

ORAL : GENERAL CONVERSATION

The descriptions try to characterize and distinguish what is being expected at each level, moving progressively upwards. They must be read in relation to one another.

RATING CODE	DESCRIPTION OF LEVEL	MARKS
7	An outstanding candidate ; “Sparkling” ; Eager to talk ; Not necessarily a mother-tongue speaker ; Speaking as well as could possibly be expected of a Second Additional Language candidate learning French in the South African school context ; Still making minor errors, especially when expressing complex thoughts	36-40
	A real conversation is maintained ; Interested and interesting ; Able to interact with a certain spontaneity in unprepared exchanges ; Very good understanding ; Effective coping mechanisms to avoid any breakdown in communication / any resort to other languages ; Assured and willing ; Clearly expressed ; Generally fluent and accurate ; Effective vocabulary, using periphrases when necessary ; Generally good grammar and sentence structure, despite small errors ; Might be more errors when expressing complex thoughts ; Accent never impedes understanding	32-35
6	A real conversation, but somewhat simpler, clumsier and more hesitant ; Able to interact in unprepared exchanges ; Good understanding ; Reasonable coping mechanisms to avoid any serious breakdown in communication / any resort to other languages ; A certain assurance and willingness ; Fairly fluent ; Reasonably accurate ; Competent use of vocabulary ; Generally good grammar and sentence structure, with few serious errors ; More errors if attempting to express complex thoughts	28-31
5	Conversation maintained, but ordinary ; Can communicate reasonably effectively despite errors, hesitations and occasional uncertainty ; Can be followed easily most of the time ; Some coping mechanisms to avoid complete breakdown in communication ; Attempts to express himself/herself ; Satisfactory vocabulary and grammar ; Does use full sentences ; Acceptable, but simple and banal	24-27
4	Conversation maintained most of the time, but does break down ; Speech laboured but understandable ; May need some help / prompting ; Sometimes does not understand questions ; Vocabulary and grammar weak ; Fewer full sentences ; Even although basic communication takes place, both candidate and assessor relieved when oral is over!	20-23
3	Very basic level of communication ; Not really a conversation ; Painfully slow and laboured ; Needs quite a lot of help, prompting and repetition of questions ; Responses brief and sometimes inaccurate ; Cannot express or develop ideas clearly ; Very few full sentences ; Below average	16-19
2	Some communication, but breaks down constantly ; Often cannot understand questions, even when repeated / re-phrased ; Cannot express ideas ; Almost no full sentences ; Vocabulary and grammar so weak that mistakes seriously impede communication ; Frequent resort to other languages ; Hardly French!	12-15
1	Virtually no communication in French ; Questions not understood ; Responses very limited and inaccurate ; No full sentences ; Not French!	0-11