

# **Scholarship**

## **2014 Assessment Report**

### **French**

## COMMENTARY

### Overall:

The examination paper was well-constructed, with sufficient scope for all levels of candidates. The topics were relevant to candidates and connected to their world. Language was generally well-pitched for the candidates.

All the questions were appropriately handled by the majority of candidates regardless of language background.

Even if the topics were not necessarily familiar to the candidates, the content and the language level of both the listening and reading papers provided sufficient evidence to enable candidates to develop and integrate personal opinions, beliefs, viewpoints and ideas.

### Q2:

Overall Q2 worked well and was able to reestablish a balance between native and non-native speakers. However, with the answer being in English the question should also be in English to avoid any confusion (i.e. a few good candidates answered in the target language).

The register for Q2 should be relatively formal as expected in Q1. Therefore colloquial and slang expressions should be avoided.

In Q2 some candidates neglected to answer fully the questions and/or to lift directly from the text rather than using it as reference only, and using their own words.

### Q3:

In Q3 some candidates neglected to answer fully the two questions.

The answers were at times simplistic and unbalanced often due to insufficient preparation time.

### Consistency:

The results may have changed as the format changed. We have more of a spread and a balance in terms of candidates. Candidates need to express themselves well in both languages to be awarded.

## SCHOLARSHIP WITH OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

### Candidates who were awarded Scholarship with Outstanding Performance typically:

- had an extremely wide range of language, many beyond level 8 of curriculum
- had excellent essay writing skills, structuring their writing effectively: thought provoking introduction, clearly paragraphed, logical conclusion
- used experience/examples to back up their statements
- had original and interesting points of view
- had a sound knowledge of French/English current events
- were expressive in their spoken language, displayed lovely tone, gave a delivery which was immediate rather than simply reading from their notes, used language features such as rhetorical questions as well as humorous anecdotes from their own experience and in this way were able to hold the interest and at times captivate their audience

- had a logical flow and gave equal importance to both questions
- used idiomatic language and complex structures to express their points of view
- showed excellent essay writing skills in both languages (French and English): introduction, paragraphs, conclusion and summary writing.

## **SCHOLARSHIP**

### **Candidates who were awarded Scholarship but not Scholarship with Outstanding Performance typically:**

- had original and interesting points of view
- used some idiomatic language and complex structures (e.g. subordinates, use of tenses such as subjunctive, conditional) to express their points of view
- demonstrated accuracy in the use of most grammar structures
- showed ability to express a point of view, a personal reaction, reflection or comment with some confidence
- used sequences and paragraphs to make their points clearly
- showed ability to pick up, refer back to and discuss important points in the text
- developed ideas
- had good command in both languages
- showed ability to personalise and recount their own life experiences.

## **OTHER CANDIDATES**

### **Candidates who were not awarded Scholarship or Scholarship with Outstanding Performance typically:**

- lacked accuracy
- did not answer questions fully or missed out a question entirely
- lacked original thought
- made too much use of the language and ideas contained in the passage
- misinterpreted material from the listening or reading passages
- did not have an introduction, paragraphing or a conclusion
- stressed material they had learned rather than answering the question in a more balanced way.