



# **Examiners' Report June 2023**

**GCSE French 1FR0 4F**

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June 2023

Publications Code 1FR0\_4F\_2306\_ER

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## Introduction

On this 60-mark paper, candidates are assessed on their ability to communicate in written French. They are expected to write effectively for a variety of purposes across a range of specified contexts and to show competency in the following areas.

### **Communication for different purposes and in different settings to interest, inform and convince**

- To describe and narrate in short and more extended texts in a clear and coherent way to convey meaning, give information, present facts, key points, express and justify ideas and opinions and translate short sentences.

### **Language**

- Write simple sentences in familiar language and use a variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures, with some complexity, accurately and fluently.
- Use present, past and future tenses.
- Use appropriate style and register.

### **The Paper**

- An assessment time of one hour and ten minutes.
- Dictionaries are not permitted.
- Instructions to candidates are all in French.
- There are three open questions and five translation sentences.
- Candidates have to answer all questions with two questions presenting two options.
- Recommended word counts are specified for each open question but candidates are not penalised for exceeding or falling short of the word limit or for going beyond the mandatory bullet points.
- Each question is set in a context drawn from the themes and topics.
- Tasks feature general content that are familiar and accessible to all candidates.
- The length required for each response and the complexity of language increases across the paper.

### **Assessment**

Candidates' abilities are assessed accordingly:

Question 1: describe and give an opinion.

Question 2: note down key points and convey information. Candidates have to use the formal register.

Question 3: convey information, narrate, express opinions, interest and convince. Candidates have to use the informal register. This question is common to the higher tier paper.

Question 4: translate five sentences from English to French. The sentences are ordered in increasing level of difficulty.

Candidates seemed to be very well prepared this year (with examiners experiencing fewer blank scripts) and generally, questions were well understood.

## Question 1

This question addresses the theme of Future Aspirations, Study and Work and the topic of part-time work. Candidates write 20 – 30 words describing a photo and giving an opinion on babysitting .

On the whole, candidates performed very well on this question. There were some very good responses, where candidates fulfilled the task successfully, describing the photo and giving an opinion about babysitting. This included the correct use of the present tense and some good vocabulary and adjectives with some being quite accurate. Some candidates used such constructions as 'être en train de' and 'avoir l'air de' and the verb 'sembler', which were very impressive. Therefore quite a few candidates scored in the top boxes of both parts of the mark scheme.

Errors in vocabulary included such words as 'enfant, femmes, personnes' and grammar errors were made in present tense verbs and transferring English Continuous Present into French to produce 'elles sont jouent/jouer'. The use of a singular verb with a plural subject pronoun such as 'elles joue' was an issue too. Some candidates attempted in vain to give the French for the word blocks, but most candidates were able to convey the more general notion of playing by using the familiar verb 'jouer'.

Very few candidates exceeded the word count nor only fulfilled one part of the question, which showed good preparation.



1 Écris une description de la photo **et** exprime ton opinion sur le baby-sitting.

Écris 20–30 mots environ **en français**.

Dans la photo il y a deux gemmes, un est petite et un est grande

Mon opinion sur le baby-sitting est c'est drôle et c'est bien payé



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

This answer has 27 words which fully communicate the task, albeit very succinctly. The language is also very good even though there is no linking and there is only a small selection of verbs/structures. However it is very accurate. This just fulfils the criteria for 6, 6, but could have been awarded 6,5.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

To ensure full marks for both Communication and Content and Linguistic Knowledge and Accuracy, candidates should ensure they give some linking as well as being accurate.



1 Écris une description de la photo **et** exprime ton opinion sur le baby-sitting.

Écris 20–30 mots environ **en français**.

Sur la photo il y a deux gens. Un filles  
est tres petite, et le deux filles est  
grand et la noir longs cheveux. Ils sont souers. Ils sont  
joue.



This answer is 29 words long and describes the photo, all of which is understandable. There is however no opinion, so the piece cannot score marks in the top box for Communication and Content. There is no linking and a couple of the verbs are incorrect.



To achieve a mark in the top box for Communication and Content, candidates have to fulfil both the description of the photo as well as give an opinion. Checking that verbs agree with the subject can make a difference to the score for Linguistic Knowledge and Accuracy as well as making sure that the present tense is just one verb rather than a literal translation of the English, eg 'are playing.'



1 Écris une description de la photo **et** exprime ton opinion sur le baby-sitting.

Écris 20–30 mots environ **en français**.

Sur la photo deux enfants une  
avec brun cheveux et une brun  
cheveux. Une est <sup>douze</sup> ~~vingt~~ et une cinq.  
Deux enfants est joue.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

There is some information conveyed, so 3 is awarded for Communication and Content, but it is quite repetitive. There are quite a few errors, with the only correct phrase being 'sur la photo'. However as the errors do not hinder meaning, this piece scores 3 (just) for Linguistic Knowledge and Accuracy.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Candidates are advised to make sure they are able to spell basic vocabulary items and include a verb in every sentence. They should also know basic verbs such as 'être, avoir' and regular 'er' verbs.

## Question 2 (a)

This question addresses the theme of Identity and Culture and the topic of food and drink. There were some full and successful answers, where all points were addressed. Coverage and understanding of all the bullet points for this question was significantly better than previous years and may be in no small part to some candidates having clearly been instructed to begin each answer with all or part of the wording of the bullet point, which seemed to situate the requirement firmly in candidates' minds and meant they didn't stray from it. The more successful answers adhered to the word limit. There were some good answers to bullet point 1 with some candidates circumventing date numbers by giving a figure. For bullet point two, the simplest answers were the most effective and successful. Bullet point three asked about what the candidate likes to eat, which gave candidates the opportunity to list some familiar food vocabulary, which was pleasing to see. The immediate future was well conjugated for bullet point four on the whole and most candidates answered this very well. Overall, there were some good linking phrases with some candidates using correct present and future tenses.

Common issues included some candidates not knowing how to give a date for bullet point one and, for bullet point three, instead of giving 'j'aime' to indicate what they like to eat generally, some wrote 'je voudrais' implying that they were ordering their food for their visit to the restaurant.

Common language mistakes included incorrect spelling of months of the year and the conjugation of the future tense was often given as 'je vais...allé'.

2 (a) Écris à un restaurant en France.

Écris :

- la date de ta réservation
- la raison de ta visite
- ce que tu aimes manger
- avec qui tu vas aller au restaurant.

Écris 40–50 mots environ **en français**.

(16)

*Monsieur/Madame,*

Je voudrais un reservation pour ma famille et moi pour Vendredi 10~~11~~ Août.

Mon raison est ~~pour moi~~ c'est mon anniversaire et j'adore la nourriture.

Je voudrais manger les légumes parce que je suis ~~vegetarienne~~ végétarienne. Aussi Je voudrais un gâteau.

Je voudrais un tableau pour dix personnes parce que j'irai avec ma famille et mes amies.

*Cordialement*

Lucy



A coherent piece with all bullet points addressed and some development. There is no future tense for bullet point four but it is implied with 'je voudrais' and the use of 'tableau' is misleading. Similarly the use of 'je voudrais' for the third bullet point is not quite right, but does convey what the candidate likes to eat. The language is solid with some linking and mostly correct verbs and tenses.



This question only requires the present and future tenses, so candidates are advised to concentrate on those two and avoid the use of 'je voudrais'. It is also important to make sure the tense in bullet points is understood and therefore what is being asked for, eg in bullet point three.

2 (a) Écris à un restaurant en France.

Écris :

- la date de ta réservation
- la raison de ta visite
- ce que tu aimes manger
- avec qui tu vas aller au restaurant.

Écris 40–50 mots environ **en français**.

(16)

Monsieur/Madame,

Je voudrais un réservation pour le <sup>23rd</sup> 20m 24e Juillet, ~~8th~~  
La raison de la visite ~~est~~ car c'est mon anniversaire  
me compain kameron. Je voudrais j'aime manger est le  
gammou et le glace. Je vais une restaurant avec moi et  
me compain kameron. Merci. Avoir.

Cordialement

Farah.



In this piece all bullet points are fulfilled albeit a little ambiguously. It's clear that the candidate is writing about his friend Kameron's birthday, but the future tense is not quite fully formed for bullet point four and the use of 'gammon' is misleading. It scores 5 for Communication and Content, but just. There is some repetition of language to present facts. Language is simple, but with a linking word 'car'.



Candidates should make sure they use words that they are familiar with, such as food items, even if that is not what they wish to convey. It is better to get the French right. Candidates would also be well advised to make sure that they know that for the last bullet point they have to follow 'je vais' with an infinitive.

2 (a) Écris à un restaurant en France.

Écris :

- la date de ta réservation *date of reservation*
- la raison de ta visite *reason for reservation*
- ce que tu aimes manger *(something) want to eat*
- avec qui tu vas aller au restaurant. *who did you go to the restaurant with.*

Écris 40–50 mots environ **en français**.

(16)

Monsieur/Madame,

*Sept Mars. Universitaire mon pere.*

*Je suis allé avec mon pere, ma mere  
et demi sœur.*



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

Unfortunately this answer is self-penalising due to it being below the word count. Bullet point three is missing even though the candidate has clearly understood it and the perfect tense is used for bullet point four instead of the future (which is indicated will be the case from the candidate's translation of the bullet point). It is quite a 'staccato' piece too. For these reasons, it is awarded a mark in the lowest band for Communication and Content. The language is limited to individual words and phrases and therefore is also given a mark in the lowest band for Linguistic Knowledge and Accuracy.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

Candidates are encouraged to break down bullet points into the question and tense and then to tick them off as they are addressed to make sure none are missed out. Candidates would be well advised to become familiar with the format of these questions and to expect a bullet point in the future for the last one and so know to start with 'je vais' plus an infinitive and to know that the perfect tense is not required.

## Question 2 (b)

This question addresses the theme of Local Area, Holiday and Travel and the topic of travel and tourist attractions.

There were some full answers addressing all the bullet points. The most successful adhered to the word limit.

Bullet point one and two were mostly done very well with some candidates seeming to really enjoy answering the latter with some lovely and familiar adjectives to describe themselves. Some candidates expanded by describing members of their family too. For bullet point three many candidates were able to give at least the language, English plus one other language.

Common errors included some candidates not giving a nationality for bullet point one, but instead the country they live in: 'j'habite en Angleterre' or the word for the country instead of the nationality: 'je suis Angleterre'. Whilst most candidates were able to answer bullet point three, some tried to give more unusual languages, for which unfortunately they didn't have the French, whilst others again gave a country: 'je parle France'. There were also issues with the immediate future when answering bullet point four though time expressions were conveyed well.

2 (b) Écris à une agence en France.

Écris :

- ton nom et ta nationalité
- ta personnalité
- les langues que tu parles
- quand tu vas arriver en France.

Écris 40–50 mots environ **en français**.

(16)

Monsieur/Madame,

Bonjour! Je m'appelle Phoebe et je suis  
Anglais. Je pense que je suis drôle, <sup>très</sup> travailleuse  
et honnête. Ma meilleure amie pense que je suis  
à beau, <sup>un peu</sup> timide et très très sympa. Je parle  
l'anglais, un peu espagnol et très ~~de~~ bien ~~français~~  
français. Je arriver au France en deux mois  
et trois semaines.

Cordialement

Phoebe



This is a very competent answer, where all bullet points are addressed apart from the last one, which is a little unclear. There is some development and the language is mostly accurate with good linking.



Candidates would be well advised to make sure that for the last bullet point they know to start with 'je vais' and follow it with an infinitive.

2 (b) Écris à une agence en France.

Écris :

- ton nom et ta nationalité ✓
- ta personnalité ✓
- les langues que tu parles ✓
- quand tu vas arriver en France. ✓

Kim:

Écris 40-50 mots environ **en français**.

(16)

Monsieur/Madame,

Je m'appelle Lucy, ~~je suis anglais~~ ma nationalité est ~~anglais~~ <sup>demi-français</sup> et ~~anglais~~.  
A mon avis ma personnalité est sympa et drôle.  
Mes amis <sup>aussi</sup> avis je suis amusant. ~~mais~~ Je langues que tu parles est ~~en~~ français et l'anglais car ma mère est français mais mon père est l'anglais. ~~Je vas arriver en France~~ Quand je vais en France je aller au <sup>monuments</sup> ~~à la~~ avec mes école amis. ~~Je ne veux pas aller en France~~ car c'est ennuyeux mais j'adore ~~en~~ France parce que ~~apprendre~~ Apprendre visité monuments nous allons faire du acheter.

Cordialement

Lucy



In this piece all bullet points apart from bullet point four are addressed although the third one is unclear; confusion arising from the use of 'tu'. The candidate interprets the fourth bullet point as what they do when they go to France, so understands all but the question word. There is development too, but at the risk of not fulfilling all the bullet points. However, the lack of a bullet point automatically puts it in a lower box than the highest for Communication and Content. There is some linking and correct present tense and though not in the relevant place, a correct future tense.



Candidates' first task is to make sure they fulfill all bullet points and then consider developing one or two. It is also very important that candidates know that more often than not they will not be using 'tu' in their answer, but rather should recognise that 'tu', and its other forms, only appears in the bullet points to address them. Candidates should make sure they break down all the bullet points into question words and also what they are being asked to do as in bullet point four.

2 (b) Écris à une agence en France.

Écris :

- ton nom et ta nationalité
- ta personnalité
- les langues que tu parles
- quand tu vas arriver en France.

Écris 40–50 mots environ **en français**.

(16)

Monsieur/Madame,

J'espère Matthew est bien ok, anglais et  
J'adore français. C'est très joli, le sport et sport.  
J'ai parlé trois langues, le français, anglais  
et espagnol. J'ai visité français l'année  
prochaine et visite ~~le~~ espagnol. J'adore  
le français. J'ai joué le cricket, le foot et  
le rugby. J'adore le cricket c'est génial.

Cordialement

Matthew Harris



In this piece half of bullet point one is fulfilled though we can imply from the use of just 'anglais' without a verb that this is the answer to the second half of the bullet point. Bullet point two is just about comprehensible and the candidate is given the benefit of the doubt that they are describing themselves rather than French due to the use of 'sportif'. The tense used for bullet point three appears to be the perfect tense therefore incorrect, but one can work out what the candidate is trying to convey. This is the same for the fourth bullet point. There is some development regarding sport. There are not many correct verbs and no linking.



Candidates would be well advised to make sure they concentrate on fulfilling the bullet points clearly as a basic necessity before thinking of developing their answer, so that they are completing the task successfully. Candidates also need to be aware that the only tenses required for this question are the present and future tenses.

### Question 3 (a)

This question addresses the theme of Identity and Culture and the topic of daily routine. It was much more popular than its counterpart. There were some competent, full answers with development on each point and use of complex language as well as a range of successful time frames and range of adjectives.

Candidates answered the first bullet point well, giving a range of activities plus an opinion with some pleasing phrases such as 'je dirais que' and there was a variety of answers for bullet point two. Some candidates gave a very good answer to bullet point three with some beginning with 'le libre est important parce que...' followed by something which sounded plausible and related to free time. Bullet point four was well attempted with the use of some complex language such as 'si j'avais le choix, je voudrais'.

Unfortunately some candidates answered the first bullet point in the past and there was clear misinterpretation of 'temps libre' with just 'le libre' being referred to and clearly as the activity of reading. Those who exceeded the word count spent much time describing all the activities they do on the weekend instead of adhering to a preferred activity.

Language errors mainly included 'je vais... allé' and 'je suis... aller' to convey the perfect tense and the future tenses respectively and present tense verbs were insecure at times.

3 (a) Écris un email à ton ami(e) français(e).

Tu **dois** faire référence aux points suivants :

- ton activité préférée le week-end *favorite weekend activity*
- ce que tu as fait récemment avec ta famille *what you did recently with your family*
- pourquoi le temps libre est important *why freetime is important*
- un sport que tu vas faire à l'avenir. *sport you doing in the future.*

Écris 80-90 mots environ **en français**.

(20)

H J'adore le shopping avec ma meilleure amie le week-end. Aussi j'aime ~~à~~ de escalade et un patin à glace avec ma famille. Cependant je déteste visiter mes grands-parents. Récemment j'ai mangé une pizza dans un restaurant de luxe avec ma famille. Aussi le week-end dernier j'ai joué au foot dans le jardin public avec mon frère. Hier j'ai regardé un film d'horreur avec ma mère et mon père. Pour moi le temps libre est important parce que il faut relaxer. J'adore le temps libre parce que c'est amusant. Dans l'avenir je voudrais jouer au basket avec mes amis. Aussi je ~~je~~ je vais jouer au tennis avec mon collègue. Je voudrais de la natation tous les jours avec ma mère.



In this answer all bullet points are addressed and successfully with minimal ambiguity and there is development. There is correct tense usage and linking with some nice touches like 'il faut relaxer' and 'de luxe'.



Candidates, who clearly are able to write a competent piece of French, are well advised to make sure they build in enough time to check forensically their grammar, so that they can achieve the highest mark for Linguistic Knowledge and Accuracy. In this way, a piece will flow better.

3 (a) Écris un email à ton ami(e) français(e).

Tu **dois** faire référence aux points suivants :

- ton activité préférée le week-end
- ce que tu as fait récemment avec ta famille
- pourquoi le temps libre est important
- un sport que tu vas faire à l'avenir.

Écris 80-90 mots environ **en français**.

my favorite activity at the weekend  
what I have done recently with my family  
why time to yourself is important  
Sport I will do in future (20)

Mon activité préférée sur le week-end est sortie avec mes amis. D'habitude tout les samedis, ~~on va~~ on va au centre commercial et acheter les vêtements, c'est ~~très~~ vraiment amusant. Ensuite on a mangé.

~~Rece~~ Récemment, je suis allée au cinéma avec ma famille. Le weekend dernière, on a regardé 'Spiderman'. À mon avis, c'était génial mais ma mère trouve ça c'était barbant.

Le temps libre est important car quelquefois je travaille et c'est ennuyeux donc je suis triste. C'est aussi important pour ma santé. ~~très important~~

à l'avenir, ~~je dois~~<sup>je voudrais</sup> jouer au basket  
parce que mon père adore au basket  
donc je pourrais jouer avec il et ce  
sera très rigolo



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Comments

In this answer all bullet points are covered with a little ambiguity in the first and last paragraph, therefore the piece isn't as fluent as it would otherwise be. There is good expansion. The language contains some linking, correct time frames and tenses and an attempt at complexity: 'mon activité préférée est sortie', 'ma mère trouve ça c'était barbant', albeit not quite successfully.



**ResultsPlus**  
Examiner Tip

In order to gain marks to match a candidate's full potential, it is advisable to make sure the same tense is used throughout the answer to a bullet point (first two bullet points) and that verb constructions are fully formed (as in the two infinitive constructions in bullet point four).

3 (a) Écris un email à ton ami(e) français(e).

Tu **dois** faire référence aux points suivants :

- ton activité préférée le week-end

favorite activity on the week end

- ce que tu as fait récemment avec ta famille

what have you done recently with your family

- pourquoi le temps libre est important

why is reading important

- un sport que tu vas faire à l'avenir.

what sport do you want to do in the future.

Écris 80-90 mots environ **en français**.

(20)

Mon activité préférée en le week-end est

Je suis allé au bord de la mer parce que  
génial mais quelquefois c'était sale, Je ~~suis~~ <sup>aussi</sup>  
aime je vais au cinéma avec mes meilleurs  
amis mais ça cause les yeux de la tête.

Récemment on ~~va~~ <sup>alle</sup> au ~~resta~~ chinoise restaurant  
c'était nul parce que ce passe ma tasse de thé.

~~Le~~ ~~temps~~ le libre est important parce que c'est  
pour le mental et c'était drôle, Je libre  
en temps en temps.

~~En~~ Dans le futur je voudrais je vais  
le natation parce que très bien et j'aime  
ce d'exercise.



This candidate has addressed all bullet points albeit the first one starts off in the wrong tense (though one can see from the annotations next to the bullet point, that the candidate has understood that it's in the present tense) and the fourth one is a little muddled. Bullet point three has clearly been misunderstood, which one can see from the candidate's annotations next to it. There is some development. The language involves linking and an attempt at complexity, although inaccurate, with 'en temps en temps, ce passe ma tasse de thé, ca coute les yeux de la tete'.



In order to make sure bullet points are fully understood, candidates should break them down and account for every word, for example 'temps' in bullet point three and then there is hopefully less chance for misunderstanding. Candidates should ensure they answer the bullet point in the same tense throughout.

### **Question 3 (b)**

This question addresses the theme of Local Area, Holiday and Travel and the topic of holidays.

All bullet points seemed to have been understood by most candidates and there were some interesting pieces. Those who answered this question successfully gave development for each bullet point. Whilst some candidates struggled to understand 'cet endroit' in bullet point two many gave an opinion on their preferred holiday destination whether or not they had understood it. For bullet point three, some candidates did not mention going on holiday with the family, which did not fulfil the bullet point as completely as required.

All the bullet points gave the opportunity to display a range of tenses, some complex languages, including linking phrases, and subordinate clauses, a challenge which many candidates rose to.

3 (b) Écris un email à ton ami(e) français(e).

Tu **dois** faire référence aux points suivants :

- où tu préfères passer tes vacances
- pourquoi tu aimes cet endroit
- tes vacances l'année dernière
- ce que tu vas faire avec ta famille cet été.

Écris 80–90 mots environ **en français**.

(20)

Bonjour,

J'adore passer les vacances aller en écosses\*. Je pense que le vues est très beau et le promenades est très intéressant mais aussi fatigant.

\*  
Je suis allé en ~~vacances~~ en écosses beaucoup de temps.

Cependant, l'année dernière je voyager ~~en~~ en pays de galles. C'était aussi génial. Je visité un ville ce que était aimable. Par contre, le vues ~~était~~ n'était pas bon et il n'y a pas un promenades.

Cette été, je vis en vacances en france. ~~C'était génial~~ <sup>c'est vis</sup> C'était génial, cependant, on va voyager en ~~france~~ <sup>avoir</sup> ce que je deteste.



In this piece all bullet points are addressed, it flows and there is development. There is some nice vocabulary and phrases: 'ce que, par contre'. Verbs are fairly secure apart from the perfect tense and some future.



Candidates such as this one should make sure they leave enough time to check their tenses and verbs forensically to achieve marks in the top boxes.

3 (b) Ecris un email à ton ami(e) français(e).

Tu dois faire référence aux points suivants :

- où tu préfères passer tes vacances
- pourquoi tu aimes cet endroit
- tes vacances l'année dernière
- ce que tu vas faire avec ta famille cet été.

Ecris 80-90 mots environ en français.

(20)

Bonjour, mon bon ami,  
J'adore les vacances à l'anglais. La plage est très beau et la ville est grand. Je préfère les vacances à l'Espagne car le climat est froid. Mais, tu joue le foot et la tennis. C'est cool. Le climat est froid mais humide. L'année dernière, ma famille et moi la vacances l'Espagne, c'est intéressant. Je natation à la plage, je natation avec mon petite soeur. L'année prochain, ma famille et moi, on visiter mon grand-parents à cet été. Ils habite à la petite village.



In this answer all bullet points are addressed albeit not always in the correct tense and there is confusion with the inclusion of 'tu'. There is some development. The answer starts off very well, but deteriorates as it progresses. Verbs are not very secure or absent: 'je natation', but there is some linking: 'car, mais'.



Candidates are advised to make sure they maintain a good level of syntax throughout the piece, especially including verbs in their sentences. They should also avoid the use of 'tu' in their answer and understand that this is just used in the bullet points to address them.

3 (b) Écris un email à ton ami(e) français(e).

email to friend.

Tu **dois** faire référence aux points suivants :

• où tu préfères passer tes vacances

holiday

• pourquoi tu aimes cet endroit

• tes vacances l'année dernière

past holiday last year

• ce que tu vas faire avec ta famille cet été.

do like going with my family.

Écris 80–90 mots environ **en français**.

(20)

Bonjour ! ça va bien, et toi ?  
L'année dernière je ~~travaille~~  
visite au ~~de~~ l'Italie pour ~~ce~~  
le weekend avec mes amis  
Amy. Nous avons visité  
à la musée parce que elle  
adonne l'histoire. C'était  
très ~~et~~ intéressant. Je n'aime  
les vacances pas avec ma  
famille parce que ma sœur  
et ma frère est très ennuyeux  
et c'est ne amusant pas.  
C'est parce que ma sœur est  
une petit enfant et ma  
frère est dix-neuf et il  
le lit au le jour. ~~Et~~ Ennuyeux!



In this answer only the second bullet point is addressed, but unfortunately the rest is either not answered or misunderstood. For example, bullet point four, the candidate clearly saw 'famille' in the prompt and responded to that only. However the last part written could be seen as development for the bullet point. Verbs are not secure.



Candidates should make sure they understand all bullet points for a question before embarking on it. If this is not the case, they should choose the alternative. It is important to emphasise that it is the understanding, and therefore fulfilment of the bullet points, which is the key to choosing a question rather than the interest in the topic. Candidates should also break down bullet points and identify the main verb (as in bullet point four where the candidate has clearly interpreted it as whether he/she likes going away with his/her family rather than what they are going to do together).

## Question 4

This question was very well done on the whole and many candidates scored half marks or more overall.

(a) many candidates scored full marks on this question. 'J'aime' was spelt consistently well with very few candidates adding an acute accent to the 'e', which is very pleasing and most candidates either gave 'profs' or spelt 'professeurs' well. Some gave either 'les prof' or 'le profs', both of which were acceptable as they indicated a plural.

(b) most candidates did well on this sentence. They knew how to spell 'histoire' with a few transposing the 'oi', but this was acceptable as being recognised as a French word. Most candidates knew 'matière préférée' but with a variety of acceptable spellings, but some gave 'sujet' or even 'subject' therefore not communicating the full sentence successfully.

(c) candidates attempted this with great success and seemed to be mindful of making sure they translated each element of this longer sentence. Spellings of 'quelquefois' were mostly successful and apart from the use of 'les devoirs' instead of 'le travail', there were some very good translations.

(d) candidates found this sentence the most tricky. 'Uniform' was spelt the English way often as was 'blue' and whilst many seemed to know 'un peu', sometimes it was translated by 'un petit'. 'Démodé' was not widely known.

(e) most candidates scored some marks on this question mostly with 'le weekend dernier, sur l'ordinateur' and 'dimanche' being the reliable elements. Though the translation of 'I did my homework' was less well done with many candidates giving the present tense.

4 Traduis les phrases suivantes **en français**.

(a) I like the teachers.

(2)

~~J'aime la professeur.~~

J'aime la prof.

(b) My favourite subject is history.

(2)

mon prefere matiere est historique

(c) Sometimes I find the work very difficult.

(2)

quelque fois, je trouve tres ~~difficile~~

(d) The uniform is blue but a little old fashioned.

(3)

la uniform est bleu, mais un petit

(e) Last weekend, I did my homework on the computer on Sunday.

(3)

~~La weekend~~ ~~est~~ prochain, je va ~~dans~~

le weekend prochain, je fait mon ~~dans~~

dans samedi.



This candidate has had a good attempt at this question overall with full communication for (b) but just missing out on (a) due to the use of the singular for 'teachers' and missing out the word for 'work' for (c). There is a good attempt at (d), but 'uniform' and 'blue' are spelt the English way thus denying the candidate some marks. However for (e) the candidate has mistranslated 'last' and given 'prochain' and given 'samedi' for Sunday and the rest of the sentence is not complete.



Candidates should make sure they notice if a noun is singular or plural and learn basic vocabulary such as work, uniform, colours and time phrases.

4 Traduis les phrases suivantes en français.

(a) I like the teachers.

(2)

J'aime le prof.

(b) My favourite subject is history.

(2)

Mon préféré le subject est l'histoire

(c) Sometimes I find the work very difficult.

(2)

quelquefois je trouve le travail très difficile.

(d) The uniform is blue but a little old fashioned.

(3)

le uniform est bleu mais petit

(e) Last weekend, I did my homework on the computer on Sunday.

(3)

l'anne dernier, je faire mais devais en le ordi  
en ~~son~~ samedi.



This candidate has had a fair attempt at this question overall and has been successful with the longer sentence in (c). The translation of (a) just misses, as the singular rather than the plural is given and for (b), the word for 'subject' is unknown. There is an attempt at (d) where a few words are translated, but for (e), the candidate has translated 'weekend' with 'anne' and Sunday as 'samedi' and apart from 'devoirs' the rest is not clear.



Candidates should make sure they know basic vocabulary, notice whether a noun is singular or plural and learn time phrases. They should also be aware that the last question is always in the past.

4 Traduis les phrases suivantes **en français**.

(a) I like the teachers.

(2)

J'aime au professeurs.

(b) My favourite subject is history.

(2)

Mon sujet préférée est l'histoire.

(c) Sometimes I find the work very difficult.

(2)

Le temps en temps, je devrais est ~~de~~ très difficile.

(d) The uniform is blue but a little old fashioned.

(3)

Un uniform est bleu mais un peu ancien fashion.

(e) Last weekend, I did my homework on the computer on Sunday.

(3)

Le weekend dernier, je vais en devrais en l'ordinateur  
en dimanche.



This candidate has had a very good attempt at this question and has been successful in (a), (b) and the more challenging (e), only missing out on full marks for the latter due to the choice and tense of the verb. There is a valiant attempt at (c), but the vocabulary is not known and for (d) there is no meaningful communication.



Candidates are advised to make sure they are familiar with common verbs such as 'faire, penser, trouver' as well as knowing basic vocabulary such as 'quelquefois'.

## Paper Summary

Candidates are offered the following advice:

- For Q01 if you don't know a word for something in the picture, try to think of another way of writing about what you see, eg use 'jouer' instead of trying to think of a word for (building) blocks or choose other aspects of the photo to describe for which you know the vocabulary, eg the people.
- For Q01 in particular, use multi-purpose phrases such as 'ils sont en train de', 'j'aime, je déteste le, la les... parce que' etc.
- For all questions except the translation, try to adhere to the word count, so as not to make too many unnecessary errors.
- For questions with bullet points, break them down into question word, check the tense verb it is in and then the detail of what is being asked.
- Try to separate your answer into a paragraph per bullet point with a line in between, and answer them in order. When you've done each one, put a tick next to the bullet point. This helps you keep track and gives you a sense of achievement!
- Use the same time frame (tense) throughout the answer to a bullet point.
- For all questions, make sure your tenses are solid.
- Try to have 'parce que' or 'car' in mind to prompt you to develop answers.
- Make sure you know ahead of starting the paper what to expect in terms of tenses: Q01: present tense, Q02: present and future (last bullet point), Q03: present, past and future.
- Make sure you use 'je' not 'tu' in your answers; the use of 'tu' in the bullet points is only used to ask you questions.
- For Q04, before starting to translate, try to break the sentences down into small chunks taking account of all small words such as 'very, but'.
- For Q04 identify the tenses required for each sentence. All questions apart from (e) will require the present tense. (e) requires the perfect tense.
- For Q04 make sure basic vocabulary and time phrases are known.

## **Grade boundaries**

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/support/support-topics/results-certification/grade-boundaries.html>

