External Assessment Report 201 2   Intermediate 1 French

Comments on candidate performance

General comments

- Number of presentations: 2,156.
- Average speaking mark: 24/30
- The examination was appropriate in terms of content and level of difficulty
- Many candidates had not been well prepared for the demands of Intermediate 1 particularly in coping with the demands of longer reading texts,
- Some excellent performances in Writing and the relatively few very poor performances were mainly in Listening and Writing.

Candidate performance in Reading and advice to centres

- Average reading mark: 18.8 /35
- Candidates performed well in the two shorter reading passages
- A greater number of candidates coped well with the longer third and fourth texts
- Majority of candidates related well to the content of these reading texts.
- Candidates continue to lose points by failing to provide sufficiently detailed answers as in text 4 (son fameux gâteau aux framboises) and in text 2 (des sports de plein air).
- Many candidates had difficulty with une demie heure plus tôt; avant de regarder la télé. (banlieue; les alentours; maillot de foot; randonnées; mon permis de conduire) auberge de jeunesse; travailler en équipe; vendredi soir; de quatorze à dix-huit ans).
- Candidates should be guided by the number of points awarded for each question, and should be discouraged from giving extraneous information as this is likely to be penalised
- Centres should ensure candidates are familiar with areas of vocabulary indicated in the prescribed themes and topics
- Candidates should be given sufficient practice in working with longer texts in preparation for texts 3 and 4.
- Many candidates would benefit from more focused practice of dictionary skills

Candidate performance in Listening and advice to centres

Average listening: 9.2 /20

- Listening remains most difficult component for many candidates
- Majority of candidates coped well with numbers, times, seasons and high-frequency vocabulary.
- Candidates are being trained well not to exceed the required amount of information indicated in the question.

- Many candidates are not giving sufficient details in their answers, often managing to recognise part of the answer but not the precise details
- Candidates failed to recognise common vocabulary: infirmière; irlandaise; couleurs ; 3 mois; deux heures et demie; nord-est; au sous-sol.;il y a combien d'habitants en Écosse? Vous êtes de quelle région?
- Centres should ensure that candidates know numbers, common adjectives, weather expressions, prepositions and question words

Candidate performance in Writing and advice to centres

Average writing mark: 7.6/15
- Wide range of performances, from very good to very poor. Some excellent performances in writing where candidates had been prepared well and were able to write at some length and with a high level of accuracy, but a few candidates failed to provide the required number of pieces of information for each of the areas.
- Many centres need to give further guidance on what constitutes three sentences, the accuracy required in terms of spelling, genders and use of accents, and how candidates can go beyond a minimal response.
- Expanded version of the pegged mark descriptors should be shared with candidates.

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