

## **FRENCH 2**

### **1. GENERAL COMMENTS**

The standard of the paper was the same as that of last year.

Two questions were set with guidelines to assist candidates to write a composition in French, of between 60 and 80 words long.

On the whole, candidates' performance was satisfactory. While some candidates wrote very good compositions others could hardly compose their thoughts.

### **2. A SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES' STRENGTHS**

- (1) Keeping to the required length of the composition as stipulated in the rubrics enabled most candidates to perform well.
- (2) Construction of short and simple sentences with the correct application of French grammatical rules enabled candidates to write good compositions. They also used appropriate vocabulary and idiomatic expressions to express or develop their ideas. The vocabulary touched on various grammatical items in French which included articles, pronouns, verbs, and adjective to mention a few.
- (3) The effective use of guidelines provided, also helped candidates to write good compositions. The key words and expressions in these guidelines assisted the candidates in constructing good sentences in French.
- (4) Last but not least was good presentation of the composition. This included legible handwriting and paragraphing.

### **3. A SUMMARY OF CANDIDATES' WEAKNESSES**

- (1) Writing of excessively long compositions of about 120 and 150 words thereby committing many grammatical errors constituted some of the weaknesses.
- (2) Some candidates wrote the composition in English showing their inability to construct sentences in French.
- (3) Other candidates copied only the guidelines given without developing them into full sentences or responses.
- (4) Some tried to develop their ideas in incomplete sentences and grammatically incorrect ones.

#### **4. SUGGESTED REMEDIES**

To overcome all the challenges/weaknesses mentioned above, teachers of French should assist their students to acquire basic knowledge in expressing their ideas in writing in French.

The skills to be acquired include French grammar to enable them to write/construct short and simple sentences in French. They should also be made to write guided compositions. Teachers should ensure that the students know the dos and don'ts as far as BECE French compositions are concerned.

#### **5. DETAILED COMMENTS**

##### **Question 1**

Candidates were requested to write a composition on “How you spend the weekend when your friend’s visits you “ The candidates was expected to talk on the arrival and departure together with all the activities that occurred during the visit.

Candidates who used the guidelines effectively, wrote good compositions. They were able to mention specific days of the week and when the various activities took place. They stated the times/moments and the places where these activities occurred.

Some candidates found it difficult to bring out the details about the friend’s visit. They were unable to mention the days of the visit and the times for the various activities that took place. These activities included: time to wake up and to bathe; types of food taken during breakfast; places visited and how the Sunday was spent.

A few candidates did not use the guidelines effectively and they lacked appropriate vocabulary and expressions to write good composition.

##### **Question 2**

Candidates were required to study the drawings and narrate the story through the writing of a composition on “How Kwesi becomes sick after drinking water from a polluted source”. There were six (6) drawings in all and each drawing told a specific story.

Candidates whose compositions were good, followed the guidelines by answering satisfactorily the questions that accompanied each drawing. By so doing, they were able to bring out all the salient points that featured in the narration. For example, scenes such as Kwesi vomiting after drinking polluted water; the mother taking him to the hospital and Kwesi being attended to by the nurse, etc.

Candidates whose performance was below average could hardly put their sentences together to narrate the story. They lacked the required vocabulary and expressions to describe every scene. They also did not follow the guidelines effectively.

### Remedies

- Candidates should make good use of the guidelines since these are to assist them and facilitate their writings.
- Teachers should make students to write guided compositions in class.
- Teachers should assist students to enrich their vocabulary in French.
- Students should be provided with simple French books to read.
- Teachers should prepare the candidates well for examination.

