



STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

Guidelines for marking of (Optional) School-based oral test in French at the Junior Certificate Examination

The following marking scheme is offered to teachers by way of suggestions (as is the format of the test). If another marking scheme is chosen, details must be submitted to the State Examinations Commission before 1st May. It is strongly recommended, however, that where there is divergence from the detail of the suggested marking scheme the broad division of marks, i.e. **General questions: 40%** and **Role-plays: 60%** should be adhered to.

1. **Broad division of marks:** (Total: 80 marks)
 - (a) General questions: 32 marks (8 x 4)
 - (b) Role-plays (two sections): 48 marks (2 x 24)

2. General criteria for marking individual sections of test:

For each communicative task (i.e. general question, role-play or other task chosen), the main criterion must be whether the task is in fact accomplished, i.e. whether the pupil would have made himself / herself understood in a French context. The candidate who carries out the wrong task or whose utterances a French native would not be likely to understand must be awarded less than 40% of the marks in that section. Conversely, the candidate who carries out the right task and does so in a manner comprehensible to a French native despite a number of mistakes in pronunciation, vocabulary, structures, etc., must be awarded half marks. The remaining marks for each section could be awarded for proficiency in Pronunciation, Vocabulary and Structures. (Structures will feature more prominently in the Role-plays than in the General questions section).

It should not be necessary at this level for the candidate to show native-speaker proficiency in order to obtain high or even full marks.

3. The marks awarded for the oral (80 / 400) account for 20% of the whole examination. (In the case of candidates who are not presented for an oral test, 320 marks = 100%).
4. The following marking sheet is offered as guidance.

GENERAL CONVERSATION

The examiner is requested to select **eight** of the following or similar questions. In doing so, he / she is asked to respect as far as possible the normal coherence of everyday conversation, i.e. not to skip arbitrarily from topic to topic and to allow the candidate to elaborate on particular responses. The examiner should feel free to paraphrase and to encourage the candidate as necessary.

1. Tu as quel âge ?
2. Quelle est la date de ton anniversaire ?
3. Tu habites où ?
4. Tu as des frères et des sœurs ?
5. Comment s'appellent tes frères et sœurs ?
6. Tu te lèves à quelle heure d'habitude ? (le samedi) ?
7. Quel est ton passe-temps favori ?
8. Qu'est-ce que tu préfères comme sport ?
9. Tu as un animal chez toi ?
10. Comment est-ce que tu viens à l'école ?
11. Quelle est ta matière préférée ?
12. Quelles sont les matières qui sont difficiles / faciles pour toi ?
13. Qu'est-ce qu'il y a dans ta ville / ton village ?
14. Que font tes parents dans la vie ?
15. Est-ce que tu aides tes parents à faire le ménage ? Qu'est-ce que tu fais ?
16. Est-ce que tes parents te donnent de l'argent de poche ? Combien ?
17. Qu'est-ce que tu fais avec cet argent ?
18. Tu regardes souvent la télé ? Qu'est-ce que tu aimes regarder ?
19. Tu vas souvent au cinéma / en disco / au club des jeunes ?
20. Qu'est-ce que tu aimerais faire quand tu quitteras l'école ?
21. Tu as un petit travail / boulot ?
22. Tu es déjà allé(e) en France ? Comment tu l'as trouvée ?
23. (a) Qu'est-ce que tu fais le week-end ?
or (b) Qu'est-ce que tu vas faire le week-end / pendant les grandes vacances ?
or (c) Qu'est-ce que tu as fait le week-end dernier ?

State Examinations Commission

Marking-Sheet

General Questions :

	0	1	2	3	4
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					

Total Mark :

Marking Scheme :

- 4 marks: Full, unambiguous, undistorted communication.
- 3 marks: Full communication, but with hesitation either in understanding the question or in responding.
- 2 marks: Part of the message is lacking.
- 1 mark: Only a fraction of the message gets across.
- 0 mark: Silence – gibberish – a grammatical sentence but not the required message.

Example :

Question: Quel âge as-tu ?

- Answer:** J'ai quinze ans. (4 marks)
- Pardon (*question asked again*) ah oui j'ai ... quinze ... ans. (3 marks)
- J'ai quinze (*pronounced 'quins'*) ans. (2 marks)
- J'ai ... je suis ... (1 mark)
- Oui, j'ai un chien à la maison. (0 mark)

(Each responding / initiating utterance in a role-play can be marked in the same way).

Candidate's Card

Section A: Task 1

You and a friend are visiting a French town and you ask an 'agent de police' how to get to the tourist office. Your friend doesn't speak French and you will have to explain the directions to him / her in English.

1. Attract the policeman's attention.
2. Ask him how to get to the tourist office.
3. Tell him that you don't understand and ask him to repeat what he said.
4. (Your friend wants to know what he said.) Repeat the directions in English as if explaining to your friend.
5. Ask the policeman if it's far.
Thank him for his help.

Section A: Task 2

You go into the clothes department of a store to buy a jumper. The examiner will play the role of the salesperson and will start up the conversation.

1. Greet the shop-assistant. Explain that you want to buy a jumper.
2. Answer as you wish.
3. (The salesperson shows you a jumper.) Ask if you can try it on.
4. (You try it on but it's too big for you.) Tell the salesperson it is too big.
5. (The salesperson gives you another one to try on. You like it.) Ask how much it costs.

Section A: Task 3

You are a customer in this restaurant. The examiner will play the role of the waiter.

Choose a dish from each of the three courses offered and something to drink.
Ask for the bill and check if service is included.

<p>AU BON BOEUF Menu à 35 euros. Service compris.</p> <p>Pâté Maison Crudités Oeuf dur mayonnaise * * * * *</p> <p>Steak pommes frites Rôti de porc aux lentilles Poulet rôti * * * * *</p> <p>Fromage ou fruits</p> <p>Boisson en sus ½ rouge, 5 € ½ blanc, 5 € ½ Eau minérale, 4 €</p>
--

Examiner's Card

Section A : Task 1

You are an 'agent de police' in a French town. Two visitors need directions to the tourist office. One of them doesn't speak any French.

1. (Visitor attracts your attention). **Oui, Mademoiselle / Monsieur ?**
2. (Visitor asks you how to get to the tourist office). **Le Syndicat d'Initiative / L'office de Tourisme. Voyons. Vous continuez cette rue, vous traversez le pont là-bas, et c'est la deuxième rue à gauche.**
3. (Visitor says that he / she doesn't understand and asks you to repeat the directions. Do so slowly).
4. (The visitor will repeat what you said in English to a friend who doesn't speak French).
5. (Visitor asks you if it's far). **Non, c'est tout près. Vous en avez pour cinq minutes à pied.** (Visitor thanks you for your help). **À votre service, Mademoiselle / Monsieur.**

Section A : Task 2

You are a salesperson in a clothes department. A customer wishes to buy a jumper.

0. **Bonjour Mademoiselle / Monsieur. Je peux vous aider ?**
1. (Customer greets you and says that he / she wants to buy a jumper).
2. **Quelle couleur préférez-vous ?** (Customer / candidate is free to choose a colour).
3. (You show the customer a jumper. He / she asks to try it on). **Oui. Il y a une glace là-bas.**
4. (You give the customer a smaller size). **Ah oui. Tenez, en voilà un autre plus petit.**
5. (The customer likes this one and asks you how much it costs). **Ce pull-là coûte 60 euros, Mademoiselle / Monsieur.**

Section A : Task 3

You are the waiter in the « Au Bon Bœuf » restaurant. The customer / candidate must order one dish from each of the three courses and something to drink. He / she must ask for the bill and check if service is included.

1. **Bonjour, Monsieur / Mademoiselle. Vous désirez ? Vous avez choisi ?**
2. **Et comme boisson ?**
3. (L'addition, s'il vous plaît). **Voilà, Monsieur / Mademoiselle. 35 / 39 / 40 euros, s.v.p.**
4. (Le service est compris ?) **Oui, Monsieur / Mademoiselle. Le service est compris.**

AU BON BOEUF	
Menu à 35 euros. Service compris.	
Pâté Maison	
Crudités	
Oeuf dur mayonnaise	
* * * * *	
Steak pommes frites	
Rôti de porc aux lentilles	
Poulet rôti	
* * * * *	
Fromage ou fruits	
	Boisson en sus
	½ rouge, 5 €.
	½ blanc, 5 €
	½ Eau minérale, 4 €

Candidate's Card

Section B : Task 1

You and your friend are hiking in France. You seek accommodation in an Auberge de Jeunesse (Youth Hostel). Your friend doesn't speak French so you have to book in for both of you. You have to act as an interpreter for your friend. The examiner will play the role of the 'Père Aubergiste' in charge of the hostel.

1. Ask if there are rooms for two people for the night.
2. Ask how much it costs.
3. Repeat what you are told in English as if explaining to your friend.
4. Ask where the kitchen is.
5. Repeat what you are told in English as if explaining to your friend.

Section B: Task 2

You are with a friend in a railway station in France. Your friend doesn't speak French and you are helping him/her to buy a return ticket to Paris and to find out when the next train is leaving. You have to act as an interpreter for your friend. The examiner will play the role of the ticket clerk at the 'guichet'.

1. Ask for a return ticket to Paris.
2. Ask the ticket clerk to repeat what he said.
3. Translate what he said into English as if explaining to your friend.
4. Ask what time the next train to Paris is at.
5. Say the departure time in English as if interpreting for your friend.

Section B: Task 3

The examiner will play the part of your French pen-friend. You want to know more about his or her school.

1. (a) Find out how many pupils there are and
(b) then say whether you think it's a big or small school.
2. Find out what time classes start and finish at.
3. (a) Ask what are his/her favourite subjects (or what subjects he/she is good or bad at) and
(b) then say what subjects you prefer (or are good or bad at).
4. Ask if the teachers are strict.
5. (a) Find out if there are sports facilities (e.g. gymnasium, swimming pool, football) and
(b) then say what sports facilities there are in your school.

Examiner's Card

Section B: Task 1

You are the 'Père Aubergiste' of a youth hostel. Two hikers are looking for accommodation.

1. *(Candidate asks if there is room for two people).* **Oui, il y a de la place.**
2. *(Candidate asks how much it costs).* **Vingt euros par personne la nuit.**
3. *(Candidate repeats this in English as if explaining to his/her friend).*
4. *(Candidate asks where the kitchen is).* **C'est au bout du couloir, à gauche.**
5. *(Candidate repeats this in English as if explaining to his/her friend).*

Section B : Task 2

You are a ticket clerk in a French railway station. Two Irish students, one of whom does not speak French, come up to the desk. The one who does speak French is assisting his/her friend who wants to go to Paris.

1. *(Candidate asks for a return ticket to Paris).* **Voilà. 40 euros.**
2. *(Candidate asks you to repeat what you said).* **40 euros.**
3. *(Candidate repeats this in English as if explaining to his/her friend).*
4. *(Candidate asks what time the next train for Paris leaves at).* **À quatorze heures vingt-deux.**
5. *(Candidate repeats this in English as if explaining to his/her friend).*

Section B: Task 3

You are the candidate's French pen-friend. He or she wants to know about your school. (His/her instructions are in brackets, and some possible answers to his/her questions are suggested).

1. *((a) Find out how many pupils there are and (b) then say whether you think it's a big or small school.)*
(a) Il y a environ 900 élèves.
(b) React to the candidate's comment, e.g. Oui, c'est assez grand.
2. *(Find out what time classes start and finish at).* **Les cours commencent à 8h30 et se terminent à 16h30.**
3. *((a) Ask what are his/her favourite subjects (or what subjects he/she is good or bad at)*
(b) then say what subjects you prefer (or are good or bad at).)
4. *(Ask if the teachers are strict).*
Ça dépend. Un ou deux sont un peu sévères, mais en général ça va. Ils sont plutôt sympas.
5. *((a) Find out if there are sports facilities (e.g. gymnasium, swimming pool, football)*
(b) then say what sports facilities there are in your school).
Oui, il y a un gymnase, une piscine et des tennis.

[Note: The interpretation in English may be found confusing and is not an essential feature of a role-play. Teachers should feel free to develop their own role-plays according to the material covered in individual classes. The above are offered merely by way of guidance.]