
GCSE

POLISH

Paper 3: Reading (Higher)
Report on the Examination

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General comments

In the first exam of the new specification, a great majority of students scored 39 or above out of 60. Many students attempted all questions and gained marks in most of them. Very few students appear to have been inappropriately entered at this tier.

Most students had neat and legible handwriting, but there were still some answers which were illegible. There was 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.

A small number of answers were given in Polish rather than English in Section A.

It was pleasing to see that Section C of the paper (translation into English) produced many excellent and precise translations, with the full range of marks being scored on this question.

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

This was the first of the overlap questions in this section of the paper. Students performed well on 1.1, where approximately 85% of students scored full marks. 1.2 was not very well answered as only approximately 54% 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 discriminated between students.

Approximately 78% of students scored the mark on 1.3. However, many students described the girl as 'happy', 'strange' or 'crazy', thereby providing an incorrect answer. In 1.4, 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 around 65% of students provided the correct answer - many students wrote 'he shouted at the girl'.

Question 1.5 was the most accessible part with 95% of students scoring the mark.

Question 2

Most parts in this question were answered well except for 2.4, where some students wrote *nadwiślanska wisnia* or *kaszubska truskawka* in Polish, answering in the wrong language in this section of the paper.

It should be noted that when answering 2.3, around 37% of students failed to give the correct months; specifically, they did not know *wrzesień* in English and could not be awarded the mark.

Question 3

The majority of students scored four marks out of five on this question. However, many misread the information in the text and thought that teachers were very enthusiastic about the new system, due to lack of understanding *sceptyczny* (sceptical). This item discriminated relatively well between students of different abilities.

Question 4

All sub-questions were answered well – approximately 78% and 87% of students gave appropriate responses to items 4.1 and 4.2 respectively.

Question 5

This question produced a mixed set of performances. Only around 38% scored the full four marks available for this question. Many students erroneously interpreted the text, rather than basing their answers on the information in the text. Many selected ‘an expensive digital camera is necessary for photographers’.

Question 6

Parts 6.1 and 6.3 were answered very well – with approximately 82% and 86% of students giving a correct response, respectively. However, in 6.2 only around 58% of students provided a correct response. Those who did not score here often wrote ‘others around you’, ‘teachers’ or ‘parents’.

Question 7

This question was answered well by many students. Around 82% provided a correct response for 7.1, around 90% for 7.2, around 95% for 7.3 and around 93% for 7.4.

Section B**Question 8**

This was an overlap question and students could score a maximum of four marks. Approximately 57% of students scored full marks, whereas around 31% of students scored three marks. Cumulatively, around 88% of students scored at least 3 marks on this question.

Question 9

This was another overlap question. The majority of items were answered correctly with many students scoring full marks. The exception was item 9.2, where the option *wokół miasta* caused some confusion, because many students thought that it meant *w centrum miasta*. Overall, only around 54% provided the correct answer to 9.2.

Question 10

This question was answered well overall by many students. Most students gave a correct response to 10.1, around 84% answered correctly in 10.2, around 90% scored a mark on 10.3, around 91% gave the right answer in 10.4 and about 70% of students gained a mark for 10.5. For 10.5, most

incorrect answers included *lokalne zabytki* instead of *lokalne kamienice*. This item discriminated well between students.

In 10.3, both options A and B were credited with a mark. Whilst B was clearly correct, it could be argued that A was also an acceptable answer, due to the receptionist's approach being considered helpful by the customer.

Question 11

All items were answered correctly by most students.

Section C – Translation

The final question on the paper required students to translate a short passage into English. It was pleasing to note that the question produced a full range of marks and discriminated between students of different abilities exceptionally well. An impressive 43% of students achieved full marks. In addition, around 83% of students scored seven marks or more. Only 2% of students did not attempt this question.

Most students successfully translated the first section. Many knew *przyszłość*, although a good number translated it as 'friendship'.

Many students offered imprecise translation of the next section, embellishing their response with 'great fun' or missing one of the accepted concepts.

Some students failed to gain the mark for the third section due to using the phrase 'go to the club' instead of 'join the club'.

The most challenging for students were sections four and five. A lot of students failed to translate *nie dość, że* at the beginning of the sentence correctly which had an impact on the marking of the next parts.

Students found section six the most difficult to translate accurately, specifically the second part of the final sentence of the translation passage, which required a good knowledge of Polish grammar. Some students translated it as 'once more' instead of 'but also once a year'. This was the most common error.

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 their translation 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.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

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