
GCSE

POLISH

8688/LF Listening Foundation Tier
Report on the Examination

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General Comments

The Listening Foundation Tier Paper aimed to check students' comprehension of spoken Polish in simple everyday life situations. The level of demand ranged from grades 1-5. Students were required to show their understanding using simple response techniques such as writing a correct letter in a box for multiple choice questions, filling in boxes, completing sentences or providing written answers in English section. There was no requirement for students to provide written responses in the Polish section. Therefore, it was not understanding alone, but also the exam techniques and the knowledge of both languages (Polish and English) that constituted students' performance. However, many students managed the paper very well showing a good understanding of the spoken language. It was pleasing to see that the number of students who entered the examination was higher in comparison to last year.

Questions 1,2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11, 14, 18.1, 18.2, 19

Students deserve praise for dealing with these questions so well. They were all well answered with average scores of 90% or above.

Question 3

There were two questions that required students to listen closely for details and provide written answers in English. Question 3.1 was well answered by over 85% of students. However, in question 3.2 many students mistook the word 'ludowe' with the word 'lodowe' and incorrectly included 'ice' in their responses. As a result, only about a third of students were awarded a mark.

Questions 5-7

Over 95% of students correctly answered question 6, and just under 90% of students were awarded a mark for question 7. Question 5 caused some minor problems where to answer the question, regarding the speaker's travelling destination, students needed to know the English name for Wlochy. Some incorrect answers included Greece, Croatia, Europe, or a general statement like 'a different country' which was not accepted. However, answers like 'the most beautiful country in Europe' – taken from the recording, were credited. In consequence, almost 70% of students were awarded a mark for the question.

Questions 10-12

These questions regarding friends and friendship required students to write answers in English. All the questions were done well by students with over 80% of correct answers for questions 10 and 12 and over 90% for question 11.

Questions 13-15

These were auto-marked multiple-choice questions. Q13 and Q15 caused some issues for which the scoring was lower in comparison to other multiple-choice questions.

Questions 16, 17 and 20

These were overlap questions designed to have a high level of challenge for the Foundation Tier. The most common mistakes students made were too general responses or responses based on common knowledge rather than information derived from the recording. Frequently, answers given as an example of the advantage of having a pet were 'pets are popular', 'dogs are good for the owner', or 'dogs are expensive' as the example of a disadvantage. Another difficulty caused by

extended listening was mixing up the two reporters' utterances. This suggested the lack of exam technique. However, almost 60% of students tackled both questions well scoring full marks.

In question 20 the expression 'marketing swiateczny' some students understood as shopping at Christmas markets which adversely affected their answers, but this did not prevent almost 70% of students from scoring full marks.

Question 21

In this auto-marked question, almost half of students scored 4 marks and about 40% scored 3 marks out of 4. The most popular incorrect choice was answer D (kupuje swieczki). This indicated that students did not know that 'tort' is 'ciasto z kremem'.

Advice to students

To be successful at any examination you need to be familiar with the exam techniques. Therefore, it is useful to familiarise yourself with the type of tasks and questions you can expect in the paper, before the examination. Some tasks will require you to listen for the general idea, others will need you to focus on details. While in the examination read instructions and questions carefully to ensure you know precisely what is expected in each task to score full marks.

Think about the best methods / ways of how to approach each task. For example, listen for keywords, highlight keywords in questions, pay attention to words in bold eg, if you are asked to 'write two details' ensure you provide them both.

It is usually beneficial to try and predict what the topic of a recording will be to set your mind in the right direction. For this reason, make the most of the 5 minutes of preparation time before the recording is played.

In extended listening, if two or more speakers express their opinions ensure you match the speaker's utterance with correct questions.

Write legibly not to lose marks only because the examiner cannot decipher your handwriting. If you change answers, show clearly which answer is correct. You cannot be awarded a mark for both correct and incorrect answers. It is good practice to use one straight line to cross an incorrect answer and provide a correct one.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results Statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.