

FRENCH PAPER HG PAPER 1

On the whole candidates obviously found this question paper interesting and topical and were able to demonstrate clearly their comprehension and grammar capabilities.

Section A

Many candidates scored very high marks for the multiple-choice question, especially the last section where they had to match up words or expressions.

Section B

It was pleasing to note that some candidates made a real effort to reformulate answers in their own words instead of quoting directly from the text. Those who did not were, as always, penalized.

The questions were straightforward and most candidates answered well. The only confusion arose when some candidates battled to see the difference between Questions 6.1 and 6.2. Question 6.1 asked them to explain the meaning of the word *réticent* and Question 6.2 asked why Daniel Radcliffe's parents felt *réticents*.

Question 13 caused some candidates to lose marks either because they gave a quote without saying whether the statement was true or false or vice versa. This is the one place where we were asking candidates to quote directly from the text. Some of them simply paraphrased the statement in their own words without offering any proof of its validity. One or two answered Oui / Non instead of True / False.

Section C

Over the last few years a definite improvement has been discernable, but the grammar was slightly disappointing this year. Although many candidates were extremely well prepared, there were gaps in knowledge in some cases. Surprisingly few were able to form the present participle or the subjunctive correctly in Question 1. The active and passive (Questions 5 & 6) gave problems, as did Question 7.2. Teachers need to emphasize the various forms of *laquelle*. Far too often candidates answered as follows:

Harry Potter est une histoire dans lequel ...

Question 10, which seemed to offer easy marks, was badly answered.