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Principal Examiner Feedback

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In FRENCH (1FR01) Paper 1F

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GCSE FRENCH LISTENING TEST SUMMER 2023 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, this included 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 school subjects. The most common correct answers were A, French and F, Drama. Answer B, Art was less well known, with less successful candidates failing to recognise the word *dessin*. The most common incorrect answers were, E, IT and G, Science.

QUESTION 2

Candidates were asked to identify key points from someone talking about their ambitions. There were three multiple choice questions. The most frequent correct answers were part (i), B, doctor, and part (ii), A, earn a lot of money. In (iii), less successful candidates failed to correctly identify *États Unis* in the extract and match it to answer C, the USA. Incorrect answers were spread across A and B, with B, Italy the most common incorrect answer.

QUESTION 3

Candidates were asked to identify where three people wanted to go in the town. They were asked to select one example for each person from a given list of seven. The most commonly correct answers given were A, museum and E, post office. The third correct answer, G, market was generally well known but where candidates got this wrong, C shopping centre was the most common incorrect answer.

QUESTION 4

Candidates were asked to identify the pastimes of three young people and to complete three sentences, choosing the correct word or phrase from seven options in a box. The most common correct answers were (a) films and (c) music, with (b) going out proving the most difficult, candidates failing to recognise the word *sortir*. The most common incorrect answer in these questions was skateboarding. 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 how the speaker helped good causes. They had to answer four questions in English. Questions (a) and (d) were the most common correct answers. In (b), *On parle* was generally well known but the alternative answer *On joue aux cartes* was less well known and interpreted by many as cat, which led to answers such as stroke the cat, play with the cat, take the cat for a walk, etc. It was also variously translated as play catch, go carting. Some candidates combined correct information from *On parle* with the an incorrect rendering of *cartes* as cat and gave the incorrect answer, talk to the cat. In (c), the word *livres* was generally well known but money was a common incorrect answer, along with liver, time and donations.

QUESTION 6

Candidates were asked to identify what two young people liked about holidays in Cannes. They were asked to choose three from seven words given in a box. The most common correct answer was, sea in part (a), followed by sports in (b). In (b) where candidates failed to recognise *Il y a aussi un grand centre commercial, j'adore faire les magasins, and match it with shopping*, the most common incorrect answers were hotels and concerts. Again, there was evidence of some candidates not using the words given in the box to answer the questions and treating them as open-ended questions.

QUESTION 7

Candidates were asked to identify what a young person liked about their part time job. They were asked to choose three statements from a given list of seven. Answers A, the hours and C, the customers were the most commonly correct answers. In F, many candidates failed to make the link between *Le travail est intéressant* and the work. The most common incorrect answer was B, the boss, with candidates failing to recognise *Le directeur n'est pas gentil*, as a negative statement that expressed dislike rather than something the speaker liked. This was also true for other incorrect answers, where less successful candidates often failed to listen to the whole sentence, for example incorrectly ticking answer E, the salary, upon hearing the sentence *Le salaire n'est pas bon*.

QUESTION 8

Candidates were asked to identify key points and details from a speaker talking about pocket money. They were asked to answer three questions in English. The most frequently correct answer was in (c), either (going to) the cinema or (buying) sweets. Some candidates lost marks because they put the two pieces of information together and gave incorrect answers such as buying sweets at the cinema. In part (a), the number 40 was not well known and there were a large variety of numbers given as a response. In part (b), *Si je garde ma petite soeur* was not well known and many answers were based on taking elements heard and creating answers around them such as she gets it from her sister, she works in the cinema. Some incorrect answers were based on experience rather than what was heard, such as she does chores, she works extra hours.

QUESTION 9

Candidates were asked to identify key points in an extract of someone speaking about helping to improve their local environment. There were four multiple choice questions. The most frequently correct answers were parts (ii) and (iv). In part (i), less successful candidates did not distinguish between the present tense in *Normalement j'aide le week-end* and the past tense in *Il y a un mois, j'ai participé au grand nettoyage*, and the most common incorrect answer was A, last weekend. In part (iv), (On Sunday it was ...), the most common incorrect answer was C, hot, less successful candidates failing to recognise the reference to Saturday in *Samedi, il a fait chaud*, and missing the correct reference in *Dimanche,..... le problème a été le vent* which would have led them to the correct answer, A.

QUESTION 10

Candidates were asked to identify key points and details of someone speaking about rules at their school. Candidates had to answer three questions in English, giving four marks. The most frequently correct answers for two marks were in part (a), respect the teacher and (respect the other) students. The correct alternative option, always try/ make an effort was less common. Incorrect answers for this part of the question, were random and based on personal experience rather than what was heard with answers such as, you have to be on time, you have to wear uniform etc. In part (b), the correct answer, necessary/fair was also

generally well recognised although some candidates gave the incorrect answer unnecessary. In part (c), less successful candidates failed to recognise the word *maquillage* and as with incorrect answers to part (a), answers for this part of the question were random and based on personal experience, with incorrect answers such as, you can't use your mobile phone, you can't go to the toilet, you have to come to school etc and lots of references to uniform, possibly from hearing the verb *porter* in *Il est interdit de porter du maquillage*.

QUESTION 11

Candidates were asked to identify the key points made by someone speaking about a camping trip. 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 adjectives to eliminate incorrect answers. The most common correct answers were B, It was his first time camping, from *C'était une nouvelle expérience pour moi*, and answer F, The restaurant food was very good, from the two clear references to eating in the restaurant and the phrase *On y mangeait bien*. The most common incorrect answers given were D, The water in the showers was cold, less successful candidates possibly confusing *froides* and *chaudes* in the phrase *Les douches étaient chaudes* and answer C, The shower block was very modern, less successfully candidates failing to understand *Le bloc sanitaire était assez vieux*.

QUESTION 12.

Candidates were asked to identify key points and details from a factual text on an annual music festival. Candidates had to answer four questions in English, giving four details. The most frequently correct answer was in part (b), play/perform in public. In part (a), many candidates failed to recognise the date, *le 21 juin*. Incorrect attempts at the month produced a wide variety of answers ranging from January to December. Other answers given ranged from this weekend to next month, next year. In part (c), the word *gratuit* was not well recognised and incorrect answers were based on general knowledge rather than what was heard with answers such as, the price varies according to the performers, it's very expensive. Incorrect answers for part (d), were also based on perceived knowledge and in a field was a very common incorrect answer along with answers such as, in the countryside, in the mountains, in a park, in a town. The expression *dans la rue* was not well known, some candidates heard *rue* as Rome, which was also a common incorrect answer.

SECTION B

QUESTION 13

Candidates were asked to identify key points and details about the speaker's work experience. 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 (b), *dans le restaurant* and in part (c), *cuisinier*. In part (a), many candidates failed to understand or hear *Je travaille de juillet à septembre* and to link it with *été*. Likewise in part (d), many candidates failed to understand, *Je travaille le week-end* and completed the question, *Il ne travaille pas le ...* with the incorrect answer, *week-end*. They also possibly did not recognise the meaning of *libre* in *j'ai le jeudi de libre*. In part (e), less successfully candidates failed to understand *Heureusement, j'ai appris l'anglais*, and gave the incorrect answer *espagnol*, possibly because it was the last word they heard. Less successful candidates obviously did not fully understand the five sentences in the question and many showed little grammatical awareness, choosing random answers, e.g. in (c), *Son ambition est d'être week-end*. 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 the sporting activities of a group of friends. Candidates had to complete five sentences with the correct name from a given list of four. The most common correct answers were (a), Roselyne and (b), Loïc. In parts (c) and (d), less successful candidates confused Gwenaëlle and Fahrid, and these answers were often the wrong way round, possibly because candidates did not recognise the verb *s'entraîne* in part (d) and failed to match it with Fahrid (*Il nage deux heures tous le matins*). If they did understand *s'entraîne*, some candidates assumed incorrectly that it must be a reference to Gwenaëlle because of the phrase, *Elle veut jouer pour une équipe professionnelle*. In part (e), some candidates failed to recognise the use of the immediate future and failed to match ... *va apprendre un nouveau sport* with Roselyne, *Elle va bientôt apprendre le patinage*. Incorrect answers for the other parts of the question were random with less successful candidates failing to understand the statements in the question or to correctly match what was said to the paraphrased questions.

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. 'Places in the town' provides an important clue.

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 Q12 (a), What is the exact date of the music festival? an answer such as in France does not answer the question set.

Short answers only are required. Too much information given can sometimes negate the given response. for example, in Q8 (c), buying sweets at the cinema.

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 hone 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 (c), *Son ambition est d'être ...* needs to be followed by an occupation. In Question 14 candidates should take time to work out the meaning of the individual statements.