

Assessment Specifications

General information

Performance Standard	French
Level	Scholarship
Mode of Assessment	Written Examination
Year	2014
Standard	93004

Format of the assessment

The exam consists of TWO parts, held in a three-hour time slot:

- first, a two-hour Writing section, with TWO questions
- second, a one-hour Speaking section, with ONE question.

Candidates will undertake the Writing section in a Writing Room, and the Speaking section in a Recording Room.

SECTION ONE: Writing – two hours

Question One

This question will require a response written in French, to passage(s) spoken in French, and provided on a CD or DVD.

The Listening passages(s) will:

- require approximately 30 minutes' listening time
- be repeated THREE times – the first time as a whole, then the second and third times in sections, with a pause after each section
- consist of no more than THREE passages
- contain complex French and concepts
- be linked around a common theme.

In their written responses, candidates will be expected to:

- demonstrate logical, clear, concise, and relevant use of French, that is error-free (or almost error-free)
- use a wide variety of complex structures and vocabulary that is well integrated into their response(s)
- assemble French in a seamless / coherent manner, and make minimal use of expressions from the stimulus material
- go considerably beyond the given material.

Question Two

This question will require a response written in English, to text(s) written in French, provided in the Question and Answer Booklet.

The Written text(s) will:

- consist of no more than THREE texts
- contain complex French and concepts
- be linked around a common theme.

In their written responses, candidates will be expected to:

- respond to unpredictable elements to express personal opinions, beliefs, or viewpoints
- demonstrate independent reflection and extrapolation, perception and insight
- provide evidence that is widespread and goes considerably beyond the given material, and is assembled in a seamless, coherent manner.

At the end of the Writing section of the examination, all candidate answer booklets will be collected, and candidates will be sequestered in the Writing Room. From there they will go, one at a time, in predetermined order, to the Recording Room to undertake Section Two.

SECTION TWO: Speaking – one hour

Question Three

Candidates will be required to give a spoken response of 3 – 4 minutes to a question related to either the listening passage(s), and/or the written text(s). Both the question and the response will be in French.

In the Recording Room, candidates will be given:

- a straightforward question linked to Question One and/or Question Two, written on a laminated card
- paper and pen with which to draft a response/write notes
- 5 minutes to draft an oral response to the question.

At the end of the 5 minute period, candidates will hand back the laminated card, and give a 3 – 4 minute oral response to the question. They may use their notes as they speak.

Candidates will be expected to:

- interpret the stimulus material accurately, and link it with their own ideas
- use appropriate idiomatic expressions, proverbs, fillers and pauses
- communicate with confidence and style, and in a manner that is natural, fluent and flexible
- express and communicate their ideas in a convincing way that captivates and holds the interest.

Once they have given their oral response, candidates will leave the Recording Room and exit the Exam Centre.

They will not return to the Writing Room.