



FR.W8 Customs, Festivals and Celebrations in the French-Speaking World

AQA 8652 • Calculators not allowed • about 60 minutes

Total Marks

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Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Accents have been omitted for print compatibility; write accents correctly in your answers. Full sentences are required for translation and writing tasks. Time guidance: 60 minutes.

- 1** Translate into English: 'Le 14 juillet, nous assistons au feu d'artifice sur la place du village.'
Context: describing Bastille Day celebrations in a small French town.

(Total for Question 1 is 2 marks)

- 2** Translate into English: 'A Noel, ma famille prepare une grosse dinde et des gateaux traditionnels.'
Context: describing family Christmas food in a francophone household.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

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

(Total for Question 3 is 3 marks)

- 4** Translate into English: 'L'annee prochaine, nous allons visiter un carnaval francophone a la Reunion.'
Context: planning to visit a francophone festival next year, using the near future.

(Total for Question 4 is 2 marks)

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

(Total for Question 5 is 3 marks)

- 6 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 6 is 3 marks)

- 7 Multiple choice: Which French word completes the sentence describing a repeated past action: 'Quand j'etais petit, nous ____ toujours des feux d'artifice le soir.' Options: A) avons vu B) voyions C) verrons D) voir. Context: choose the correct imperfect form.

- ☐ A) avons vu
☐ B) voyions
☐ C) verrons
☐ D) voir

(Total for Question 7 is 1 mark)

- 8 Correct the mistake: 'Nous allons assister a la parade hier.' Context: student wrote a sentence mixing future structure with a past time expression.

(Total for Question 8 is 1 mark)

- 9** Gap-fill grammar: Complete the sentence about a past family celebration, four blanks: 'L'annee derniere, ma famille et moi ____ (aller) au marche de Noel. Mon oncle ____ (acheter) du vin chaud et nous ____ (manger) des crepes. Tout le monde ____ (etre) tres content.' Context: use correct perfect or imperfect as appropriate for narration.

(Total for Question 9 is 4 marks)

- 10** Translate this short French passage into English. Prompt: 'Pendant les vacances de l'ete dernier, ma famille et moi sommes alles a Nice pour voir un festival local. Il y avait des danses traditionnelles, des stands de nourriture et un grand concert le soir. J'ai aime la nourriture, surtout les socca, et nous avons regarde le feu d'artifice depuis la promenade.' Context: a student describing a past festival visit using the perfect and imperfect tenses.

- (a) Pendant les vacances de l'ete dernier, ma famille et moi sommes alles a 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 aime la nourriture, surtout les socca, et nous avons regarde le feu d'artifice depuis la promenade. (3)

(Total for Question 10 is 8 marks)

- 11** Translate into French: 'Every year at New Year my grandparents invite the whole family and we eat special dishes, then we sing and dance.' Context: describing a habitual New Year tradition, present and near-present tenses acceptable.

(Total for Question 11 is 9 marks)

- 12** Foundation short writing task (photo-based): Look at the photo of a small local carnival (assume an image showing people in costume, food stalls, and families watching a parade). Write about the carnival in about 90 words in French. Include: 1) a description of what is happening in the photo; 2) what you and your family did there last year; 3) what you will do if you go next year. Context: use present, perfect and near-future tenses. Mark on content and accuracy.

(Total for Question 12 is 8 marks)

- 13** 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 13 is 10 marks)

Mark scheme · FR.W8 Customs, Festivals and Celebrations in the French-Speaking World

Question 1

- **M1** correct rendering of le 14 juillet as Bastille Day or the 14th July
- **A1** we watch/attend the fireworks on the village square, e.g. we watch the fireworks on the village square
- **Answer: On Bastille Day we watch the fireworks on the village square. (oe: On the 14th July we watch the fireworks on the village square.)**

Question 2

- **M1** Christmas correctly rendered: at Christmas / for Christmas
- **A1** my family prepares a big turkey and traditional cakes or desserts
- **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 3

- **M1** quand j'étais petit correctly rendered: when I was little
- **M1** imperfect decorait correctly rendered as used to decorate / always decorated
- **A1** the tree together correctly included: the Christmas tree together
- **Answer: When I was little, we always used to decorate the tree together.**

Question 4

- **M1** next year correctly rendered: next year
- **A1** we are going to visit a Francophone carnival in Reunion
- **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 5

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

Question 6

- **M1** 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
- **A1** music correctly included: et de la musique / avec de la musique
- **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 7

- **B1** choice B, voyions, the imperfect of voir to indicate repeated past action
- **Answer: B**

Question 8

- **B1** correct version using past tense: Nous avons assisté à la parade hier. or Hier, nous avons assisté à la parade.
- **Answer: Nous avons assisté à la parade hier. (oe: Hier, nous avons assisté à la parade.)**

Question 9

- **M1** correct form for aller in perfect: nous sommes allés or nous sommes allées (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
- **Answer: Nous sommes allés (or Nous sommes allées) au marché de Noël. Mon oncle a acheté du vin chaud et nous avons mangé des crêpes. Tout le monde était très content.**

Question 10

- (a) **B1** Last summer / During the summer holidays last year correctly rendered for Pendant les vacances de l'été dernier
- (a) **B1** my family and I went to Nice to see a local festival
- **(a) Answer: Last summer my family and I went to Nice to see a local festival.**
- (b) **B1** There were traditional dances
- (b) **B1** food stalls
- (b) **B1** and a big concert in the evening / at night
- **(b) Answer: There were traditional dances, food stalls and a big concert in the evening.**
- (c) **B1** I liked the food, especially the socca
- (c) **B1** and we watched the fireworks
- (c) **B1** from the promenade / from the seafront correctly included
- **(c) Answer: I liked the food, especially the socca, and we watched the fireworks from the promenade.**

Question 11

- **M1** Every year at New Year correctly rendered: Chaque année / Tous les ans à la Saint-Sylvestre / À la nouvelle année
- **M1** my grandparents invite the whole family: mes grands-parents invitent toute la famille / invitent toute la famille chez eux
- **M1** we eat special dishes: nous mangeons des plats spéciaux / des plats traditionnels
- **M1** then correctly rendered: puis / ensuite
- **M1** we sing: nous chantons
- **M1** and dance: et nous dansons
- **M1** agreement and word order correct for plural subjects (grands-parents, nous)
- **M1** reasonable alternative phrasing credited, e.g. 'à la nouvelle année mes grands-parents invitent toute la famille et on chante et danse'
- **A1** accurate spelling and verb forms throughout
- **Answer: Chaque année à la nouvelle année, mes grands-parents invitent toute la famille et nous mangeons des plats traditionnels, puis nous chantons et dansons.**

Question 12

- **M1** Content point: description of the photo (who and what is happening) included
- **M1** Content point: reference to costumes or parade
- **M1** Content point: mention of food stalls or traditional food
- **M1** Content point: what you and your family did last year (past tense)
- **M1** Content point: a future plan if you go next year (futur proche)
- **M1** Language accuracy: mostly correct verbs in present, perfect and near future (basic agreement and tense)
- **M1** Language accuracy: vocabulary and simple connectives correct
- **M1** Language accuracy: spelling and sentence structure mostly correct for Foundation level

Question 13

- **Level 1** (1-3): Limited content, basic vocabulary and simple sentences. Errors often impede communication.
- **Level 2** (4-6): Some relevant content with basic organisation. Some variety of tense but limited control. Errors present but message mostly clear.
- **Level 3** (7-8): Good content and clear organisation. A range of tenses and structures attempted, generally accurate. Occasional errors do not hinder communication.
- **Level 4** (9-10): Excellent, detailed content and fluent organisation. Wide range of tenses and vocabulary used accurately. Comparisons and opinions developed effectively.
- **Indicative content:**
 - Description of a recent festival visit with specific details of events, atmosphere and participants
 - Use of perfect (je suis alle, nous avons regarde), imperfect (il y avait, c'etait) 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