



ENTRY LEVEL CERTIFICATE 2009

SUBJECT FRENCH

Chief Examiner: Deborah Wring

Assistant Chief: Karen Sherwood

Standards reached by many candidates were high, reflecting the dedication and interest of students and their teachers. There was high quality work from some candidates who used ICT, art work and /or magazines to enhance their written work. Others spoke with confidence and were well prepared for their role play

Listening and Reading

Candidates performed well in both listening and reading with most candidates scoring highly.

Speaking

Most teachers were supportive of their candidates during the speaking tests. Overall, candidates were well prepared and most spoke with confidence. However, at times, the quality of the recording made candidates' responses difficult to hear and some centres did not use the questions specified in the mark scheme, using more difficult ones instead. Candidates should be made aware that they are required to respond to the picture prompts for the speaking task for Unit 6.

Most centres included their tapes well labelled and with a clear recording of the 4 candidates in the sample, as required. It was difficult for moderators when centres included all candidates on the tapes. Centres are requested to avoid using commercial IT software which prevents a CD being played through a CD player and requires a computer to listen to the sample.

Centres are required to place marks for individual questions into candidates' booklets for the speaking tasks so that moderators may provide guidance if needed

Writing

The written work of some candidates was detailed, creative and accurate. However, as in previous years, in Unit 6 some candidates copied the menu items from the reading task whilst others lost marks for including drinks and side dishes. Students should be given clear guidance on the requirements of this task from their teachers. Centres are referred back to the mark scheme which indicates that in Unit 6 marks are awarded separately for prices and items, marks are not to be awarded for drinks and a mark can be awarded for a dessert.

Administration

Whilst many centres submitted very well organised and accurately marked entries, there was an increase in items being omitted from the final submission. These included the following:

- The original Unit 1 mark sheet (annotated in green pen) was not enclosed
- The F1 sheet was either not included or the unit marks were not entered
- Not all mark sheets for units 1-10 were included

With reference to the F1 mark sheet, there was a marked increase in the number of significant addition errors. One candidate's mark was miscalculated by 100 marks and one whole teaching group was miscalculated by 40 marks across all candidates. Clearly, this has a huge impact on the final grade awarded. Centres are urged to check all totals before sending their final submission to their moderator.

Centres are also encouraged to check the mark scheme for the level of each task and the marks to be awarded. On occasion, centres were awarding half marks and giving 1 mark where the mark scheme stated 2 or 0.

If there is more than one teaching group in the centre, cross-moderation is recommended. In some centres this year, marking standards and practice within the centre differed widely

Once again, sincere thanks from the moderation team to teachers in centres for the successful completion of this course. The commitment of staff and students alike has brought about high quality outcomes and positive responses from candidates.