
GCSE

POLISH

8688/LF: Listening (Foundation)
Report on the Examination

8688
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General Comments

There were only 310 students who were entered for the Foundation Tier in the first series of the new examination. Over 98% gained at least 20 marks out of 40, which was a very good result. A small number of students did not answer the questions in the appropriate language. Also, some students left questions unanswered. Teachers should encourage students to attempt all questions. Finally, in many cases, answers were difficult to decipher. Students must make sure that they make their final answer clear to the examiners by writing legibly and using the spaces provided. If students change their minds about an answer, the final choice must be clearly signalled to the marker and be placed as near as possible to the appropriate space.

Some students entered for the exam had an insufficient level of knowledge of the English language to convey their answers in Section A.

Teachers should remind students to maximise the 5 minutes' reading time by:
reading all the questions carefully, particularly those in Section B;

- looking at any examples given, as these point out the level of detail required;
- highlighting and underlining key words which have been stressed/highlighted in the rubrics/questions;
- identifying the questions which have two parts to answer from the same utterance;
- signposting Section B as it requires answers in Polish.

Section A

Questions 1-2

This was an accessible start to the paper. Students answered both questions very well.

Question 3

94% of students gave the correct answer to Question 3.1. Question 3.2 turned out to be more challenging than anticipated because students did not read the question carefully. The most frequent incorrect answer was *he doesn't eat chicken* instead of the correct answer *he doesn't eat meat*.

Questions 4-6

Students did well answering these questions about Polish traditions, although part 4 had a lower success rate than parts 5 and 6.

Questions 7-9

Overall, these were very well answered questions. In Question 7, the word *patient* was often misspelled; some students did not understand the Polish word *cierpliwy* and gave incorrect answers, eg *trustworthy*.

Question 8 proved to be more challenging as words *niegrzeczny* and *narzeka* were unknown to some students. Incorrect answers included *he is very annoying/ unkind/ he talks too much*. In Question 9, common mistakes included *playful/ friendly/ loved*. A few answers were too vague to award 1 mark, eg *he is nice*.

Question 10

Students were able to handle both questions well. In 10.1 and 10.2, over 90% of students selected the two correct answers.

Question 11

This question was answered very well which was pleasing.

Question 12

This three part question was slightly more challenging and answers reflected this. Question 12.3 question had the fewest correct answers with approximately 48% of students scoring. Students needed to recognise future time frames, but their answers often did not reflect this. All answers which expressed the correct time frame were accepted, eg *is going to / is going to see / is planning to go / will explore / wants to travel / will travel / will see*.

Questions 13-15

Students did not have a problem answering these multiple choice questions. Only Question 13 was more challenging as some students did not recognise that *miasteczko* means small town not small village.

Questions 16-17

These two questions were high demand items at this tier. Students had to write a positive and negative aspect of free time activities. They coped better with Question 16 (73% gave two correct answers). Some students did not pay enough attention to the task and wrote the first relevant thing on the topic which came to mind. Incorrect answers for Question 16 included *likes music/ it was her favourite band/ can go to Warsaw*. Some students did not seem to know the difference between the words *hearing* and *listening*, which impacted on their mark.

In Question 17, careless listening led to hasty answers, eg for a positive aspect *sport/ he is training volleyball/ keep fit* were rejected; *siatkówka* was often understood as basketball or netball. For the negative aspect, *kontuzja* caused a lot of problems. Students could not find a correct English equivalent for it and often used description to show understanding, eg *damage something in his body/ get hurt/ might break leg or arm*. Such answers were accepted but *concussion* was not awarded a mark.

Question 18

This P, N, P+N question was designed to be challenging. It was an extended text from which students had to deduce the opinions of Sebastian's family members about getting married. The question was handled very well, especially Question 18.3 but about 30% of students wrongly recognised the opinion of Sebastian's mum (18.2) as not taking into account her bad experience with her first marriage.

Questions 19-23

This set of questions where students had to choose the correct answer from given options, did not pose any problem. Scores were between 85.8% (Q.21) and 99.7% (Q.20). Judging from previous examinations, this type of question is usually answered exceptionally well.

Section B

Questions 24-25

These multiple choice questions proved accessible to students and provided a confident start to Section B.

Question 26

Deducing the correct answer for Question 26.1 proved demanding. Only 55.5% of students chose the correct answer E. It appeared that students did not pay enough attention to the conversation or did not read the options carefully.

Students coped with Question 26.2 much more successfully, due to the correct option (A) being heard at the end of the utterance (84.52% scored the mark).

Question 27

Students need to understand that they will be required to demonstrate their understanding of the different time frames. Question 27 was an example of this requirement where students had to listen to a narrative about what subject Patryk wanted to study in university in the past and what he wants to study at present, explaining at the same time why he had to change the subject. The results proved that it was a challenging question. Question 27.1 had 72.6% of correct answers and Question 27.2 had 53.6% of correct answers.

Questions 28 - 29

The final two questions provided a positive end to the test and were well answered. Question 29 proved the most challenging with a success rate of 72.9%.

Advice to students

In Section A (Questions and answers in English):

- Make sure that you read the question carefully so that you know exactly what is required.
- Ensure that you give precise answers as vague answers will not be credited. For example in Question 17, a boy is saying that sport is very important to him, that he practices volleyball in a club and that he is happy that his team wins international games. The question asks about a good aspect of **his activity** which is winning matches with his team. The answer 'important is sport' is too vague to be acceptable as it could firstly mean any sport and secondly does not say anything positive about the sport. Similarly vague is the answer to the negative aspect 'worrying about health'.

In Section B (Questions and answers in Polish),:

- Reading the instructions carefully is also very important.
- Clear and legible handwriting is important. There were many illegible answers this year which could not be credited.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results Statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.