

**MARK SCHEME for the October/November 2009 question paper  
for the guidance of teachers**

**0520 FRENCH (FOREIGN LANGUAGE)**

**0520/04**

Paper 4 (Continuous Writing), maximum raw mark 50

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

Mark schemes must be read in conjunction with the question papers and the report on the examination.

- CIE will not enter into discussions or correspondence in connection with these mark schemes.

CIE is publishing the mark schemes for the October/November 2009 question papers for most IGCSE, GCE Advanced Level and Advanced Subsidiary Level syllabuses and some Ordinary Level syllabuses.

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**Total marks for paper: 50**

25 marks per question. Each question is marked over a maximum of 140 words.

**1 Communication: 5 marks**

Put a stroke in the left hand margin for each of the 5 relevant points.  
Record 0 for a failure to score a point.

**2 Language: 15 marks**

Examiners are required to award ticks beside each Marking Unit which is substantially correct. Errors are not to be indicated. The total number of ticks should be recorded at the foot of the page and converted to a mark out of 15 using the Conversion table at the end of the mark scheme.

**3 General Impression: 5 marks**

The pro rata mark based on the Language mark should serve as the first guide. This mark should be adjusted up or down by one mark where this is justified by positive or negative qualities of the candidate's work.

**0–1** Does not rise above the requirements for the Directed Writing Task in Paper 2.

**2** Fairly good use of idiom, vocabulary, structures and appropriate tenses.

**3** Good use of the above.

**4** Very good use of the above.

**5** Excellent use of the above.

**Recording of marks**

Marks should be recorded at the end of the answer as follows:

Communication	+	Language	+	General Impression	=	Total
E.g. 4/5	+	10/15	+	3/5	=	17/25

Enter each of the two marks on the front of the Script and record the total out of 50.

Please ensure that these marks are checked carefully, especially the conversion of ticks to marks for Language.

**Counting words**

**(a)** In letters ignore any address or date. Ignore also any title which the candidate has invented. No marks may be gained for the above.

**(b)** Count up to exactly 140 words. Award no more marks thereafter, either for Communication or Language. But see note (e).

**(c)** Our definition of a word is a group of letters surrounded by a space. A group of letters containing a hyphen or an apostrophe is regarded as one word.

l'homme = one word

la dame = two words

Qu'est-ce que c'est? = three words

Il y a = three words

Y a-t-il...? = two words

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(d) All numbers count as one word each whether written as figures or as words.

21 = one word  
 Vingt et un is treated as one word

(e) When the 140<sup>th</sup> word splits a Marking Unit, award a mark for the unit if correct in spite of (b).

...avec || mon ami. Record a tick for 'avec'.  
 Plus || tard. Record a tick after 'plus'.  
 Il a || fini. Record a tick after 'Il a'.

(f) Indicate the 140<sup>th</sup> word by ||.

(g) Proper nouns count as one word and do not score ticks for language, e.g. Nouvelle-Zélande, Etats-Unis, Haute Savoie, Charles de Gaulle, Afrique du Sud, New York.

(h) In letters count a maximum of 2 words only for the addressee as in '*Cher Monsieur Dupont*'.

### Repetition of material printed in the rubric

Such sections of the rubric which might score no marks for language are discussed at the Examiners' Coordination Meeting.

### Irrelevant material

Examiners who encounter what they judge to be irrelevant material/an irrelevant answer must contact the Principal Examiner for guidance during the marking period. Guidance will be in accordance with the following general rules.

1	A deliberately evasive answer which consists entirely of irrelevant material exploited in defiance of the rubric:	Give a mark of 0/25.  <b>These are rare in IGCSE.</b> Consult either your Principal Examiner, your Team Leader or, if you are a single Examiner, your Product Manager before awarding 0/25.
2	Part of an answer that is clearly irrelevant:	Include such material in the word count, but bracket it and award no Accuracy marks for that part of the answer.
3	A genuine attempt to answer the question which fails due to a misunderstanding of the rubric:	Award marks for Communication for any part of the response that does answer the question; award marks for Accuracy and Impression.  NB. If the use of a specific word in a rubric causes particular problems, a decision may be taken at the coordination stage to exercise some leniency in the award of Communication marks.

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## MARKS FOR RELEVANT COMMUNICATION

### General principles

(a) Do not award Communication Marks when the required elements are expressed in inappropriate time frames:

- e.g. *L'an dernier je voyage en France* = 0 for Communication. *Je voyage* does not receive a tick for Language. (The other elements are marked in the usual way.)

However reward a Present where a Future context is apparent:

- e.g. *L'an prochain je voyage en France* = 1 for Communication. *Je voyage* receives a tick for Language.

(b) Disallow for Communication the use of the Infinitive or the Past Participle when a finite verb is required

- e.g. *Je passé les vacances* = 0 for Communication and Language  
*Je passer les vacances* = 0 similarly  
*Je veux mange* = 0 similarly

However award a Communication mark for 'phonetic versions' such as:

- J'ai passer (sic) les vacances* = 1  
*Les gens pense/pensait que* = 1  
*Il a commencé à joué* = 1

Non-phonetic versions do not score for Communication:

- J'ai vendre* = 0  
*Les gens est* = 0

(c) Tolerate and accept for Communication (but not for Language) the use of any past tenses when a past is required, even when a different past tense would be correct. Allow Perfect, Imperfect, Pluperfect or Past Historic. The Past Historic will only be rewarded in a narrative. Ignore inconsistency of the Perfect and Past Historic if it occurs. Accept for Communication the use of a Future when a Conditional would be correct and vice versa.

Disallow the 'historic present' for Communication and Language.

(d) Tolerate and allow for Communication the use of *avoir* with a past participle when *être* is correct

- e.g. *J'ai resté en France* may score

However disallow the use of *être* for *avoir*, as in:

- e.g. *Je suis mangé* = 0

(e) Bracket and exclude from the word count any letter etiquette in Question 2 when a letter is not asked for.

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(f) Award only one Communication Mark for a list depending on only one finite verb.

- e.g. *Il y avait des hamburgers et des frites* (Max 1 for Communication)
- e.g. *On peut danser et chanter* (Max 1 for Communication)

(g) A Communication mark may only score if it occurs in the first 140 words.

### QUESTION 1

A maximum of 5 marks is available for each of the two questions.

Marks are to be awarded for the following points:

#### Question 1 (a)

- (i) Description of best friend [1]
- (ii) Why friends are important in candidate's life and what s/he does with friends [1 + 1]
- (iii) What would the candidate like to do with his/her friends to celebrate end of exams [1 + 1]

#### Question 1 (b)

- (i) What does the candidate usually like to do in school holidays [1]
- (ii) Does the candidate like these activities? Why/why not? [1 + 1]
- (iii) What would the candidate like do to in their ideal holidays? Why? [1 + 1]

### QUESTION 2

- (i) What happened when the candidate changed place with the headteacher [1 + 1 + 1]
- (ii) Reaction of friends [1]
- (iii) What the candidate thought [1]

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## LANGUAGE MARKS

### General Comments

This positive marking scheme is intended to reward both accuracy and ambition. No marks are deducted for errors. There is no 'impression marking'.

### Marking Units

A tick is awarded for a correct Marking Unit of which each element is correct. The tick is recorded over the scoring word e.g. *mon* (1) *ami*

A Marking unit may consist of the correct use of any of the following items:

- A noun or pronoun + verb. Extra marks are available for the use of negative expressions and the interrogative.
- A verb used as an infinitive, with or without a preposition
- A noun or pronoun + adjective or adjectival phrase or partitive
- A noun or pronoun + preposition or prepositional phrase
- Any pronoun other than subject pronouns and reflexives
- All adverbs (except *très* and *bien*)
- All conjunctions (except *et* and *mais*)

See below for details

Inaccuracies in the use of Accents, Hyphens and Punctuation are ignored.

E.g. *Mon pere* = 1 tick. *Son grandpere* = 1 tick. *Aujourd'hui* = 1 tick. *Il ma vu* (sic) = 2 ticks  
*L'ami Anglais* = 1 tick. *Il à tête phoné* (sic) = 1 tick. *Il a du partir* = 2 ticks.

An exception is made with *-er* verbs and *être* (*été*). We insist on the accent on the past participle in a compound tense and the absence of such an accent in the present tense.

E.g. *Il a parle* = 0. *Il parlé* = 0. *Il a parlé/parlè* = 1. *Il a éte* = 0

Insist on accents on past participles used as adjectives, e.g. *Il est (1) casse (0)*. *Il est (1) fatigue (0)*.

No credit is given in cases such as *...que il* or *...de Alain*, though *qu'il* for *qu'il* is tolerated.

Units containing consequential errors are not rewarded.

E.g. *le voiture bleu s'est arrêté* = 0

However, if two marks or more are lost due to a minor error of spelling or a faulty gender, the Examiner should place + in the right hand margin and take it into account when awarding the Impression Mark.

Misspelling of proper nouns in the case of a person's name or a town or place other than a country should be tolerated.

E.g. *...avec Piere* = 1. *...à Lyons* = 1. However, *...en Angletere* = 0

Allow the use of *tu* or *vous* in informal letters. In the case of inconsistencies, reward the most frequently used. Disallow the use of *tu*, *ton* etc in formal letters. Also disallow glaringly inappropriate register.

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Allow the use of the past historic in narratives in Question 2 and tolerate inconsistencies (with the perfect tense). However, disallow obvious accidental past historic, e.g. *il dit* in is. Treat such inconsistency with – in the right hand margin. Disallow the past historic in Question 1.

### Letter Etiquette

Reward with a tick for Language, the use of *Monsieur* or *Madame* at the start of a formal letter. Also award one tick for *Cher Monsieur* or *Chère Madame* in a formal letter and *Cher Alain* etc in an informal letter. Multiple addressees (*Cher Monsieur, Chère Madame*) gain one tick only. Greetings such as *Salut* or *Bonjour* gain ticks in informal letters only and formal endings (*Veillez agréer* etc) do not score in informal letters.

In addition award ticks for Language up to a maximum of 5 for prelearnt preamble such as:

*Merci de ta lettre qui m'a fait grand plaisir* (Max 5)

Thereafter ignore everything not related to the task set.

NB These *politesses* may occur at the end of the letter. If they do, reward to a maximum of 5.

Do not reward 'letter etiquette' for Language when a letter is not required.

### Letter Ending

Allow a maximum of 3 marks for all formal and informal *politesses*

*Veillez agréer l'expression de mes salutations distinguées etc Réponds-moi bientôt. Je t'embrasse.* etc Mark for language in the normal way up to a maximum of 3 ticks. This is in addition to the marks awarded for the *politesses* described above.

### Tolerances

When a verb is governed by multiple subjects, tolerate if either is correct.

E.g. *Le femme et son mari (1) sont partis (1)*

When an adjective or a preposition is dependent on two or more nouns, tolerate if one is correct.

E.g. *Le femme et l'homme étaient (1) fatigués (1)  
...avec (1) le femme et l'homme*

When an incorrect subject governs two verbs (each correct), the second is ticked

E.g. *Le femme est sortie et a regardé (1)*

When a sentence begins with *Aussi* which is intended to mean 'Also' it should be ticked. However *Parce que...* (= *puisque*) will not be tolerated at the beginning of a sentence.

No credit is usually given to the occasional correctly spelt item in a sequence which makes no sense in French. However, recognisable discrete items such as *mon père* may be rewarded in such a context.

When the gender of the writer is variable, tick only the most frequent. Always accept the declared gender of the writer when marking agreements and ignore the name on the front of the script and at the end of the letter.

Accept the use of either *tu* or *vous* in informal letters, but do not reward *tu* in formal letters. Do not tolerate inconsistency of *vous* and *tu*. Reward the most frequent.





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## 8 Negatives

Reward a negative expression with one tick when correctly placed provided that the verb is appropriate.

Ils ne jouent pas = 2

Je n'ai pas fini = 2

Elle ne fait rien = 2

Je n'ai vu personne = 2

Elle ne écoute pas = 1 (for verb)

Je ne parles pas = 1 (for negative)

If the wrong tense is used involving the confusion of a simple tense and a compound tense the negative should not be ticked.

Il ne jouait pas (when the perfect tense is required) = 0

However: Il n'a pas joué = 1 for the negative (when a Pluperfect is required)

Similarly: Il ne vient pas = 1 for the negative (when a Future is required)

A negative may be rewarded when it stands alone

Personne. (1) Jamais. (1) Rien. (1)

## 9 Interrogatives

Award one tick for an interrogative, even if the verb is faulty.

(i) Tu viens? = 2                      Tu viens. = 1 (no question mark)  
    Tu ne viens pas? = 3

(ii) Viens-tu? = 2                      Viens-tu. = 2 (punctuation not penalised normally)  
    Est-ce que (1) tu viens? (1)

(iii) Interrogative adverbs score 1 tick separately.

Où? = 1    Quand? = 1    Comment? = 1    Pourquoi? = 1    Combien? = 1

Où (1) vas-tu (2)? = 3

Où (1) est le chat? (1 + 1) = 3

(iv) Pourquoi (1) ris-tu? (2)            Pourquoi (1) tu ris? (1)  
    Pourquoi (1) est-ce que (1) tu ris? (1)

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## B NOUNS

A noun with a definite or indefinite article does not score. No credit is given to a noun with a number.

le chien = 0 un oiseau = 0 les enfants = 0 deux maisons = 0 50 francs = 0

A noun may be part of a Marking Unit as illustrated below.

### 1 Subject + verb = 1

See above in (A): Le garçon est sorti = 1

A faulty gender or a spelling error in the subject noun or pronoun will invalidate the unit:

Le gens or Il sont arrivés = 0 Des professeurs ont... = 0  
 Cette fromage est (0) bon/bonne (0)

When the relative qui is used after a noun the noun is treated as the subject:

Le monsieur qui (1) parle (1) Le monsieur que parle (1)  
 Le monsieur qui (1) parle (0)

### 2 Preposition (+ article) + noun = 1

à Paris = 1 dans la cuisine = 1 avec Paul = 1  
 au cinéma = 1 à côté (1) de mon ami (2) = 3 pour ce monsieur = 2

le/la chambre des (1) enfants / du (1) garçon / de la (1) dame / d'(1)Alain – Each gain 1 mark despite the faulty gender of *chambre*

A faulty gender or spelling will invalidate the unit

à la village = 0 pour ce monsieur = 0 avec ma frère = 0  
 avec cette monsieur = 0  
 avec de la pain = 0

### 3 Noun/pronoun + adjective = 1

Le petit bateau = 1 Il est heureux = 2  
 La petit(e) bateau = 0

Treat as common adjectives all possessives, interrogatives, demonstratives and partitives.

mon ami = 1 quel homme(?) = 1 ce chapeau = 1  
 du gâteau = 1 des enfants = 1 de la chance = 1  
 de l'argent = 1 Je n'ai plus/pas (2) d'argent (1) = 3

NB de petits villages = 2 des petits villages = 1 (one error)  
 (Not strictly logical but this seems the kindest way to treat this)  
 des petites villages = 0 (two errors) de petites villages = 1 (one error)

A noun/pronoun + adjective unit is not invalidated by an adjacent faulty element:  
 E.g. avic mon ami = 1 mon ami arrives = 1 mon ami anglaise = 1

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**4 Expressions of quantity + noun = 1**

Both elements must be correct.

- |                         |                            |                        |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| un kilo de cerises = 1  | un kilo de pomme = 0       | une kilo d'oranges = 0 |
| un paquet de café = 1   | un paquet du café = 0      | beaucoup d'argent = 1  |
| la plupart des gens = 1 | combien de mes amis(?) = 2 | assez de courage = 1   |

Quantities with prepositions, adjectives and verbs:

- avec beaucoup (1) de (1) petits (1) enfants = 3
- avec beaucoup (1) de (1) petit enfants = 2
- avec beaucoup (1) des petits (1) enfants = 2
- avec beaucoup (1) de enfants = 1
- avec beaucoup de petits (1) enfants = 1
- avec beaucoup (1) de petits enfants = 1
- beaucoup de gents sont arrivés = 0
- beaucoup de gens sont arrivés = 0

**C ADJECTIVES**

**1 Noun/pronoun + adjective = 1**

Each element must be correct for the unit to gain a tick. The adjective must be in the correct form and position. See above in (B).

- |   |                              |                       |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| le beau jardin = 1                        | le jardin est beau = 2       |                       |
| il est beau = 2                           | il sont beaux = 0            | il beau = 0           |
| des oiseaux bleus = 2                     | ces petits oiseaux bleus = 3 | les bleus oiseaux = 0 |
| la jour est beau = 0 (gender invalidates) | la belle jour = 0            | le beau cheval = 0    |
| Il est (1) fatigue (sic) (0) = 1          |                              |                       |

**2 Noun + adjectival phrase = 1**

- |                       |                         |                       |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| la salle de bains = 1 | la salle à manger = 1   | le salle à manger = 0 |
| la chaise en bois = 1 | les pommes de terre = 1 |                       |

**3 Faulty adjectives do not invalidate other units**

- ses (1) jolis fleurs = 1      le petite train arrive (1) = 1      aux (1) grand magasins = 1

**4 Adjectives used as nouns = 0**

- les riches = 0      les Français = 0      l'important (0) c'est (1)



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**7 Interrogative Pronouns = 1**

- Qui a parlé? = 3
- Qu' (1) est-ce que (1) tu penses? (1) = 3
- Que penses-tu = 3
- Avec quoi? = 1
- Pour qui? = 1
- Lequel préfères-tu? = 3

**8 Indefinite Pronouns = 1**

- chacun(e), cela, tout, quelqu'un, quelque chose, rien, personne, ceci and ça = 1
- Chacun pour soi = 2      Ça ne te regarde pas = 4      J'aime ça = 2
- NB Exceptionally ça is treated as a part of a unit in the discrete phrase ça va = 1, Ça va? = 2.
- However ça va coûter cher = 4
- Preposition + impersonal pronoun = 1: Comme ça = 1

**E PREPOSITIONS**

- 1 With verbs**      sans attendre = 1  
avant de commencer = 1
- 2 With nouns**      en voiture = 1      à pied = 1  
avec l'enfant = 1      Voilà Maman = 1  
avec Alain = 1      Voici Papa = 1  
See **(B) Nouns** for other examples
- 3 With pronouns**      avec lui = 1      le voici = 1  
pour moi = 1      les voilà = 1  
sans rien = 1  
près de chez nous = 2  
quant à elle = 1
- 4 In a phrase**      au milieu de la foule = 2  
en face de la cathédrale = 2  
à côté du bistrot = 2  
loin du village = 1  
près de chez moi = 2

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## F ADVERBS

All adverbs and adverbial phrases used correctly gain one tick except 'très' and 'bien'.

Il parle trop vite = 3	Il ne conduit pas assez vite = 4
d'habitude = 1	comme d'habitude = 2
Il habite très loin = 2	près d'ici = 1 (one idea)
tout près = 1	ici/là = 1
pas/non loin d'ici = 2	

Treat Comparatives and Superlatives of Adverbs in the same way as Adjectives. See under C.

## G CONJUNCTIONS

All conjunctions used correctly receive a tick except 'et' and 'mais'.

pendant qu'il attendait... = 2	parce que = 1
comme il voulait sortir... = 3	Elle sait que = 2
Il dit qu'il viendra = 3	

## H EXPRESSIONS

### 1 Time

dimanche = 1	le soir (in the evening) = 1
le dimanche = 1	de bonne heure = 1
dimanche prochain/dernier = 1	en ce moment = 1
dimanche matin = 1	à ce moment-là = 1
tard/tôt = 1	à dix heures = 1
trop tard/plus tard = 1	à 10 h = 1
(à) demain = 1	à 10 h et demie = 2
(à) tout à l'heure = 1	à 10.00 = 0
(à) bientôt = 1	il est dix heures = 2
hier/hier soir = 1	à dix heures vingt = 2
demain/demain matin = 1	à dix heures et quart = 2
le lendemain (matin) = 1	à/après/avant/vers dix heures et demie = 2
tant pis = 1	à dix heures moins le quart = 2
de temps en temps = 2	une demi-heure = 0
tout de suite = 1	le 6 juin (in the body of the answer) = 1
peu après = 1	sur le 6 juin = 0
de nos jours = 1	en même temps = 1

### 2 Weather

Treat expressions with 'faire' by usual rules as follows:

Il fait (1) beau/froid/chaud/gris etc (1) = 2	Il fait du vent/soleil etc = 2
Il fait un temps splendide etc = 2	Il y a du brouillard etc = 2
Il pleut = 1	Il pleut à verse = 2

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### 3 Avoir expressions

Il a vingt/20 ans = 1    J'ai faim/froid/chaud/besoin etc = 2    Je besoin = 0  
 Un accident a eu lieu = 2

### 4 Miscellaneous

il y a	= 1	bien sûr/bien entendu	= 1
n'est-ce pas?	= 1	je vous en prie	= 2
peut-être	= 1	aussitôt dit aussitôt fait	= 1 + 1 = 2
s'il te/vous plaît	= 1	aussitôt que possible	= 2
Eh bien	= 1	n'importe quoi	= 2
c'est à dire	= 1	le plus tôt possible	= 2
à mon avis	= 1	c'est dommage	= 1
un peu (TC)	= 1	merci (beaucoup)	= 1
à toute vitesse	= 1	merci de la lettre	= 2
moi aussi	= 1	ça m'est égal	= 2
comme ça	= 1	comme moi	= 1
rue de la paix (place name)	= 0	en ce qui concerne	= 2
Comment vas-tu?	= 2	(Comment) ça va?	= 2
en tout cas	= 1	de bonne/mauvaise humeur	= 2
depuis longtemps	= 2	à ma grande surprise	= 2
comme si	= 1	à ma surprise	= 1
ça ne fait rien	= 2	plus ou moins	= 1
à quelle heure... ?	= 1	ça dépend	= 1

### Proverbs

Tout est bien qui finit bien (= max 2)  
 Mieux vaut tard que jamais (= max 2)

### 5 Greetings and expletives

Bonjour/Au revoir/Salut etc = 1                      Mon dieu/Zut (alors)!/Oh là! là! etc = 1

Treat valedictions as language. (Max 3)

In the case of immediate repetition of an identical item such as 'Merci. Merci' or 'Quelle horreur! Quelle horreur!' reward the first instance only.

Treat as valedictions such phrases as: Merci de votre temps, Répondez-moi vite and J'attends votre réponse (Max 3).

**Conversion Table for 0520/4**

Number of ticks Maximum 60	Mark out of 15 (for Accuracy of Language)	Pro rata (General Impression)* Max 5
60+	15	5
55–59	14	5
51–54	13	4
48–50	12	4
45–47	11	4
42–44	10	3
38–41	9	3
34–37	8	3
30–33	7	2
26–29	6	2
22–25	5	2
19–21	4	1
15–18	3	1
11–14	2	0
7–10	1	0
0–6	0	0