

CSEC French
Paper 02
Section II – Letter

Using the following as a guide, write in FRENCH a letter of NO MORE THAN 130–150 words. Use the tense or tenses appropriate to the topic which you have chosen.

You have just been successful in a scholarship interview to study at a university in France. Write a letter to your pen pal in which you

- (i) state how you found out about the scholarship
- (ii) relate what happened when you interviewed for the scholarship
- (iii) describe what this opportunity involves
- (iv) outline the preparations you will make for your trip to France.

Total 30 marks

Do not write in this margin.

Do not write in this margin.

~~et j'ai commencé à pleurer.~~
oublié mon nom! Quel désastre!
& Il a souri et m'a dit ~~ne t'inquiète~~
pas « Bonté divine! Ne t'inquiète pas! »

Après avoir parlé avec le professeur,
il était très content ~~et~~ ^{avec moi,} m'a donné
~~ses~~ ~~meilleurs~~ ~~vœux~~ ~~de~~ ~~la~~ ~~bonne~~ ~~fortune~~
et il m'a donné l'opportunité
de ~~continuer~~ ~~à~~ ~~étudier~~ ~~en~~ ~~France!~~
Maintenant, je peux ~~avoir~~ ^{obtenir} un ^{bon} emploi dans

~~plusieurs~~ ^{un} pays francophones, chercher ~~des~~
correspondants et avoir un petit-ami français!

Cette expérience ~~est~~ ^{sera} incroyable.
Donc, Je ferai une liste ^{donc} ~~et~~ ^{Je n'} oublierai rien et
~~et j'ai préparé la liste~~ ^{j'} acheterai deux valises
en France! ~~N'attends la réponse avec impatience.~~

Je t'embrasse,
Franca Isabelle.

Example of an excellent answer

The letter required that the candidate demonstrate knowledge of the letter-writing format: the heading with the place and date, a salutation, a short opening greeting and an appropriate letter ending. In responding to the question the candidate therefore had to show command of some of the following elements:

- Use of imperfect tense for scene setting. The *passé composé* and related structures for example, *...après avoir ouvert...*; *en* with the present participle, and subordinate clauses *quand* and *pendant que...*
- Adjectives descriptive of emotion and personality, use of reported speech with the correct tense sequence.
- Use of modal verbs such as *pouvoir* and *devoir* and the future and/or conditional tense, negatives.
- Use of future or near future constructions, vocabulary of preparation.

In this letter the candidate accurately headed and ended the letter, using an original salutation at the beginning, “*Ma chère amie Marie...*”. The opening greeting was appropriate and short and the candidate quickly proceeded to deal with the given topic of the letter.

The required skills were used effectively in the body of the letter as follows:

Paragraph 1

- The correct form of the adjective *bel*
- The Imperfect
- Highlighting the drama implicit in the topic with “*bonnes nouvelles*”, “*mon portable a sonné*”, “*deux battements de coeur plus tard*”...
- Despite missing the preceding direct object agreement and the error in “*...j’ai dû parlé...*”, the candidate used appropriately the essential semantic elements, for example, “*...la bourse, doué pour les langues...*”
- Effectively linking the phone call to the interview in the following paragraph.

Paragraph 2

- Use of a subordinate clause and some exclamations
- The structure *... après avoir parlé. ...* was well formulated but needed to be linked to the narrator as the subject of the sentence, not the interviewer.

Paragraph 3

- Correct use of a modal verb “*Je peux obtenir...*” and mention of three outcomes, including commentary in the future tense (“*Cette expérience sera incroyable.*”)

Paragraph 4

- Use of the future tense
- Linking the paragraph to the preceding one with a connective, “*donc...*”

Although the candidate interpreted cue (iii) somewhat loosely, each cue was addressed and developed, although most of the focus was on the dramatic receiving of the good news. The idioms used were a little forced (“*Bonté divine! Ne t’inquiet pas*”). However, it is to be noted that the candidate handled the interview narration effectively without having to use the actual word for an “interview” and did not need to invent a word.

Hence the essay served as an example of a candidate’s flexibility in approaching a challenging section of an essay. Inaccuracies were minimal.