

Franco-Scottish Society

The Madame Jacqueline Munro-Lafon Essay Prize

For learners of French at Advanced Higher Level

Marking Guidelines for Judges

JUDGING CRITERIA

Content refers to the ideas and arguments put forward. Are the ideas and arguments relevant to the title? Does the essay have a good structure? Does it read well?

Accuracy refers to the quality of the French. If there are errors, are they serious/ minor? Are there systemic errors with grammar (e.g., verbs, adjective agreement)? Do errors impede communication of ideas?

Language Resource refers to the degree of ease and comfort the writer shows when writing in French. Do they use a range of vocabulary? Do they attempt to make longer and more complex sentences? Do they use idiomatic language?

Structure and Organisation refers to the layout and flow of the essay. Are the points raised well presented and argued? Have logical conclusions been drawn and are they easy to follow?

Mark	Content	Accuracy	Language Resource	Structure and Organisation
8 or 7	The essay is well structured, and all aspects are relevant to the title. The topic is addressed fully, in a balanced way.	The language is characterised by a high degree of accuracy and may show some flair. A comprehensive range of verbs is used accurately, and tenses are consistent and accurate. There is evidence of confident handling of all aspects of grammar and spelling. Some minor errors need not detract from the overall very good impression.	The language used is mostly complex and sophisticated. There is a wide range of structures and vocabulary, including longer and more complex sentences using co-ordinating conjunctions. Idiomatic language is used effectively and appropriately.	Writes in a well-organised and structured way, demonstrating writing which is coherent throughout Presents and evaluates a series of arguments and draws conclusions which relate directly to the title.

Mark	Content	Accuracy	Language Resource	Structure and Organisation
6 or 5	<p>The essay has a good sense of structure, and most aspects are relevant to the title.</p> <p>The topic is addressed well.</p> <p>The content is clear and well thought-out.</p>	<p>The language is clearly comprehensible throughout and fairly free of serious errors. A range of verbs is used accurately, and tenses are generally consistent and accurate.</p> <p>Other parts of speech are used accurately.</p> <p>There are few serious errors in spelling and/or punctuation.</p>	<p>The language used is generally complex and sophisticated. Contains a good range of vocabulary and structures.</p> <p>The writer uses a good range of verbs/verb forms and tenses, and there is good use of co-ordinating conjunctions.</p> <p>There are attempts to use idiomatic language.</p>	<p>Writes in a structured way, demonstrating writing which is coherent, although there may be some instances of lack of clarity which do not detract from the overall impression.</p> <p>Presents and evaluates arguments and attempts to draw conclusions which relate to the title.</p>
4 or 3	<p>The essay has some sense of structure, and most aspects have some relevance to the title.</p> <p>The topic is addressed adequately.</p>	<p>The less complex language may be mostly accurate. However, in places, where the candidate attempts to use complex and sophisticated language, this may be less successful.</p> <p>The verbs are generally correct, but the range of verbs and tenses is limited.</p> <p>Spelling and punctuation are generally correct but there may be a few errors in some parts of speech – personal pronouns, gender of nouns, adjective endings.</p>	<p>There are some examples of complex and sophisticated language.</p> <p>Contains a reasonable range of vocabulary and structures appropriate to Advanced Higher.</p> <p>There is a limited range of verbs/verb forms and tenses.</p> <p>There are some successful attempts to use co-ordinating conjunctions.</p>	<p>Writes with some sense of structure, demonstrating writing which is largely coherent, although there may be some instances of lack of clarity which do detract from the overall impression.</p> <p>Presents arguments and attempts to draw conclusions which do not always relate to the title.</p>

Mark	Content	Accuracy	Language Resource	Structure and Organisation
2 or 1	<p>The essay is poorly structured, and many aspects are not relevant to the title. It may be repetitive in the ideas expressed. The topic is not fully addressed. The content is very limited.</p>	<p>The language is insufficiently accurate to convey meaning clearly and consistently. Ability to use verbs and form tenses accurately is inconsistent. There may be confusion between the singular and plural form of verbs. Although basic structures are used accurately, control of the language structure at times deteriorates significantly.</p>	<p>There is limited use of complex and sophisticated language. Contains a limited range of vocabulary and/or structures appropriate to Advanced Higher. There is inconsistency in the use of verbs/verb forms and tenses. There are few successful attempts to use co-ordinating conjunctions and subordinate clauses. There may be examples of unidiomatic translation from English and/or examples of dictionary misuse.</p>	<p>Writes without a clear structure, demonstrating writing which lacks coherence in places and which may impact on communication. Presents few arguments and conclusions or may draw conclusions which are not supported by the evidence</p>