6.8 Customs, Festivals and Celebrations in the French-Speaking World: 30-minute Pack

AQA 8652 · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Accents and the cedilla are used throughout; reproduce them correctly in your answers. Full sentences are required for translation and writing tasks. Time guidance: 30 minutes.

1 Translate into English: 'À Noël, ma famille prépare une grosse dinde et des gâteaux traditionnels.' Context: describing family Christmas food in a francophone household.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

2 Translate into English: 'L'année prochaine, nous allons visiter un carnaval francophone à la Réunion.' Context: planning to visit a francophone festival next year, using the near future.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 Translate into English: 'Quand j'étais petit, on décorait toujours le sapin ensemble.' Context: describing past family custom at Christmas using the imperfect tense.

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

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4 Translate into English: 'Pendant le Nouvel An, beaucoup de gens mangent des huîtres ou des fruits de mer.' Context: New Year food traditions in francophone countries and communities.

(Total for Question 4 is 3 marks)

5 Translate into French: 'We celebrated Bastille Day with a big parade and music.' Context: writing about a past celebration using the perfect tense.

(Total for Question 5 is 3 marks)

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6 Gap-fill grammar: Complete the sentence about a past family celebration, four blanks: 'L'année dernière, ma famille et moi ____ (aller) au marché de Noël. Mon oncle ____ (acheter) du vin chaud et nous ____ (manger) des crêpes. Tout le monde ____ (être) très content.' Context: use correct perfect or imperfect as appropriate for narration.

(Total for Question 6 is 4 marks)

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7 Translate this short French passage into English. Context: a student describing a past festival visit using the perfect and imperfect tenses.

(a) Pendant les vacances de l'été dernier, ma famille et moi sommes allés à Nice pour voir un festival local. **(2)**

(b) Il y avait des danses traditionnelles, des stands de nourriture et un grand concert le soir. **(3)**

(c) J'ai aimé la nourriture, surtout les socca, et nous avons regardé le feu d'artifice depuis la promenade. **(3)**

(Total for Question 7 is 8 marks)

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8 Higher structured writing task: You should write approximately 150 words in French. Use a range of tenses. Scenario: You have been asked to write an article for the school magazine about customs and festivals in French-speaking countries. Include: 1) describe a festival you visited recently and what happened there; 2) explain traditional food and family activities linked to that festival; 3) say how this festival compares with a similar celebration in Britain; 4) explain why these festivals are important to the community. Context: aim to include the perfect, imperfect and near future, and make a comparison with British traditions.

(Total for Question 8 is 10 marks)

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Mark scheme · 6.8 Customs, Festivals and Celebrations in the French-Speaking World: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

Christmas correctly rendered: at Christmas / for Christmas	**M1**
my family prepares a big turkey and traditional cakes or desserts	**A1**

Answer: At Christmas my family prepares a big turkey and traditional cakes. (oe: For Christmas my family prepares a big turkey and traditional desserts.)

Question 2

next year correctly rendered: next year	**M1**
we are going to visit a Francophone carnival in Reunion	**A1**

Answer: Next year, we are going to visit a Francophone carnival in Reunion. (oe: We will go to a Francophone carnival in Reunion next year.)

Question 3

quand j'étais petit correctly rendered: when I was little	**M1**
imperfect décorait correctly rendered as used to decorate / always decorated	**M1**
the tree together correctly included: the Christmas tree together	**A1**

Answer: When I was little, we always used to decorate the tree together.

Question 4

pendant le Nouvel An correctly rendered: during New Year / at New Year	**M1**
beaucoup de gens correctly rendered: many people	**M1**
mangent des huîtres ou des fruits de mer correctly rendered: eat oysters or seafood	**A1**

Answer: At New Year, many people eat oysters or seafood.

Question 5

perfect tense formation with avoir: nous avons célébré or nous avons fêté	**M1**
correct noun phrase for 'a big parade': un grand défilé or un gros défilé	**M1**
music correctly included: et de la musique / avec de la musique	**A1**

Answer: Nous avons fêté le 14 juillet avec un grand défilé et de la musique. (oe: Nous avons célébré le 14 juillet avec un défilé important et de la musique.)

Question 6

correct form for aller in perfect: nous sommes allés or nous sommes allés (agree gender oe)	**M1**
acheter in perfect: mon oncle a acheté	**M1**
manger in perfect: nous avons mangé	**M1**
être in imperfect to describe atmosphere: était	**M1**

Answer: Nous sommes allés (or Nous sommes allés) au marché de Noël. Mon oncle a acheté du vin chaud et nous avons mangé des crêpes. Tout le monde était très content.

Question 7

(a) Last summer / During the summer holidays last year correctly rendered for Pendant les vacances de l'été dernier	**B1**
(a) my family and I went to Nice to see a local festival	**B1**

(a) Answer: Last summer my family and I went to Nice to see a local festival.

(b) There were traditional dances	**B1**
(b) food stalls	**B1**
(b) and a big concert in the evening / at night	**B1**

(b) Answer: There were traditional dances, food stalls and a big concert in the evening.

(c) I liked the food, especially the socca	**B1**
(c) and we watched the fireworks	**B1**
(c) from the promenade / from the seafront correctly included	**B1**

(c) Answer: I liked the food, especially the socca, and we watched the fireworks from the promenade.

Question 8

Level 1 Limited content, basic vocabulary and simple sentences. Errors often impede communication.	**1-3**
Level 2 Some relevant content with basic organisation. Some variety of tense but limited control. Errors present but message mostly clear.	**4-6**
Level 3 Good content and clear organisation. A range of tenses and structures attempted, generally accurate. Occasional errors do not hinder communication.	**7-8**
Level 4 Excellent, detailed content and fluent organisation. Wide range of tenses and vocabulary used accurately. Comparisons and opinions developed effectively.	**9-10**

Indicative content:

- Description of a recent festival visit with specific details of events, atmosphere and participants
- Use of perfect (je suis allé, nous avons regardé), imperfect (il y avait, c'était) and near future (nous allons participer) appropriately
- Discussion of traditional foods and family customs, for example communal meals, special dishes, or rituals
- Clear comparison with a British celebration, noting similarities and differences in activities, food, scale or community feeling
- Commentary on the social and cultural importance of festivals, such as preserving tradition, bringing families together and promoting local identity
- Evidence of varied vocabulary, complex sentences and opinions justified with reasons

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