

CCEA EXEMPLIFYING EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE

A2 1 (AF211)

French: Speaking

Assessment Unit A2 1 Speaking

Please read this in conjunction with the relevant sound file on the GCE French microsite, under the Support Materials (A21) tab.

Introduction

These tapes were chosen to give students a clearer idea of the many different styles of candidates who obtain top grades in spoken French. You will find many different examples of how to cope with the demands of this examination.

Hopefully you will be reassured that you can aspire to this level and that the examiners who come to conduct the orals do so with great warmth and sensitivity as well as professionalism. The commentaries will also give you further insights in to what examiners are looking for.

1. Discussion Title: *La religion dans Manon des sources*

Examiner's Comments

Overall comments

The candidate provides clear evidence of a very good understanding of the film and its implications in relation to religion and the other themes discussed. In this respect she develops critical and evaluative arguments, ideas and insights which are manifestly her own. She responds fluently, readily and thoughtfully, and at an authentic conversation pace, answering from her own point of view and not seeking to please the examiner.

Her accent, intonation and pronunciation are excellent, as is her command of idiom and vocabulary. This is a strong performance grammatically with very few errors. Her performance shows her capacity to employ complex language appropriately.

Conversation

There is a very high degree of comprehension on the part of the candidate. Her responses to the questions of the examiner are totally natural. She answers critically and at length and draws from her own experience, deploying a large number of personal opinions. Her comparison between life in France and Northern Ireland is very thoughtful and well developed.

Her accent, intonation and pronunciation are excellent. She has a natural command of idiom and vocabulary and an excellent command of grammar. This is a totally authentic performance in French.

2. Discussion Title: *Le Rap français*

Examiner's Comments

Overall comments

The candidate demonstrates a very good and wide-ranging understanding of the chosen theme which shows knowledge tempered with a critical understanding of the modern phenomenon of Rap. He answers the questions posed readily and fluently and develops his answers extensively, showing significant personal engagement and a range of interesting ideas in relating Rap to politics and youth culture. In particular he is able to take an overview of the topic as well as discuss key details of it. This is a very genuine discussion.

He has a very good command of idiom and vocabulary. His pronunciation and intonation are very good, as is the pace of his answers. Grammatical accuracy is very clearly in evidence, with few errors despite the amount of complex language used.

Conversation

In the conversation there is very good comprehension of the questions asked. He launches into extensive answers at the slightest provocation and does so fluently. His interaction with the examiner is relaxed and natural, and he feels free to share plenty of his personal opinions and points of view. He is keen to develop his ideas and deals with complex issues in a complex way. He is comfortable in dealing with all the topics that are raised by the examiner, but without any sense that prepared material is being deployed in a mechanistic manner.

As before, his command of idiom and vocabulary is very good, as is his pronunciation and intonation and the pace of his answers. Grammatical accuracy is of a high order, despite the amount of complex language used.

3. Discussion Title: *La scolarité des immigrés en France*

Examiner's Comments

Overall comments

The candidate displays a very good understanding of the situation of immigrants in France. She responds readily to the examiner's questions and develops her answers at length without any sense of reciting a prepared script. She handles the interventions of the examiner with ease. In particular, the issue of the wearing of

'signes religieux' is thoroughly and positively discussed and the complexities of national identity are carefully outlined.

Her French is fluent and idiomatic with excellent accent, pronunciation and intonation. There are some grammatical errors, but these are of a minor nature. Her command of the language enables her discussion with the examiner to sound natural and comfortable.

Conversation

She takes the initiative when discussing the subjects she is studying and her future career, and does so in a thoughtful manner. Questions about the importance of languages in relation to French and Spanish evince responses which show critical awareness and nuanced judgement. She answers all the questions posed clearly and deals effectively with unexpected interventions on the part of the examiner. When a new topic is introduced she provides helpful detail and proceeds to develop it extensively and critically. Humour is introduced naturally and the anecdote about her Barcelona trip suits the conversation situation well.

The accuracy of her language is impressive, especially her use of tenses. She shows a very good command of the language, notably in relation to vocabulary and idiom. Her accent, pronunciation and intonation are excellent and the conversation is conducted at a good pace.