

# Commentary on Higher French Question Paper 1

## Candidate 1

The evidence for this candidate has achieved **6 marks** for the Directed Writing element of this Course Assessment component.

The candidate covers all the bullet points sometimes giving a lot of extra relevant information.

The candidate shows an ability to handle tenses and overall there are more correct verbs than incorrect verbs. (eg « Je suis allée; j'ai travaillé; j'étais crevée; je voulais savoir si..... »)

However, when the candidate tries to be more ambitious, he/she loses control of his/her ability to handle the language with accuracy.

The piece of writing does not start off well with a mistake in the adjective ending "l'été dernière"; the wrong agreement on "située"; the wrong tense and incorrect preposition in "l'hôtel est située dans le bord de la mer"

In paragraph 2, control of the language starts to deteriorate as the candidate tries to write complex sentences.

There are several errors where "que" is used instead of "c'est" - "ce que j'aimais de mon travail que l'opportunité de gagner" and "ce que je n'aimais de mon travail que l'heure....".

In some sentences the meaning is unclear because several words have been omitted - "... Je me chargerais faire la traduction si nécessaire qui aidée améliorer mon français"

However, the paragraph finishes nicely with "Après une journée difficile j'étais crevée."

In paragraph 3, the language picks up again and the candidate is able to write complex sentences with increasing accuracy, incorporating learned material appropriately, despite the use of "qui" and "treize" in the last part of the sentence.

"Un soir je suis allée au cinéma voir un film français avec mes collègues parce que je voulais savoir si je comprendrais la langue qui j'apprends depuis treize ans"

Paragraph 4 is less accurate but the errors tend to be errors of spelling, gender and accents - "je recommanderais l'expérience ...."; "cette un expérience ...." and "j'ai fait beaucoup de nouveaux amis"

On balance, this piece of writing is inconsistent in terms of accuracy, but there is more correct than incorrect and there is evidence that the candidate can handle tenses. For those reasons, this piece of writing was awarded 6 marks.

## Candidate 2

The evidence for this candidate has achieved **8 marks** for the Directed Writing element of this Course Assessment component.

All the bullet points in this piece of writing are clearly addressed. The language is mostly accurate in terms of spelling, adjective endings and accents.

The candidate clearly has a secure knowledge of the perfect and imperfect tenses and uses a range of verbs in these tenses accurately. (eg in paragraph 2 "j'ai pris l'avion"; "je me suis endormie"; in paragraph 3 "on est allées"; in paragraph 4, "je me suis bien amusée").

The imperfect tense is used throughout the writing (in paragraph 2, "Julie habitait près de la campagne" and in paragraph 3 " je me reposais")

For the most part, the writing is very competent and essentially accurate and there are few errors in spelling, accents and adjectival agreement.

However, there are some inaccuracies. In paragraph 1, "j'ai restée; in paragraph 3, "on a manger" and in paragraph 4, the accent is missing in "ma famille m'a manque"

Despite the errors, the candidate has made a good attempt at addressing the bullet points in a balanced way using a variety of verbs in the perfect and imperfect tenses.

Therefore, the evidence was awarded 8 marks.

### Candidate 3

The evidence for this candidate has achieved **10 marks** for the Directed Writing element of this Course Assessment component.

All bullet points have been addressed fully and the candidate has provided additional relevant information using a comprehensive range of verbs and verb forms, tenses and construction.

Paragraph 1 sets the scene nicely and the candidate provides lots of additional, relevant information before tackling the four bullet points.

The language used throughout the piece of writing is detailed, complex and very accurate. The candidate handles all aspects of grammar confidently.

The perfect tense is used consistently well throughout the piece of writing and the candidate seems particularly comfortable using reflexive verbs in the perfect tense. “je me suis habituée” in paragraphs 3 and 5 and “je me suis sentie parfaitement à l’aise” in paragraph 4.

The candidate uses a wide range of tenses correctly, including the imperfect, pluperfect, future and conditional tenses. In paragraph 1, the pluperfect tense is used “j’avais trouvé un boulot”. There are several examples of the imperfect tense used correctly throughout: “L’hôtel se trouvait...; nous attendions qu’ils arrivent; nous avons beaucoup de chose en commun.”

In paragraph 5, there is good use of the future and conditional tenses: « je recommanderais que...” je dirais que ...”; “....parler leur langue se sentira presque naturelle”

The candidate handles complex constructions confidently including good use of the preceding direct object and some (mostly successful) subjunctive constructions eg in paragraph 1, « ils m’ont offert .... »; in paragraph 4, « et je les considère maintenant comme amis ».

In paragraph 5, « je recommanderais que tout le monde *prenne* l’occasion de faire ça » and « je dirais que ce *soit* inestimable ».

There is a wide and varied range of vocabulary

In paragraph 4, “malgré nos différences culturelles” and in paragraph 5 “toutes choses considérées”.

Although there are some inaccuracies, (eg “Je les ai écrits le lendemain” in paragraph 1 and “nous serveurs mettions les tables” in paragraph 3) these do not detract from the overall very good impression.

Therefore, the evidence was awarded 10 marks.

### Candidate 4

The evidence for this candidate has achieved **2 marks** for the Directed Writing element of this Course Assessment component.

Although the candidate attempts all the bullet points, they are addressed with difficulty.

The language is inaccurate throughout and there is little control of language structure.

There are inaccuracies in verbs, spelling, and adjectival agreement and there is evidence of mother tongue interference in the concluding sentences “parce que c’est un totalement unique experience” and “j’avais un extra temp”

Many of the verbs are incorrect and there is little evidence of tense control. In line 3, “Le logé”; in line 4, “Ce etre tres cool”; in line 6 “ils être sympa et gentil”; and in line 12, “je vous conseiller”

However, the candidate does incorporate a couple of memorised structures.

(In line 5 « Ce qui me plait » and in lines 13/14 “on peut élargir ses horizons”).

For that reason the evidence was awarded 2 marks.

### Candidate 5

The evidence for this candidate has achieved **8 marks** for the Directed Writing element of this Course Assessment component.

The candidate does address all the bullet points, but the response to bullet point 3 is thin as it is only addressed in one sentence – “la seule chose que je n’ai pas aimé beaucoup, c’était que mon patron était très strict et trop sévère.”

The language is mostly accurate throughout the piece of writing and there is evidence of extended and complex language. In paragraph 1, there are several long, complex sentences eg “Ils étaient tous très accueillants, et m’ont aidé si j’avais des difficultés quand je parlais français où si je devais *graduate* pour les clients.”

However, there is also evidence of some serious grammatical inaccuracies in paragraph 4 where the writing becomes less accurate - “ je le recommanderais à tout personne que *voux* apprendre à parler *un* langue étranger” and “ je crois que travailler dans un autre pays est *un* opportunité pour s’améliorer et gagner d’*habilités* nouvelles aussi.”

There are also a few errors in spelling, accents and gender and “que” is used repeatedly instead of “qui” (eg in paragraph 1 “...les clients que ne parlaient pas le français” and in paragraph 2 “...qu’est très différente comparé à la culture écossaise”)

The last paragraph in particular has a number of errors in spelling, genders and accents – “mon experience”; “au debut”; “un langue étranger”; “cette raisons” and “un opportunité”

These minor errors and the failure to address bullet point 3 in detail detract from the overall performance and result in the candidate being awarded 8 marks.

## Candidate 6

The evidence for this candidate has achieved **6 marks** for the Directed Writing element of this Course Assessment component.

The candidate has covered all the bullet points in a balanced way.

The language used throughout is basic, but mainly accurate. (eg in paragraph 1, "J'ai voyagé en train et aussi en bateau")

There are attempts at writing detailed and complex language in spite of errors (eg in paragraph 3, "Dans l'avenir je voudrais retourner en France parce que le nourriture était très bonne" and in paragraph 4, "je recommanderais passer le temps avec une famille française parce que c'est une expérience fantastique")

The verbs generally hold up well throughout the writing and there is the impression that the candidate can handle tenses despite errors. (eg in paragraph 1, "je suis allé"; "j'ai voyage" and in paragraph 2, "je me suis bien entendu").

However, there are some errors, particularly when the candidate attempts to use tenses other than the perfect tense. (In paragraph 1, "la famille habité à Orleans" and in paragraph 4, "Si j'aurais l'argent ..."), but overall there is more correct than incorrect.

Errors in this piece of writing tend to be mainly errors in spelling and gender. (eg in paragraph 1, "interressant" "le premiere fois" and "ils étaient ..... gentile"; in paragraph 3, the accents are omitted in "etait" and "peut etre" and "nous mangons" is spelled incorrectly; in paragraph 4, "recommenderais" is spelled incorrectly and the wrong gender is used in "le deuxième fois")

However, the candidate has succeeded in addressing all the bullet points using mainly basic language and has shown he/she can handle the perfect tense.

Despite numerous errors in spelling and gender, there are some attempts to write complex sentences albeit not very successfully at times.

For all these reasons, this piece of writing was awarded 6 marks.

## Candidate 7

The evidence for this candidate has achieved **4 marks** for the Directed Writing element of this Course Assessment component.

The candidate has addressed all the bullet points in this piece of writing, but the content is limited.

The essay does not start particularly well - "L'année été à durée les grandes vacances" and it is unclear exactly what the candidate is trying to say. Despite the poor start, the rest of paragraph 1 is accurate.

Paragraph 2 starts off quite well despite the omission of the accent on "améliorer" and "je n'ai aimé pas..." but then starts to deteriorate with evidence of serious dictionary misuse when the candidate writes " J'ai du propre les chambre et il pris toute la journée"

The language tends to be fairly repetitive throughout the writing and the candidate relies heavily on basic verbs. The phrase "j'ai aimé" is used on three separate occasions (In paragraph 2, "J'ai aimé parler avec les gens du pays .."; in

paragraph 3, "J'ai aimé ça!" and "J'ai aimé tout mes collègues!") "Était" and "c'était" are also used several times (In paragraph 1, "C'était très beau"; "L'hôtel était très occupé"; in paragraph 2, "Ma chambre était très agréable. C'était grande ....").

The use of the perfect tense tends to be limited to "j'ai aimé" and there is little use of complex and detailed language. The ability to form tenses is inconsistent (eg in paragraph 2, "il pris"; in paragraph 3, "nous avons sorti" and "ils ont très sympa"). There are many errors in spelling, gender, accents and adjectival agreement (eg in paragraph 3, "C'était grande"; "mes collègues"; "compréhensif"; in paragraph 4, "recommender").

Despite all of that, there are some nice touches - in paragraph 2, "J'ai aimé parler avec les gens du pays parce que j'ai pu améliorer mon français" and in paragraph 4, "je me suis très bien amusée et je voudrais bien y retourner".

Overall, the language is quite basic and repetitive with some serious errors and dictionary misuse and errors in spelling and gender. For those reasons, this piece of writing was awarded 4 marks.

### Candidate 8

The evidence for this candidate has achieved **4 marks** for the Directed Writing element of this Course Assessment component.

The candidate has addressed all the bullet points, but the language is not accurate throughout.

The writing starts off well and the first sentence is very accurate. However, it starts to deteriorate quite quickly in the second half of paragraph 1 where there are numerous mistakes in spelling, accents and gender (eg "Une hotel", "et située", "le ville" and "modern"). This pattern is repeated throughout the piece of writing where each paragraph is a mixture of correct and incorrect sentences.

The ability to form tenses is inconsistent throughout the writing.

In paragraph 1 the wrong auxiliary verb is used ("nous sommes travaillé") and in paragraph 2, the present tense is used instead of the imperfect ("Les heures est très long ..." and "Il n'y a pas beaucoup de temps libre").

In paragraph 3, the infinitive has been used instead of the past participle ("nous sommes visiter"). The present tense is also used instead of the imperfect tense ("je m'entends bien avec mes collègues"). "J'ai achète" has the accent in the wrong place. In paragraph 4, the candidate has attempted to use the conditional tense, but has not done so correctly "je préférais".

There is also some serious dictionary misuse in paragraph 2 ("mon job était propre les chambres pour les visitors" and "je me détesté")

Despite some very accurate sentences in this piece of writing, the candidate's inability to form tenses and the serious dictionary misuse detract from the overall performance and results in the candidate being awarded 4 marks.