

Commentary on candidate evidence

The evidence for the candidates within this pack has achieved the following marks for this coursework assessment task.

Candidate 1: Society

Good friends are more important than family. Do you agree?

You could discuss the importance of friends and what they mean to you. You could also set out the advantages and disadvantages of different relationships. You could also mention whether friends are reliable, and when being with friends is better than being with family and vice versa.

The candidate was awarded **16 marks** because...

Content

The candidate addresses the topic competently using content which is mostly relevant. The assignment is well structured and organised and the candidate uses a range of discursive phrases to outline different arguments and viewpoints and draw a conclusion, for example *beaucoup de gens diraient que ...; ... ; je crois que ... ; par contre; personnellement; je dirais que ...*

The candidate is able to express ideas, opinions and reasons and give reasons for those opinions, for example *je crois que les amis sont très importants dans la vie de tous parce que je peux faire beaucoup de choses que je n'aimerais jamais faire avec mes parents*).

Accuracy

Spelling is generally accurate throughout the writing and the candidate demonstrates a good degree of grammatical accuracy, particularly in the first part of the assignment, for example *Cependant ... famille est plus importante que les amis car on peut avoir confiance en eux*.

However, the use of clumsy expressions and inaccuracy in verbs in the second part of the writing begin to detract from the overall impression, for example *Je me sens obligé à essayer à avoir un bon rapport avec eux alors même qu'ils se mêlent dans ma vie privée et me traitent même un enfant; j'ai plus confiance en mes amis que ma famille parce qu'ils ont expérimenté choses similaires que mes expériences*.

Language resource

The candidate does use mainly detailed and complex language and a range of structures appropriate to Higher. However, the structures are not always accurate.

There is slight repetition towards the end of the piece of writing where the candidate relies on language that has already been used, for example *je n'ai pas confiance en eux; ils essayent meller dans mes affaires; la famille est plus importante que les amis*.

Overall, this is a competent essay which addresses the topic effectively using language and structures appropriate to Higher level.

Candidate 2: Employability

Work experience is more important than good exam results. Discuss.
You could discuss the advantages or disadvantages of having a part time job. How easy is it to combine part-time work with studying for your exams and/or doing your school work? Are employers more interested in qualifications or experience? You could discuss if earning money is more important than getting good exam results.

The candidate was awarded **8 marks** because...

Content

The candidate uses content which has relevance to the topic and despite errors, has attempted to give a discursive response for example, *Pour beaucoup de gens il est fondamental de entrer dans une bonne université et donc leur résultats d'examen est très importants.*

However, the assignment is written mainly in the first person with little attempt to present arguments from the perspective of others (*pour moi; je veux travailler; je suis toujours ...; je déteste; je veux essayer*). There is an attempt to draw a conclusion, but it is fairly weak (*... pour mon plan de vie, l'expérience de travail est plus important*).

Accuracy

There are serious grammatical inaccuracies throughout the piece which detract significantly from the overall impression. Verb endings and verb tenses are not always accurate, for example. *j'avais donc besoin d'un petit boulot; ma mère ne comprends pas.*

Language resource

Accents are omitted or used incorrectly (*á; expérience; collègue*). There are also several examples of other language interference which impede communication, for example *je suis toujours á court d'argent; c'est difficile à trouver un; ça est car elle ne écoutes pas á moi.* Verbs used correctly are mainly basic verbs. There is an example of a modal verb construction (*je veux travailler*), but any attempt to use more complex constructions is not particularly successful (*l'université est va être une gaspillage de temps et argent*).

There is a satisfactory use of connectives, but these are very basic (*et; mais; donc; car*).

Overall, the language is more incorrect than correct.

The assignment does have some elements of 12 marks in terms of content and relevance, but the number of serious grammatical errors and the amount of inaccurate language and other language interference detract significantly from the overall impression.

Candidate 3: Society

You get more attention if you are born in a small family. Discuss.

You could discuss the advantages and disadvantages of living in a small family. You could include why you may prefer to live in a bigger family. You could mention what kind of family you would like to have when you are old enough to have your own family.

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because...

Content

The candidate has addressed the topic throughout the essay.. The content is generally relevant, and the candidate does attempt to express opinions, ideas and reasons . However, these tend to be very limited. (*Une famille nombreuse est très géniale parce qu'il y a moins de bruit, c'est plus calme*).

There is also an attempt to use discursive language in paragraphs 2 and 4, although it is not always accurate. (*Premièrement les avantages ...; Mais, par contre; il y a aussi trop les inconvénients... ; en ce qui concerne ma propre famille, je pense que ...*)

Although the candidate is able to draw a conclusion, it is very weak (*En conclusion tout le monde ont leur propre avis à propos de la famille*).

Accuracy

The essay begins reasonably well but starts to deteriorate significantly in terms of grammatical accuracy towards the end of the second paragraph (*Les enfants pouvez devenir gâtée ou vous préférée pouvez un parent*).

Paragraph 3 is characterised by serious grammatical inaccuracies and there is little evidence that the candidate has a sound knowledge of verb tenses, forms or word order. (*Vous être-peut préférée viviez ... ; il y a plus le gens de s'amuser et discuter*).

In paragraph 5, there is evidence of other language interference which impedes communication and makes the meaning of several sentences unclear (*Si tu veux les enfants ne pas décourager par cette dissertation parce que toute le monde différente choses de la vie ; si vous voulez une petite famille qui d'accord; tout le monde pas ne veux une famille*).

Language resource

There is a limited amount of detailed and complex language and the candidate can only cope with basic verbs and structures such as "*Je voudrais une petite famille car je déteste ...*" in paragraph 4.

The writing is peppered with basic mistakes in spelling, word order and verb forms and there is a significant use of repetitive language.

In terms of content, this essay has some elements of 8 marks, but the limited ability to express ideas and opinions, the lack of grammatical accuracy, together with the amount of repetition and other language interference detract significantly from the overall impression.

Candidate 4: Society

When you have a mobile phone, you don't need friends. Do you agree? You could debate the advantages and disadvantages of modern technology. Why are people so attached to their devices? What are the benefits and dangers? Are "real" friends and family still important?

The candidate was awarded **20 marks** because...

Content

The candidate addresses the title in a full and balanced way using content which is highly relevant. The essay is well structured and organised and the language flows well.

The piece of writing contains a wide range of ideas, opinions and reasons, and the candidate has the ability to present different arguments and viewpoints. A conclusion is drawn using detailed and complex language appropriate to Higher level.

Accuracy

The essay is very accurate throughout and although there are some errors, these are not serious and do not detract from the overall impression of the piece of writing.

Overall, this is an effective piece of writing in which the candidate demonstrates a sound knowledge of all aspects of grammar. The candidate has the ability to use detailed and complex language appropriate to Higher level and is able to use a wide range of vocabulary and structures accurately to present ideas and opinions.

Language resource

In paragraph 2, the candidate outlines the advantages of mobile phones using detailed and complex language and vocabulary (*En plus, c'est pratique pour mémoriser ... ou juste les visionner ; il va sans dire que les portables soient très utiles ... tout le monde*).

In the third paragraph, the candidate presents a different point of view by outlining the disadvantages of mobile phones and is able to draw a conclusion. (*De l'autre côté, à haute dose l'utilisation est mauvais pour la santé ... ce que je trouve effrayant*).

There are numerous examples of the use of discursive language throughout the essay, (*Beaucoup d'adolescents considèrent ... ; il y a des avantages et des inconvénients associés avec ces appareils ; il va sans dire que ... ; il a été noté que ...*)

Candidate 5: Culture

Some young people believe that learning a language has no benefits. Do you agree?

The candidate was awarded **12 marks** because...

Content

The candidate has not included the full stimulus which should follow the basic statement and question but does address the title fairly competently and uses content which is mostly relevant, although in parts somewhat loosely related to the essay title. There is an attempt to express some ideas, opinions and reasons and to present different arguments and viewpoints.

The candidate does draw a conclusion, but it is weak.

The candidate writes with an adequate sense of structure and the piece of writing is mostly organised. However, the essay is perhaps a bit short which does not allow the candidate to demonstrate a range of structures.

Accuracy

There are a number of errors in spelling and accents, which detract from the overall quality of the writing (*vacances idéale; très; qualités; la bas; les l'anglais*). The use of punctuation is weak which makes the essay difficult to follow at times.

There is good use of the present tense throughout the essay and the conditional tense is well used in paragraphs 1 and 2 (*vacances idéale seraient ...; j'aimerais partir; on se détendrait; j'aurais l'occasion...; ce serait facile...; je pourrais utiliser...*).

The candidate also demonstrates a knowledge of modal verb constructions in paragraphs 2 and 3, although these are quite basic (*on peut rencontrer...; on peut communiquer...*).

The language throughout the piece of writing is more correct than incorrect and the candidate is able to demonstrate an adequate degree of grammatical accuracy.

Language resource

The first few sentences are basic, and the language is a bit repetitive, (*J'étudie le français depuis cinq ans. J'étudie le français parce que j'aime le français*). However, it does pick up and the candidate attempts to use verbs and structures that are more appropriate to Higher level. There is little attempt to incorporate discursive language as the essay is written mainly in the first person.

The language used is fairly basic and although mainly accurate, the writing lacks the detail and complexity expected at Higher level.

Candidate 6: Learning

The only way to get a good job is through education. Discuss.

You can choose to talk about school, what you have decided to learn and your own plans for studying, the importance of studying a language but also about job expenses, part time jobs or anything else that enables you to discuss the subject.

The candidate was awarded **12 marks** because...

Content

The candidate addresses the title competently using content which is generally relevant and the essay has an adequate sense of structure. There is some attempt to express ideas and opinions and give reasons and the candidate attempts to present different viewpoints, although these are mainly written from a personal point of view. The candidate does draw a conclusion, albeit it is somewhat weak.

Accuracy

The candidate does attempt to use a range of structures, but these are often not used accurately, for example *Je ne suis pas d'accord que c'est la seulement façon ; ... chez le lycée je suis travailleuse.*

The candidate demonstrates an adequate degree of grammatical accuracy and shows a knowledge of a range of tenses.

The present tense is used well, not only in the first person but also in other forms of the verb. In paragraphs 1 and 3 the candidate uses the third person plural form of the present tense accurately (*J'ai beaucoup des amis qui veulent un emploi ou ils veulent voyager ...; certains jeunes detestent le lycée*). There is also evidence to show that the candidate has a knowledge of other tenses and can use them accurately (*Je voudrais; j'irai; j'ai fait*).

There are numerous mistakes in spelling throughout the writing and careless use of accents (*une bon éducation; diplôme; après; espère; experience; matiers*). These mistakes detract from the overall impression of the piece of writing.

Overall, there is more correct language than incorrect.

Language Resource

The candidate does attempt to use detailed and complex language appropriate to Higher level.

The candidate demonstrates the ability to use different verb tenses and attempts to use a range of structures.. However, the careless use of accents and errors in spelling and grammar detract from the candidate's overall performance.