
GCSE

POLISH

8688/RF: Reading (Foundation)
Report on the Examination

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General Comments

In the first exam of the new specification, the majority of the students (approximately 80%) scored 35 marks or above. Many students attempted all questions and gained marks in most of them.

Most students had neat and legible handwriting, but there were still some answers which were illegible. There was also some extremely small handwriting which did not facilitate marking. Students should be reminded of the importance of clear presentation to ensure that their answers are clear to the examiner.

Section C, where students are required to translate a short passage into English, proved demanding. Nevertheless, most students did relatively well on this task overall, where specific vocabulary is being targeted and a precise rendering of Polish into English is required.

As a general principle, students were given credit for all answers which conveyed the key idea intelligibly and without ambiguity, whether the answer was in English in Section A or in Section B where answers in Polish are required. Marks were not awarded where errors in spelling, punctuation or grammar led to a failure to communicate key ideas without ambiguity. Students should be discouraged from giving alternative or additional information in an answer as this may make the key idea ambiguous and consequently examiners will not be able to credit their answer.

Section A

Question 1

All three sub-questions proved to be relatively straightforward to students: 98% gave a correct answer to 01.1, 99% to 01.2, and 94% to 01.3.

Question 2

Students did very well on three items in this question. Specifically, 90% provided a correct response for 02.2 and 02.3, and 95% for 02.4. In contrast to these three items, item 02.1 proved more demanding as only 78% of students gained a mark. The most common incorrect answers given by students in item 02.1 were 'a watch' or 'a clock'.

Question 3

This question was relatively well answered with 75% of students gaining the mark for 03.1 and 77% for 03.2.

Question 4

This question was also answered well by most of the students: 67% gained a mark for answering 04.2; 61% for 04.3; and 83% for item 04.4. Students were more challenged by item 04.1 (53% answered correctly) where some confusion arose as to where the hotel referred to in the item is.

Question 5

Most students answered both items of this question correctly. 55% of students were able to provide two correct answers for 05.1. However, lots of students erroneously provided 'ride a bike/scooter' as an advantage of the job. Item 05.2 was answered well by 61%. Those who answered incorrectly

usually described a successful student as ‘funny’ or ‘interesting’, or provided only one answer which prevented them from scoring full marks.

Question 6

This was the first of the overlap questions in this section of the paper; students found this question challenging. Item 06.1 was correctly answered by approximately 53% of the students. Item 06.2 was not very well answered as only approximately 35% of students scored a mark. A lot of incorrect answers referred to an instrument, for example, *a broken instrument is playing or the dancing girl*. Nonetheless, the question was good at discriminating between students of different abilities. Only 50% of students scored the mark in 06.3. Quite a lot of students gave incorrect answers by describing the girl as *happy, strange, or crazy*. In item 06.4, many students failed to understand the word *Katarynka*, which was described as a musical instrument in the text, and erroneously referred to it as the girl named *Katarzyna*. As a consequence, only 43% of students gave the correct answer to this item. Many students wrote *he shouted at the girl*.

Item 06.5 was the most likely to be correctly answered in this question. Specifically 75% of students provided the correct answer and scored two marks.

It was disappointing to note that items 06.2, 06.3 and 06.4 were not attempted by approximately 14% of students.

Question 7

This question produced a mixed set of responses. Only 31% scored full marks for this question (three marks). Many students opted for the distractor and chose ‘*Bogusław Linda is a well-known painter*’. Nonetheless, Question 7 discriminated between students of different levels.

Question 8

The majority of items were answered correctly. The exception was item 08.2, where phrase ‘*dzień powszedni*’ was unfamiliar to a lot of students and caused some confusion, because many students thought that it meant ‘every day’. Consequently, only 14% of students gave the correct answer to item 08.2.

Section B

Question 9

This question was answered relatively well. Specifically, 79% of students answered 09.1 correctly; 82% 09.2; and 83% 09.3.

Question 10

Most students did not find this question challenging. 98% of students gave a correct answer for 10.1, and 85% for 10.2. Students did slightly less well when answering item 10.3 as only 71% of them received a mark for this item. The most frequent mistake made when answering item 10.3 involved selecting *stół z lampą* instead of *stół z książkami*.

Question 11

All items were answered well – approximately 73-88% of students gave appropriate responses to items 11.1 -11.4. Moreover, this question discriminated between students of different ability.

Question 12

This was the second of the overlap questions in the test; students could score a maximum of four marks on this question. For many students this question was challenging. Only 32% of students gained the full four marks available here. Overall, 64% of students managed to score at least three marks, whereas 85% of students scored at least two marks on this question.

Question 13

This was the third of the overlap questions in the exam. It produced a mixed set of responses. Item 13.1 was answered correctly by 66% of the students, but only 45% of the students scored a point on item 13.2. When answering item 13.2, most of the students went for the distractor *w centrum miasta* instead of *pod miastem*. Items 13.3 and 13.4 were answered correctly by 72% and 77% of students respectively. Overall, the question was relatively good at discriminating between students.

Section C – Translation into English

Here students were required to translate a short Polish passage into English. For this question, precise renderings of the text were required. Only 17% of students gained full nine marks; 19% scored eight; 18% of gained seven; 11% scored six; whereas only 34% scored five or less (7% of students did not attempt this question). Overall the question was relatively well answered.

The first two sections were well answered. Nearly always students translated the key points correctly.

Many students did not score for the next two sections because they misread *kiedy mam dużo nauki* with *kiedy nie mam dużo nauki*, therefore providing an incorrect translation.

In section five, the idea was not always translated in the past tense. This was required to score the mark.

In section six, *Jest ich na świecie coraz więcej*, also proved to be relatively challenging for many students.

Students found the last sentence, consisting of the final three sections of text, the most demanding to translate accurately. Specifically, the third section of the sentence was particularly challenging as it required a good knowledge of Polish vocabulary. Moreover, many students erroneously translated *czwartek* as Tuesday instead of Thursday (section seven) and did not know how to translate *paczki świąteczne* or *dom dziecka* (section nine). This section may be the reason why 7% of students did not attempt to answer this part.

Students should be reminded of the need for precision in this task. The translated text should make sense and students must ensure that they keep the text closely aligned with the original passage. It is also useful for students to re-read what they have written to make sure it makes sense.

Use of statistics

Statistics used in this report may be taken from incomplete processing data. However, this data still gives a true account on how students have performed for each question.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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