



National
Qualifications
2025

2025 French

Reading

Higher

Question Paper Finalised Marking Instructions

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2025

These marking instructions have been prepared by examination teams for use by SQA appointed markers when marking external course assessments.

The information in this document may be reproduced in support of SQA qualifications only on a non-commercial basis. If it is reproduced, SQA must be clearly acknowledged as the source. If it is to be reproduced for any other purpose, written permission must be obtained from permissions@sqa.org.uk.

General marking principles for Higher French Reading

Always apply these general principles. Use them in conjunction with the detailed marking instructions, which identify the key features required in candidates' responses.

- (a) Always use positive marking. This means candidates accumulate marks for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding; marks are not deducted for errors or omissions.
- (b) If a candidate response does not seem to be covered by either the principles or detailed marking instructions, and you are uncertain how to assess it, you must seek guidance from your team leader.
- (c) Award a mark for each answer. Marks are not transferable between questions and the answers for each question must come from the item.
- (d) Marks are available as follows:
 - (i) The first set of questions (worth 18 marks in total) asks candidates to provide answers based on comprehension of information from the text. There are generally 1-3 marks available for each question.
 - (ii) The penultimate question is the overall purpose question, and candidates must identify the overall purpose of the text and draw meaning from their overall understanding of the text. There is a maximum of 2 marks available for reference to the text and detailed comment. Pegged mark descriptors (2/1/0) and associated commentary are available, along with further guidance, in the detailed marking instructions.
 - (iii) The last question is the translation. For this question, candidates must translate the underlined section of the text. The section for translation is divided into five sense units. For each sense unit, award 2, 1 or 0 marks: 2 marks for a full translation, 1 for partial translation, and 0 for an unsuccessful attempt.
- (e) Award marks according to the accuracy and relevance of the candidate's answers. Award marks where the answer is accurate but expressed in their own words.

Marking instructions for each question

Question		Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
				Do not accept:
1.	(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3000 (young French) people/individuals aged 15 to 26/ 3000 15- to 26-year-olds 	1	any other number
	(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> French young people/they work the most in Europe OR French young people/they work more than Spanish, German and British young people more than five out of/in ten (French young people) will stay at home in July and August (this year) 	2	<p>more in Europe</p> <p>stayed in their jobs stay/remain there in the summer</p>
2.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (majority) need to save to learn to drive/for driving lessons/to pay the car insurance (more than half of them) mention rising/increasing rent (one third) will use the money to go on holiday (with friends) at the end of the summer 	3	<p>consult/consulted to mention the rising rent bills</p> <p>in the summer</p>

Question		Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
				Do not accept:
3.	(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> they have to/are expected to respect/follow the rules/regulations/laws of the business/company/enterprise/firm they have to/are expected to always arrive on time/arrive on time every day 	2	respect the rules more department/department of business on the hour
	(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the (maximum working) hours cannot exceed 35 hours a week/7 hours a day OR they cannot work more than 35 hours a week/7 hours a day they cannot (be asked/demanded to) work at night/nightshift they are forbidden/prohibited/banned from doing tasks that could/are liable to harm/damage their safety/security or/and health OR they can only do tasks that are OK for their safety/security or/and health <p>Any 2 from 3</p>	2	they only work 7 hours a day they must not/can't ask to work at night secure 'sensitive/susceptible work/tasks' negates the mark
4.	(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (since January) she (had) applied for about/around twenty jobs (in the local area) without success she did not have friends in the right/high places/she could not pull strings/she did not have any connections her parents did not know anyone who needed workers/employees <p>Any 2 from 3</p>	2	sent CVs posed as a candidate she had no strings to pull employer

Question		Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
				Do not accept:
	(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (the summer) when she sat/did her baccalaureate/the bac/Highers/A levels/(leaving) exams/high-school diploma • (first day was) the day before she turned 18/the eve of her 18th (birthday) <p>Any 1 from 2</p>	1	<p>passed leaving school/when she graduated high school</p> <p>evening</p>
5.	(a)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • she does not have the stress of looking for/finding a (new) job from one year to the next/year after year/every year/another year/one other year/one more year • the atmosphere within the team/group is (very) convivial/friendly • she enjoys earning her money/working in the open/fresh air/outdoors/away from (urban) pollution 	3	<p>every other year in the future the other year</p> <p>the atmosphere was good/inviting/user-friendly/positive</p>
	(b)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bending/leaning over/picking grapes for (whole) days/all day • she went home with a (very) sore/bad back/spine • (there is no shade in vineyards and) you are forced to/have to work in the (full) sun for hours/during her/the hours <p>Any 2 from 3</p>	2	<p>raisins</p> <p>all the time</p>

Question	Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
6.	<p>Assertion (1 mark) Yes, the writer is in favour of young people having summer jobs because the text is (mainly/mostly/generally/slightly/broadly) positive/states more advantages than disadvantages/has lots of positive language.</p> <p>Award 0 marks for assertion where the candidate states: The writer is not in favour of young people having summer jobs. OR The writer is neutral.</p> <p>Justification (1 mark)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angèle says that it is important for young people to learn the value of money from a young age • the term “profiter” is used in the title, suggesting that work can have an element of fun and enjoyment • there are lots of opportunities for earning money, the list of jobs in agriculture suggests many possibilities • the real-life example he uses, Angèle, is very positive about her experience of working during the summer • the writer says that working is character-building • the writer points out specific working conditions which protect young people 	2	<p>Award 2 marks where the candidate provides a clear answer, with justification that shows an accurate reading of the text.</p> <p>Award 1 mark where the candidate provides an answer which may contain some degree of misreading, but which offers evidence of some justification.</p> <p>Award 0 marks where the candidate simply provides information to be found in the text by simply re-stating answers to previous questions.</p>

Question	Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
7.	<p>Translate into English (lines 26-29):</p> <p><i>Ces activités saisonnières . . . toute la journée.</i></p>	10	<p>The translation into English is allocated 10 marks. The text for translation is divided into a number of sense units. Each sense unit is worth 2 marks. Award marks according to the quality and accuracy of the translation into English.</p> <p>Award a mark for each sense unit, as follows:</p> <p>2 marks - good The candidate understands and conveys essential information and relevant details, clearly and accurately, with appropriate use of English.</p> <p>1 mark - satisfactory The candidate understands and conveys essential information clearly and comprehensibly, although some of the details may be translated in an imprecise or inaccurate manner. They convey the key message in spite of inaccuracies and weaknesses in the use of English.</p> <p>0 marks - unsatisfactory The candidate fails to demonstrate sufficient understanding of the essential idea.</p>

Sense Units	Good - 2	Satisfactory - 1	Unsatisfactory - 0
<p>Unit 1</p> <p><i>Ces activités saisonnières sont populaires parmi les jeunes travailleurs</i></p>	<p>These seasonal jobs/activities are popular amongst/among (the) young workers/employees/working young people</p>	<p>the seasonal jobs/seasonal jobs seasonal work is summer activities omission of 'seasonal' with (the) young people who work omission of 'workers/working'</p>	<p>hard-working young people omission of 'popular' omission of 'young'</p>
<p>Unit 2</p> <p><i>car elles ne nécessitent généralement pas d'expérience.</i></p>	<p>because/since/as they do not generally/usually require /need/necessitate (any) experience.</p> <p>because/since/as experience isn't generally necessary</p> <p>because/since/as they do not need/require experience in general</p>	<p>omission of 'because' much experience they are not generally needing experience</p> <p>because it is not generally a necessity to have experience.</p>	<p>necessary experience they are not generally a required experience</p>
<p>Unit 3</p> <p><i>Il faut juste être motivé mais aussi et surtout,</i></p>	<p>You just/only need/have to/must be motivated but also and especially/above all</p> <p>One just/only needs/has to/must be motivated but also and especially/above all</p> <p>It is just necessary to be motivated but also and especially/above all</p>	<p>we/they very motivated actually/of course omission of 'just' omission of 'and' 'and' (instead of 'but') omission of 'but'</p>	<p>he they were fair/fairly justified omission of 'especially/above all' you can</p>

Sense Units	Good - 2	Satisfactory - 1	Unsatisfactory - 0
Unit 4 <i>il est indispensable d'être en très bonne condition physique,</i>	it is indispensable/vital/essential to be in (a) very good physical condition/health/shape	omission of 'very' omission of 'physical' to have very good physical condition/health/shape build	they are essentially in very good physical condition
Unit 5 <i>du fait qu'on sera debout toute la journée.</i>	because/since/as/due to the fact/on account of the fact that you/we/one will be standing/on your/our/one's feet all day (long)	omission of 'because' for you will be standing all day on account that/of due to standing when you/they are standing you/they are standing you/they are going to be standing they will be standing	they must be/have to be standing to be able to stand all day must stand every day

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]