

Scholarship

2009 Assessment Report

French

COMMENTARY

The 2009 French Scholarship examination provided ample opportunity for candidates to demonstrate a wide knowledge of language beyond level 8 of the curriculum. Most candidates were very well prepared and showed depth and maturity of thought, as well as a level of fluency that is usually obtained by spending a significant amount of time in a French speaking country.

The Listening passage proved to be of interest as it was a contemporary, comprehensible and accessible topic to all candidates, recalling materials of one of the themes covered during the year (i.e. technology). It allowed candidates to consider and discuss a valuable opinion on Facebook, and provided plenty of scope for development of ideas drawn on personal life experience. A good command of the French language, as well as the ability to present the content in an organised and coherent manner was fundamental in order to communicate in a convincing manner. Most candidates generally good comprehension of the passage and wrote extensive essays on both of the questions.

The reading passage was at an appropriate level. Candidates were able to identify all the key ideas in the stimulus text and to respond to all questions, including their personal opinion of the book. In the second question, which was on personal reading and preferences, many candidates referred to extracts of books or novels studied in class.

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
- used examples to back up their statements
- showed originality and personal creativity in their manipulation of language (e.g. used a wide range of tenses such as conditional and subjunctive extensively)
- structured responses so they flowed logically
- used humour successfully
- were expressive in their spoken presentations
- made their answers personal by referring to their own lives and experiences
- used rhetorical questions
- easily manipulated pronouns, order of object pronouns, agreements of preceding direct object with ease
- showed excellent essay writing skills: introduction, paragraphs, conclusion.

SCHOLARSHIP

Candidates who were awarded Scholarship but not Scholarship with Outstanding Performance commonly:

- 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
- showed ability to personalise and recount their own life experiences.

OTHER CANDIDATES

Candidates who were not awarded Scholarship or Scholarship with Outstanding Performance commonly:

- lacked accuracy
- did not answer question(s) fully, or missed some out entirely
- did not demonstrate 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 structure responses so that they flowed well i.e. did not have an introduction, paragraphing or a conclusion
- used material they had learned, rather than answering the question
- did not draw on their personal experience
- made too many errors in language that hindered communication.

Examples of structures used by the high achieving candidates:

- je suis étonné que... . . .
- j'avoue que moi aussi. . .
- on ne se rend pas compte. . .
- mais nous avons vraiment de la chance
- il faut nous rappeler les risques pris par les peuples des années soixante
- par conséquent. . .
- en premier lieu. . .
- par exemple le narrateur déclare que. . .
- selon l'intervenant. . .
- mais ce que j'ai éprouvé à Paris m'a changé la vie
- tout simplement. . .