



# Examiner's Report

## Principal Examiner Feedback

November 2023

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE  
In French (4FR1) Paper 02

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## **Introduction**

The Autumn 2023 session marked the first series of the International GCSE French 4FR1 syllabus. The examination comprised a mandatory segment from Questions 1 to 6, followed by an elective in Question 7, where students chose one of three equally weighted tasks. It culminated with Question 8, a grammar evaluation. The prescribed topic areas for the examination were diverse, and the students engaged with them to various degrees of success. Overall, the candidates' performances reflected the thorough preparation they undertook prior to the exam.

## **Question 1**

The first question of this examination sequence required students to engage in intensive textual analysis to answer six multiple-choice questions correctly. Impressively, the bulk of the students excelled in this task, with many achieving full marks, showing a very good understanding of tradition.

## **Question 2**

Competence in identifying and applying the appropriate lexical items was apparent in this section. Students adeptly navigated through the syntax and semantics of French, with specific attention to adjectives and verbs as required in parts 2d and 2e, demonstrating a solid preparation in the exercise format.

## **Question 3**

The candidates' grasp of vocabulary was again on display here, with most candidates adeptly selecting the correct options. This reflected a clear understanding of the task instructions and an ability to carefully match names to statements, resulting in high scores for this segment. However, it is worth noting that some candidates put more than eight crosses in the box resulting in penalties being given.

#### **Question 4**

This question tested comprehension skills with a text that was well received by the majority of the students. Challenges were noted in 4f and 4g, where unsuccessful candidates lifted part of the passage instead of identifying the key information and offer verbal responses to the questions.

#### **Question 5**

There was a range of offering and achievement in performance was more pronounced in this question due to its higher difficulty level. However, many students showcased their proficiency with interrogatives, resulting in high scores. Unfortunately, there were a few instances where candidates lifted whole sections of the passage; not identified the correct tenses in the questions; and offered responses which targeted the wrong angles. It is also important that candidates review their question words carefully to be able to answer the questions in the target language.

#### **Question 6**

This question was generally well-received, with many students judiciously employing the four compulsory words in their answers. The structure provided by these words enabled even less confident students to construct logical responses and score well. More advanced students used this as an opportunity to craft extensive essays that incorporated a broad range of linguistic structures and relevant content.

#### **Question 7**

This complex question allowed students to demonstrate their narrative skills and linguistic range across various tenses. The responses showed a commitment to the task, with many students producing coherent and linguistically sound work.

Question 7a was the favored option, allowing students to write about food and drinks, cooking, a past visit to the restaurant and how one could have an healthy lifesyle with detail and depth. Although the fourth bullet point posed challenges, many responses were rich in content and structure.

Question 7b was the third choice among students, who managed to navigate through the bullet points with clarity and a reasonable command of various tenses. For this question, it was important that candidates showed a good recall of the topical vocabulary of the environment and be creative in offering views about what the future might look like.

Question 7c was the second most popular choice amongst candidates. Whilst some candidates tackled this task successfully, there was a tendency to write pre-learnt responses on daily routine. It is important that candidates refer to each bullet point clearly in their writing.

### **Question 8**

In the final grammar exercise, common pitfalls included the omission of auxiliary verbs in past tense constructions, spelling errors, and incorrect agreements in gender, affecting the overall marks.

### **Summary**

Reflecting on their performance, students are advised to pay meticulous attention to spelling and the correct application of verb tenses, particularly distinguishing between the future and conditional forms. Comprehensive coverage of all topic areas during revision is crucial, as is a deliberate practice of grammar to improve outcomes in future assessments, especially in the last exercise of the paper.

