led to incorrect answers such as, "they buy him lots of presents". Other candidates failed to score because they added extra detail such as, "they eat a chocolate birthday cake".

## Question 9

Candidates were asked to identify key points in an extract of someone speaking about learning languages. There were four multiple choice questions. The most frequently correct answers were parts (i) and (iii). Part (ii) was the least well done with less successful candidates failing to recognise, *Je vais apprendre le chinois à l'université*, the most common incorrect answer was C, "Polish". In part (iv), many candidates failed to match, *tout le monde doit apprendre une langue* with answer C, "essential". The most incorrect answer was A, "easy", with candidates not recognising the use of the negative in, *même si ce n'est pas facile*, in the extract.

## Question 10

Candidates were asked to identify key points and details of someone talking about their ambitions. Candidates had to answer three questions in English, two questions worth one mark and one question worth two marks. The most frequently correct answer was in part (a), mechanic. Part (b) was generally well done but some candidates added incorrect information e.g., "works/helps in the garage with his brother/parents". In part (c), candidates had the choice of 3 answers the most commonly correct answers were, "travel (with his family)", and "play in a group (with his friends)". The use of *pays* in *visiter beaucoup de pays* led to answers such as, "visit Wales", (presumably from *Pays de Galles*), which was very common, as were, "visit Paris", and "have a

well-paid job". It also led to answers such as, "visit Europe, Australia, Spain, France". The third alternative, "learn to play the drums", was less well known, answers such as, "learn to play the guitar", were not uncommon. Other incorrect answers arose when candidates rendered *batterie* as (car) batteries and gave answers such as, "learn about batteries", were common. Where candidates did less well, they tended to pick out individual works and create incorrect answers such as, "travel to visit his family", "go to a music concert/festival with his friends", "see his favourite group with his friends". Some answers were guessing work e.g., "start a dance group with his friends".

### Question 11

Candidates were asked to identify the key points made by someone speaking about the Christmas market in Lille. They were asked to select three correct statements from a given list of seven. The most common correct answers were C, "It attracts foreign visitors", and G, "The quickest way to get there is by tube". The correct answer B, "It closes on the 31<sup>st</sup> December", was not well done, many candidates not recognising *Le marché dure jusqu'au 31 décembre*. The most common incorrect answer was A, "It is open on Christmas day", with candidates misunderstanding, *il est fermé le jour de Noël*. Answer D, "The people who work there are all local", was also a common incorrect answer with candidates not recognising, *Les employés viennent de toutes les régions de la France*.

### Question 12

Candidates were asked to identify key points and details from someone talking about a charity. Candidates had to answer three questions in English, giving four details, worth 1 mark each. Part (a) proved challenging, there were two possible answers for this question, "sick children/ children in hospital". Many candidates did not understand the adjective *malades* in *des enfants malades*. The alternative answer, "children in hospital", was more accessible but again many candidates failed to recognise *des enfants malades à l'hôpital*. Incorrect answers such as, "children in need", "underprivileged children", "the homeless", etc were common. Part (b) was generally well done, candidates had to identify two details from three, "visit a stadium", and "watch football matches", were common correct answers. The third alternative answer, "meet sports celebrities", was less common but was successfully understood by quite a few candidates. Less successful candidates either gave one-word answers such as "football/stadium/celebrity" or picked out single words and created answers around them e.g., "play in football matches", "watch celebrity football matches", "visit celebrities". Some incorrect answers were guesswork rather than based on what was heard with answers such as, "swimming, play basketball/volleyball/netball/cycling". Part (c) was generally well done with many candidates recognising the number 18 but incorrect answers covered a wide range: 13, 14, 16, 19, 21, 24, 25, 31. Some candidates failed to read the question, (How old do you have to be to volunteer?) and "visit the website" was relatively common.

## Section B

### Question 13

Candidates were asked to identify key points and details of a young person talking about their experience at primary school. 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 (c), "*livres de fantaisie*" and (d), "*facile*". Parts (a) and (b) were less successfully done. In part (a) candidates failed to recognise the negative or possibly the verb *dessiner* in, *à l'école primaire je n'aimais pas écrire mais j'adorais dessiner*, "*écrire*" was a common incorrect answer but so was, "*sciences*". In part (b) many candidates failed to recognise the tenses and time indicators in, *Je préférais les*

*sciences. Mais, maintenant au collège, ma matière préférée, ce sont les maths.* Here also, the most common incorrect answer was, "*sciences*". Part (e) proved the most difficult, with many candidates failing to match, *Je n'avais pas beaucoup de devoirs* with "*peu*" in the box.

### Question 14

Candidates were asked to identify information about holiday preferences. Candidates had to complete five sentences with the correct name from a given list of four. The most common correct answers were (b), Aya, (c), Léo and (e), Jamal. In part (a), many candidates did not match the reference to *goûter la cuisine locale* in, *Mouna, quand elle visite une région, elle adore goûter la cuisine locale*, with, "*mange toujours les spécialités de la région*". The most common incorrect answer for part (a) was Jamal. In part (d), many candidates either did not understand the sentence, *Mouna ne prend plus l'avion* or recognise the use of *ne ...plus*, or possibly the use of *ne ...pas* in the question. The most common incorrect answer for this part of the question was Aya, a misunderstanding of *Elle part toujours en avion*.

### 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.

The question title, e.g. 'Television, 'School Activities', 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 must 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.

Advise candidates to use the reading time available to think carefully about the questions asked. For example, in Q12 (c), How old do you have to be to volunteer? The answer, "visit the website", does not answer the question.

Short answers only are required. Too much information given can sometimes negate the given response, for example, in Q5 (d), "the uniform is tiring". In Question 8 (a), "they eat a chocolate birthday cake".

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

Advise candidates to listen to the whole sentence and not just 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.

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 (d), *Le travail était ...* needs to be followed by an adjective so answers such as, "*romans*" 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.

