



GCSE **Polish**

8688/RF

Report on the examination

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General comments

This year the performance in the exam was slightly lower than in 2024 but many students attempted all the questions and gained marks in most of them which was pleasing to see.

Most students had neat and legible handwriting, but there were still several answers which were illegible and there were some responses with extremely small handwriting which did not facilitate marking. Students should be reminded of the importance of clear presentation to ensure that their knowledge and understanding is recognised by an examiner.

Section C of the examination, where students are required to translate a short passage into English, proved demanding. Nevertheless, most students did relatively well on this task overall, where specific vocabulary is being targeted and a precise rendering of Polish into English is required.

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 or in Polish. Marks were not awarded where errors in spelling, punctuation or grammar led to not communicating 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, we will not be able to credit their answer.

Section A

Question 1

All three sub-questions proved to be relatively straightforward to students and the vast majority of students scored well on these questions. Performance in question 1.3 was marginally lower than the other two questions.

Question 2

Students did very well on the four items in this question, particularly in questions 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3. The most common incorrect answer given by students in item 2.4 was *'playing game'* or *'playing volleyball'* which wasn't a correct answer to this question. The correct answer was *'plays/likes football'*. There were several answers that included only a noun *'football'*, which was not sufficient to gain a mark.

Question 3

This question was well answered with most students gaining full marks for question 3.1 which was pleasing to see. Question 3.2 was also answered well.

Question 4

This question was also answered well by most students, although performance was slightly lower than in previous questions.

Question 5

Most students answered both items of this question correctly with a significant number of students gaining full marks on question 5.1. Those who answered incorrectly usually described an advantage of the local Saturday market for Adam as '*busy atmosphere*' or '*calm*' instead of '*friendly atmosphere*' or provided only one answer which prevented them from scoring full marks. Some students described the disadvantage as 'slow parking', which was incorrect.

Again this was answered well and many students also gained full marks on this question. Some students described an advantage of the local Saturday market for Krysia as '*she can try different products*' which was not specific enough and as a result prevented them from scoring full marks. It lacked the key idea '*local product*' in the answer.

Question 6

This was the first of the questions in this section of the paper that was common with the higher paper. As was the case last year, students found the adapted extract from the novel *Granica* by Zofia Nałkowska challenging to respond to. Many students did not understand the details of the text and struggled to find the correct answer.

Question 6.7 proved the most difficult for students. A vast majority gave incorrect answers '*true*' instead of '*not in the text*' assuming that 'Mr Posztraski left the gate open the night before' while reading the text. The gate was opened for Posztraski in the morning - as was mentioned in the text.

Question 7

In the past this type of question where students are asked to decide if the opinion is either positive or negative has seemed challenging for students. However this year it was pleasing to see an improvement in this question type with more students being successful.

Question 8

Students did well in these questions with 8.1 being the most successful. The answers '*she travels*' or '*she likes to meet new people*.' did not gain a mark on item 8.2. The answers '*she goes to local places*' or '*she visits places*' were too vague to gain a mark on item 8.3. Question 8.4 was the most difficult question for students. Many didn't understand the question and provided answers such as '**She** offers discounts on local attractions.'

Section B

Question 9

Overall, this question was answered well with a vast majority of students gaining at least 2/3 marks.

Question 10

Although slightly lower success than question 9, this was also answered well with many students gaining 2/3 marks.

Question 11

In this question students were to complete the text using the words from the list. This task tested students' knowledge of Polish language very well and showed their understanding of the reading text.

This item proved challenging for students with the majority gaining 2/4 marks.

Question 12

This was the second of the common questions in this exam; students could score a maximum of four marks on this question. For many students this question proved challenging. Many students erroneously interpreted the text rather than using the information from the text to answer the questions. This question aimed to test the understanding of the reading text and their vocabulary knowledge.

Many students didn't know the meaning of the word '*uprzejmy*' in question 12.1. and several struggled with questions 12.2. There was more success in question 12.3 and 12.4.

Question 13

This was the third of the common questions in the exam. Overall, students found this question very challenging with many not providing the details needed to gain full marks.

The majority of students who attempted these questions gained 1 mark for both question 13.1 and 13.2 but many students did not attempt these questions (many more than in the previous year).

In item 13.1 the answer '*szeef kuchni od 10 lat*' did not gain a mark because the students didn't focus their responses on the work in the restaurant and instead focused on his position. The answer needed to include words describing either the work in the restaurant or the restaurant, which was crucial to receive a mark.

Similarly, the answer '*ona jest szefem*' didn't lead to scoring a mark in 13.2. The answer was not detailed enough to score a point. It was crucial to include '*ona jest /lubi być **swoim** szefem*'

It is important to remind students that this question needs to be answered in Polish language. There were still lots of answers in English which did not score a mark

Section C – Translation

Question 14

This question required students to translate a short Polish passage into English requiring precise renderings of the text. As expected there was varying success with this question and the full mark range was seen. Overall the question was relatively well answered with very few non-attempts.

The less successful responses did not gain the marks due to either lack of translation of key words or incorrect translation of all the words included in the text. The most difficult words to translate were '*jednak*' - '*however*', '*rodzeństwo*'- *siblings*, '*zadanie z niemieckiego*' – *German homework*. Some misunderstood the text completely and use either the wrong tense or the wrong pronoun while translating.

Concluding Remarks

In the translation task students should be reminded of the need to be precise. The translated text should make sense, and students must ensure that they keep the text closely aligned to 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.