

AP French Language and Culture

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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Task 2 — Persuasive Essay

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AP[®] FRENCH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE 2018 SCORING GUIDELINES

Identical to Scoring Guidelines used for German, Italian, and Spanish Language and Culture Exams

Presentational Writing: Persuasive Essay (Task 2)

Clarification Note:

There is no single expected format or style for referring to and identifying sources appropriately. For example, test takers may opt to: directly cite content in quotation marks; paraphrase content and indicate that it is "according to Source 1" or "according to the audio file"; refer to the content and indicate the source in parentheses "(Source 2)"; refer to the content and indicate the source using the author's name "(Smith)"; etc.

5: STRONG performance in Presentational Writing

- Effective treatment of topic within the context of the task
- Demonstrates a high degree of comprehension of the sources' viewpoints, with very few minor inaccuracies
- Integrates content from all three sources in support of the essay
- Presents and defends the student's own viewpoint on the topic with a high degree of clarity; develops a persuasive argument with coherence and detail
- Organized essay; effective use of transitional elements or cohesive devices
- Fully understandable, with ease and clarity of expression; occasional errors do not impede comprehensibility
- Varied and appropriate vocabulary and idiomatic language
- Accuracy and variety in grammar, syntax, and usage, with few errors
- Develops paragraph-length discourse with a variety of simple and compound sentences, and some complex sentences

4: GOOD performance in Presentational Writing

- Generally effective treatment of topic within the context of the task
- Demonstrates comprehension of the sources' viewpoints; may include a few inaccuracies
- Summarizes, with limited integration, content from all three sources in support of the essay
- Presents and defends the student's own viewpoint on the topic with clarity; develops a persuasive argument with coherence
- Organized essay; some effective use of transitional elements or cohesive devices
- Fully understandable, with some errors that do not impede comprehensibility
- Varied and generally appropriate vocabulary and idiomatic language
- General control of grammar, syntax, and usage
- Develops mostly paragraph-length discourse with simple, compound, and a few complex sentences

3: FAIR performance in Presentational Writing

- Suitable treatment of topic within the context of the task
- Demonstrates a moderate degree of comprehension of the sources' viewpoints; includes some inaccuracies
- Summarizes content from at least two sources in support of the essay
- Presents and defends the student's own viewpoint on the topic; develops a somewhat persuasive argument with some coherence
- Some organization; limited use of transitional elements or cohesive devices
- Generally understandable, with errors that may impede comprehensibility
- Appropriate but basic vocabulary and idiomatic language
- Some control of grammar, syntax, and usage
- Uses strings of mostly simple sentences, with a few compound sentences

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Presentational Writing: Persuasive Essay (Task 2) (continued)

2: WEAK performance in Presentational Writing

- Unsuitable treatment of topic within the context of the task
- Demonstrates a low degree of comprehension of the sources' viewpoints; information may be limited or inaccurate
- Summarizes content from one or two sources; may not support the essay
- Presents, or at least suggests, the student's own viewpoint on the topic; develops an unpersuasive argument somewhat incoherently
- Limited organization; ineffective use of transitional elements or cohesive devices
- Partially understandable, with errors that force interpretation and cause confusion for the reader
- Limited vocabulary and idiomatic language
- Limited control of grammar, syntax, and usage
- Uses strings of simple sentences and phrases

1: POOR performance in Presentational Writing

- Almost no treatment of topic within the context of the task
- Demonstrates poor comprehension of the sources' viewpoints; includes frequent and significant inaccuracies
- Mostly repeats statements from sources or may not refer to any sources
- Minimally suggests the student's own viewpoint on the topic; argument is undeveloped or incoherent
- Little or no organization; absence of transitional elements and cohesive devices
- Barely understandable, with frequent or significant errors that impede comprehensibility
- Very few vocabulary resources
- Little or no control of grammar, syntax, and usage
- Very simple sentences or fragments

0: UNACCEPTABLE performance in Presentational Writing

- Mere restatement of language from the prompt
- Clearly does not respond to the prompt; completely irrelevant to the topic
- "I don't know," "I don't understand," or equivalent in any language
- Not in the language of the exam

- (hyphen): BLANK (no response)

Quel est l'utilité d'une congraissance profonde des arts, de litterature: ou de l'histoire dans matre manche progressivement 1.2 moderne ? C'est possible gue is soit plus guilt semble. Bien plus developper une culture generale part Elce difficile . SOZILALEURZAL adobescents et ceax des categories sectopsetessionnelles 36100 125 generale SAMMER plas enfin. NOVE ane connaissance ale. basses. 1.2 as simplement utile mais peut mussi enrichir noire vile de -in 1251 facen importante

Do Not Write Beyond This Border

Peus commences, avois une culture générale a de la rentabilité
et de l'utilité quielme dans notre société moderne. Pure exemple,
selon Sophie Raban, matter de conferences un litterature à
l'Université sorbonne Nouvelle, connaître des et étudier des vienz
tources comme la princesse de cléves pour avois des
wegies benefaces. The Pour doober as exemple, etudier des unciens
textes difficilles à comprendre part nous forces à analyses ce qu'on
lit plues previoune previouent, et nous encourager à developper
une comprenension des total idées complexes. Bien que nots
méthodes de nous exprimer ant changer à travers les années,
les idées de base ceste la même pour cette valson, en étudies
des courans qui ent était écsit il y a longtemps par améliones
netre connaissance et comprehension du monde aujourd'hui.
De plus, crest veri que sciences po a supprime. l'éprenve de
calture générale dans ces examins d'entreé, mais ce a est (sentre a)
pas simplement en these is to a la culture générale de vout rien?

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

Do Not Write Beyond This Border

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Do Not Write Beyond This Border

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Do Not Write Beyond This Border

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2A 3073 de notre culture - essentiellement, la chose qui mous rend humain. En conclusion, bien que crest difficile d'atteindre un bun culture generale eiest niveau de encore quelque chose A integable societe Treniquement, pour son dans notre utilite" crest peri alded and inutilite Son CA dissonitratte pour pas biendate dissoniciese bientot. Do Not Write Beyond This Border Do Not Write Beyond This Border

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Do Not Write Beyond This Border

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aul "87% des jeunes considerent que la cuiture generale est indispensable en soyété". Les jeunes sont pour will de motre source, Pavenir donc Cest important acquérir une bonne culture pour & connecter lle iennes avec les source. Avec Paide des nowelles pervent pepandie technologies, Jennes les ides curriles et politiques. Do Not Write Beyond This Border Pour finir, c'est important à concentration savoir les choses (1) rulturals comme 2 liferature classique. selon 105 SOURCE choses comme comedie 10 10 musique sont les aspectes influential (AD HOLD AD HO ans la societé, gens doivent et les sonoir an sniet des choses comme ça. 1871AMARA En concussion, il est indispensable que les ans 19 societé acquérir une ponne ture generale pour reussir. les politiques, erature, la culture et la cumosité aspects le plus influentials dans les tre monde contemporaun. Donc, Clest important que les ont coo dis OXINS passions pour choses. CLS

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Task 2: Persuasive Essay

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain grammatical errors.

Overview

This task assessed writing in the presentational communicative mode by having the student write a persuasive essay on a given topic while referencing three sources of information about the topic. Students were first allotted 6 minutes to read the essay topic and the two printed sources. Then they listened to the one audio source twice. Afterward they had 40 minutes to write the essay. The response received a single, holistic score based on how well it accomplished the assigned task. Students needed to be able, first, to comprehend the three sources, and then to present their different viewpoints. They also had to present their own viewpoint and defend it thoroughly, using information from all of the sources to support the essay. As they referred to the sources, they had to identify them appropriately. Furthermore the essay had to be organized into clear paragraphs.

The course theme for the persuasive essay was Beauty and Aesthetics. Students had to write a persuasive essay on whether one must acquire a good knowledge of general culture to succeed in the contemporary world. The first source was an article entitled, "Sciences Po eliminates the general culture test." The author discusses how this elite school has eliminated the general culture test to increase the diversity of its students and to concentrate less on knowledge that many young people might not yet have and to concentrate more on the personality of students in admission decisions. The second source was an infographic showing what young people think about the importance of general culture, the level of general culture they believe themselves to have, and factors they believe important for the development of general cultural knowledge. The third source was an interview with a literature professor who had organized a public reading of a French classical text, which she argues underscores the continued relevance of aesthetics in society.

Sample: 2A Score: 5

This is an example of a STRONG performance in Presentational Writing. It is an effective treatment of the topic within the context of the task. The response demonstrates a high degree of comprehension of the sources' viewpoints, with very few minor inaccuracies, and it integrates content from all three sources in support of the essay ("[Source 3] Pour donner un exemple, étudier des anciens textes difficiles à comprendre peut nous forcer à analyser ce qu'on lit plus précisement, et nous encourager à développer une compréhension des idées complexes."; "De plus, c'est vrai que Sciences Po a supprimé l'épreuve de culture générale dans ces examens d'entrée, mais ce n'est pas simplement car la culture générale ne vaut rien. [Source 1]"); "Même les jeunes, qui n'ont pas nécessairement une bonne culture générale, peuvent apprécier la valeur d'avoir des connaissances générales sur l'histoire, la litterature, l'art, la politique, et la géographie." [Source 2]). The response presents and defends the student's viewpoint with a high degree of clarity and develops a persuasive argument with coherence and detail ("Bien que développer une culture générale peut être difficile, spécialement pour les adolescents et ceux des catégories socioprofessionnelles plus basses, enfin, avoir une connaissance générale de la culture n'est pas simplement utile, mais peut aussi enrichir votre vie de façon importante."). The response is well organized and includes a variety of transitional elements and cohesive devices ("Pour commencer"; "Pour cette raison"; "De plus"; "Par contre"; "Pourtant"; "En conclusion"). The essay is fully understandable, with ease and clarity of expression, and occasional errors do not impede comprehensibility ("Bien que développer une culture générale peut être difficile"; "des vieux œuvres"; "les idées de base reste la même"). The response contains varied and appropriate vocabulary and idiomatic language ("enrichir votre vie de facon importante"; "à travers les années"; "dénoncer complètement son utilité"; "difficile d'atteindre un bon"). There is accuracy and variety in grammar, syntax, and usage, with few errors ("la façon dont on enseigne"; "avant de le renoncer complètement"). The essay develops paragraph-length discourse with a variety of simple,

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Task 2: Persuasive Essay (continued)

compound, and complex sentences (*"Des fois il peut y avoir de la beauté dans les choses « inutiles » comme les arts et la littérature, et cette beauté a la capacité d'améliorer nos vies et enrichir notre perspective sur monde."*). The response received a score of 5.

Sample: 2B Score: 3

This is an example of a FAIR performance in Presentational Writing. It is a suitable treatment of the topic within the context of the task. Although the essay demonstrates a moderate degree of comprehension of the sources' viewpoints, ideas from source 1 include inaccuracies and imprecise statements ("Les gens qui peuvons parler d'une autre culture, ou au sujet des politiques, seraient meilleur pour les travails que quelq'un qui a juste les bons notes du bac."). The connection between le bac and la culture générale is not clearly explained. The response summarizes content from at least two sources ("Source 1 dit que"; "source 2 dit que"; "Selon source 3"). The response presents and defends the student's own viewpoint on the topic ("Dans le monde contemporain, c'est très important que les gens sont intelligents, mais aussi c'est très important que les gens ont la curiosité intellectuelle et un passion pour les politiques.") and develops a somewhat persuasive argument with some coherence. Nevertheless, the intended meaning of *les politiques*, and the connection of the term to the notion of general culture are not elaborated. There is some organization, but the use of transitional elements is limited ("D'abord"; "Ensuite"; "Pour finir"; "En conclusion"). The response is generally understandable; some errors may impede comprehensibility ("les donnage souffrent l'idée"; "les gens doivent savoir au sujet des choses comme ça"). Vocabulary and idiomatic language are appropriate but basic ("la curiosité intellectuelle"; "un esprit critique"; "l'avenir"). The response demonstrates some control of grammar, syntax, and usage ("On doit acquérir"; "parler d'une autre culture"), but a number of errors are present ("la vie culturel"; "Bien que les examens comme 'le bac' sont très important"; "les travails"; "c'est important à savoir les choses culturals"; "les aspectes influential"). The response uses strings of mostly simple sentences, with a few compound sentences ("D'abord, c'est très important que les gens sont passionés au sujet de la vie culturel. Bien que les examens comme 'le bac' sont très important, c'est plus important que les gens dans cette societé ont la curiosité intellectuelle"). The response received a score of 3.

Sample: 2C Score: 1

This response demonstrates a POOR performance in Presentational Writing. It presents almost no treatment of the topic within the context of the task. It demonstrates poor comprehension of the sources' viewpoints; the reference to source 1 has been copied almost verbatim from the article (*"il dire diversifier son recrutement et le caractère socialement discriminant de concours"*) and does not indicate an understanding of the sources. The response minimally suggests the student's own viewpoint on the topic (*"Je pense que culture generalé pour réssuir dans le monde contemporian est bonne"*), but the argument is not developed. The response has little organization (*"parce que"*) and no transitional elements or cohesive devices. The response is barely understandable, with frequent errors that impede comprehensibility (*"il dire diversifier son recrutement et le caractère socialement discriminant de concours"*). There are very few vocabulary resources (*"Je pense que"*) and almost no control of grammar (*"Je pense que culture generalé"*; *"parce que il"*; *"il dire diversifier"*). The response received a score of 1.