



A-level **French**

7652/1 Listening, reading and writing

Report on the Examination

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General comments

Students appeared well prepared for the various topics and there were some excellent scripts. Those who did not do as well suffered from poor spelling of French words and lack of accuracy in the translation questions 9.5 and 10. Adjectival endings were often inaccurate and some students had great difficulties in forming verbs in the correct tense. There is some leeway in grammatical accuracy in questions 4 and 9 provided the answer is comprehensible but inaccuracy loses marks in the summary questions 3 and 8 and also in the English to French translation. Handwriting was a significant issue in some responses.

Question 1

A good number of students scored both available marks in 01.1, though E was often seen rather than the correct answer of C. Perhaps the structure *avoir du mal* was not well-known. Part 01.2 was not as successfully answered, with a small number failing to score at all.

Question 2

Generally, there were many pleasing marks on this question, though a significant number of students struggled in 02.1 and 02.5, where Cécile conveyed both positive and negative attitudes.

Question 3

A number of students did not get full credit for the third bullet point since they have exceeded the word limit by this point. On the other hand, there were some very good answers with all seven points clearly conveyed. In the first bullet point, correct answers had to include the problems she encountered with both racism and sexism and a large number of students failed to mention that she ended up working in education against her wishes.

The second bullet was well done apart from a number of students who did not understand *entretien* and wrote it as two words or made a guess at the correct spelling and failed to score as a result.

The third bullet point was generally well answered, with all three details successfully conveyed by a large number of students. Unfortunately some could not be rewarded because they who had written too much for the other two bullet points.

For the AO3 mark there were some good examples of successful manipulation, especially in response to the first bullet point. Pleasing answers such as *Il y avait beaucoup d'hommes français dans le secteur dans lequel elle voulait travailler, mais très peu de femmes maghrébines*. In the third bullet point some concise answers managed to convey all three details effectively. An answer such as *Il a réussi à créer une entreprise en utilisant des produits écologiques. D'ailleurs, il a recruté plus de 200 salariés* conveys all three details in 20 words with a good level of manipulation.

Question 4

Very good marks were achieved in question 04.1. A few wrote *les jeunes n'ont pas de voie* and lost the mark. Part 04.2 was well answered apart from a few giving the wrong number of volunteers. Part 04.3 was also pleasing, but some struggled with the spelling of *campagne*. Part 04.4 was also well done, especially the point about the issues that interest young people.

Question 5

This multiple choice question was generally very successfully done, with parts 05.1, 05.3 and 05.6 often correct. The other three parts were only slightly less accurate.

Question 6

In part 06.1, *moitié* was often seen rather than *part*. In 06.5, *défavorisés* was often not written correctly or had accents missing. Part 06.7 was the least well answered section of this question, with students omitting one or more of the words in *de première nécessité*. Parts 06.8, 06.9 and 06.10 were pleasingly done.

Question 7

This was the literary passage and the task was a true/false exercise. There was a significant number of scripts with maximum marks here. In 07.1 some did not link *larmes* to *pleurer*. In 07.3 *je désirais fortement* was overlooked, which led to some wrong answers. The last three parts were the least successfully answered. In part 07.8 the link between *la mort de son mari* and the word *veuve* led to many true answers whereas a pension was not mentioned. Surprisingly, perhaps, many chose not mentioned for 07.10 whereas there was a clear reference to Alphonse's sisters in the text. All the other parts were very well answered.

Question 8

Many scored only one mark for the first bullet point. The economic depression due to the fall in cane sugar prices was nearly always mentioned but some failed to refer to the government's broken promises. The answers for the second bullet point were nearly always correct for both details. In the third bullet point, it was not always clear what the source of the threats to Georges Gratiant was, though the majority mentioned the interview and the accusations against the minister. Some struggled with trying to convey the expression *me faire taire* in the third person. Some confused *taire* with *tuer*. Unfortunately, by this stage some has already used the maximum number of words and so failed to score all the content marks.

For the AO3 mark, some examiners were concerned about the amount of excessive copying of the original text and the lack of attempt at manipulation. An example of how students can adapt the text in a concise manner is an answer such as *Le gouvernement a essayé d'empêcher Georges de parler à la presse. Malgré ces menaces, il a fait une interview dans lequel il a dénoncé le racisme du ministre*. This conveys all three details required for the third bullet in fewer than 30 words.

Question 9

Questions 09.1 to 09.4 were all very well done, apart from some difficulty being caused by *sa famille lui manquait* in 09.2, (*sa famille se manquait* was often seen).

09.5 was the English to French translation. Here are some of the main issues:

Everyone agrees that it is important to rehabilitate criminals when they come out of prison. Many had a good start with this section though some had problems with *tout le monde est d'accord*. *C'est important* and *il est important* were both allowed, though some failed to use *de* after the phrase.

They have been forgotten in the past. Generally, this was well done, though the incorrect gender *dans la passé* was quite common and the agreement was missing on *oubliés*.

Obviously, by employing ex-prisoners, we will be able to reduce the risk of reoffending. The main problem here was the incorrect formation of the future tense of *pouvoir*.

This would be in society's interest. This was often successfully answered, with the conditional tense correctly used.

Furthermore, if we fought against prejudices, we would improve the life of these people. The use of the imperfect and conditional caused widespread issues here and some only scored for 'furthermore' and 'the life of these people'.

Such a measure would allow the government to spend its limited resources in a more effective manner. *Une telle mesure* was not often seen and there were many incorrect prepositions used or omitted after the verb *permettre*. The last section here was often conveyed as *dans une manière effective* and was not given.

Without mutual aid, it is impossible to avoid neglecting those who often risk falling into delinquency. 'Without mutual aid' was often mistranslated despite the mention of *entraide* in the text. There was a frequent omission of *de* after *éviter*, though *ceux qui* was often correctly used.

Although they are still young, they will become ill and depressed. The subjunctive was frequently overlooked and *jeunes* did not always have the plural agreement. The future tense of *devenir* proved difficult and, though *malade* and *déprimé* were well-known, marks were lost due to a lack of a plural ending on one or both of these adjectives.

Question 10

This was the French to English translation and there were some very accurate renditions this year.

Être parent et vivre seul avec au moins un enfant de moins de dix-huit ans est devenu une situation plus fréquente de nos jours. *Au moins* was sometimes omitted and the present tense of *devenir* was used.

Comparés aux parents vivant en couple, les monoparents, dont la plupart sont des femmes, sont la seule source de revenus du ménage. This was very successfully translated by the majority, though some did not know *ménage*.

Selon une enquête récente, ces parents étaient plus touchés par le chômage ou exerçaient des emplois à temps partiel. Some failed to spot the two imperfect tenses in this sentence and wrote answers such as ‘are affected by unemployment’. The vast majority understood *le chômage*.

Le niveau de vie de ces familles est nettement plus faible que celui des familles traditionnelles. Le niveau de vie caused many difficulties and was often conveyed as the quality of life. The word *nettement* was not often successfully translated.

Si le gouvernement avait tenu ses promesses, il y aurait eu plus de soutien pour les mères célibataires qui élèvent des enfants. This was generally well answered, though a some did not convey the tenses accurately. *les mères célibataires qui élèvent des enfants* was nearly always correctly translated.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results Statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.