

2003 French

Advanced Higher – Reading & Translation

Finalised Marking Instructions

French Advanced Higher – 2003

Reading and Translation

Vive le Travail à Grande Vitesse!

1. (a) **What details are we given of Gilles Martin's business and the way he now runs it, and what has made this possible?** 5
- He now runs an industrial design agency in La Touche in Drôme/in Provence
 - He moved there from the Paris area 4 years ago
 - He runs the business from a farmhouse in a small village which he had bought a few years before
 - Twice a month he goes up to Paris, and often his clients come to him
 - If they come to him, he drives them to (and from) the TGV station in Montélimar
- (Any 4)
- (b) **What evidence are we given that he feels very positive about his way of life?** 2
- Although it may seem a strange move, he says he has no regrets/would not go back
 - The fact that he is described by the author as *ce jovial barbu* suggests a positive attitude
 - He says he can be in Paris at 9.30 am and back home by 8.30 pm/He says the journey takes no longer than a car journey from one side of Paris to the other
 - Only has to go to Paris twice a month (if not in (a))
- (Any 2)
2. **What effect, according to Michel Fabre, has the new TGV had on people's lifestyle choices, and how does his own situation illustrate this?** 4
- People can now choose to live where they want rather than near their place of work/where you live is no longer important
 - They can choose to live in the country but near a TGV station/With the TGV you can get from Paris to Marseille or Aix, for example, in 3 hours
 - All sorts of people – (executives, researchers, politicians, teachers and self-employed people at least 3 examples) are choosing to travel longer distances from home to work (thanks to the TGV, the laptop computer and the mobile phone)
 - Michel Fabre is typical in that he now works in Valence 650 kilometers from his home in Paris (he says the most difficult part is getting to the train station in Paris)

3. What are Philippe Bernard's views of the TGV, and what opportunities does it provide for him and for others? 6

- He thinks the TGV is a wonderful tool
- (Thanks to the phone and the computer) the TGV has become an extension of the office and of the home
- Like Gilles Martin and Michel Fabre, he has chosen to live where he wants (in Aix) rather than near his place of work (near Paris)
- This arrangement suits both his personal and his professional needs
- He travels a lot anyway in his job and would often be away from home
- With 5 children it would be hard to find a suitable house in the Paris area
- He says you can do anything on the train – sleep, talk, read, work and even get a decent meal (any 3)

(Any 6)

4. With reference to paragraph 6 (lines 97-114), what are we told about how people spend their time on the TGV? 3

- Not everyone works, according to one regular Leïla Hamid
- A lot of people tidy up their diaries or play patience on their portable computers (both)
- For Leïla the journey is her free time between her busy work schedule and her hectic family life
- She used to work on her computer, but now she just reads or lets her mind wander

(Any 3)

5. (a) In what way would you say the last paragraph (lines 115-140) sounds a different note from the rest of the article as far as the TGV is concerned? Justify your answer with specific reference to the text. 5

Whereas the rest of the article highlights the many advantages that the TGV offers people, the last paragraph sounds a less positive note in that it deals with the problem posed by excessive use of the mobile phone by people who travel on the TGV. For passengers who want to work and for people who want just to rest other people's mobile phones are a nuisance. They are described as 'l'ennemi', 'une malédiction', 'un cauchemar'. Philippe complains about people bawling ('hurlent') into their phones, and the author talks of the phones ringing 'intempestivement' and people's conversations, which everyone in the carriage is obliged to listen to, as being 'd'une banalité affligeante' (eg 'yes, I'm on the train', 'no, we haven't left yet', 'we've just started up' ...). Sometimes the conversations are even spicier: a man phones first his wife then his mistress (or the other way round) to say when he'll be home. Businessmen can be very indiscreet in their phone conversations about the companies they work for: the author makes the point that there is nothing like a journey in a first class compartment on the TGV to Lyon or Valence for finding out about a company's business (+ or – examples). The paragraph ends with Leïla's horror at how indiscreet businessmen are.

(b) **This article is a very lively piece of journalism. What techniques would you say the author has used to make it so?**

5

- Punning title sets the tone, which is light-hearted throughout
- The passage begins with the anecdote of Gilles Martin playing a last game of *pétanque* with a client, which seems at first to have nothing to do with work
- And ends with the author's ironical exclamation: 'Vive le travail à grande vitesse!'
- There is much humour in the passage, particularly in the last two paragraphs
- Even when the author is dealing with the disadvantage of the TGV, the tone is light-hearted and humorous
- There are lots of quotations, which make the passage more lively and more varied: TGV users recount their own experiences in their own words
- The passage makes its point by taking a number of regular TGV users and outlining their personal experiences of travel on the TGV and how the TGV has affected their lives
- There are lots of punchy, short sentences (often without a verb) interspersed with longer sentences
- There are lots of exclamations and rhetorical questions

Credit should be given in 5a and 5b for well developed answers and for the candidate's own ideas appropriately backed up with reference to the text. It is not necessary to mention all of the above points to gain full marks in these two questions.

6. Translation into English

The translation into English is allocated 20 marks. The text for translation will be divided into 10 sense units. Each sense unit is worth 2 marks, which will be awarded according to the quality and accuracy of the translation into English. In assessing the candidate's performance, the descriptions detailed below will be used. Each sense unit will be awarded one of the marks shown.

<i>Category</i>	Mark	<i>Description</i>
Good	2	Essential information and relevant details are understood and conveyed clearly and accurately, with appropriate use of English.
Satisfactory	1	Essential information is understood and conveyed clearly and comprehensibly, although some of the details may be translated in an imprecise or inaccurate manner. The key message is conveyed in spite of inaccuracies and weaknesses in the use of English.
Unsatisfactory	0	The candidate fails to demonstrate sufficient understanding of the essential information and relevant details. Errors may include mistranslation and/or the failure to translate relevant details.

UNIT 1

TEXT	Accept (2)	(1)	Reject (0)
La vie continue en somme. la vie continue en somme	In fact life goes on. life continues all in all... basically... in short...	all the same	in sum in total in a sleep to add up

UNIT 2

TEXT	Accept (2)	(1)	Reject (0)
<p>A chacun ses habitudes, ses occupations et ses petites manies.</p> <p>A chacun ses habitudes, ses occupations et ses petites manies.</p>	<p>We all have our (own) habits, our (own) ways of passing the time and our funny little ways.</p> <p>Everyone has his or her/their habits...</p> <p>things to do jobs to do</p> <p>(little) quirks idiosyncrasies</p>	<p>jobs occupations</p> <p>mannerisms</p>	<p>At each of his/its habits</p>

UNIT 3

TEXT	Accept (2)	(1)	Reject (0)
<p>Philippe, lui, a calculé qu'il passait l'équivalent de plus d'un mois de travail dans le TGV.</p> <p>Philippe, lui, a calculé qu'il passait l'équivalent de plus d'un mois de travail dans le TGV.</p>	<p>Philippe for example has calculated that he spent the equivalent of more than a month of work on the TGV.</p> <p>Philippe has calculated As for Philippe, he has calculated Philippe calculated Philippe has worked out</p> <p>spends</p> <p>over a month more than one month</p> <p>of work on the TGV. of work in the TGV.</p>	<p>Philippe, he has calculated</p> <p>has spent used to spend had spent passed / has passed</p> <p>working on the TGV</p>	<p>travelling on the TGV</p>

UNIT 4

TEXT	Accept (2)	(1)	Reject (0)
<p>Aussi, pas question de gâcher ces précieux moments.</p> <p>Aussi, pas question</p> <p>de gâcher ces précieux moments.</p>	<p>So there is no question of wasting these precious moments.</p> <p>So no question So there could be no question So it is out of the question</p> <p>of wasting these precious moments to waste these valuable moments (with 'it is out of the question')</p>	<p>Also, there is no question Therefore he cannot...</p> <p>of spoiling...</p>	<p>Also without question Also it's not a question</p>

UNIT 5

TEXT	Accept (2)	(1)	Reject (0)
<p>Tous les lundis matin et vendredis soir son programme est le même:</p> <p>Tous les lundis matin et vendredis soir</p> <p>Son programme est le même</p>	<p>Every Monday morning and Friday evening his routine is the same</p> <p>Friday night</p> <p>his programme is the same his schedule... his timetable... he has the same schedule he follows the same routine</p>	<p>All the Monday mornings and Friday evenings... Friday afternoons Wrong day of the week</p>	

UNIT 6

TEXT	Accept (2)	(1)	Reject (0)
<p>vingt minutes de sieste, puis travail ou lecture, et cap sur la voiture-bar.</p> <p>Vingt minutes de sieste</p> <p>puis travail ou lecture,</p> <p>et cap sur</p> <p>la voiture-bar</p>	<p>A 20 minute nap, followed by work or reading, then it's off to the buffet car</p> <p>A 20 minute snooze/siesta</p> <p>then work or read</p> <p>and (then) off to and then on to and head for and then he heads for finishing in</p> <p>the bar. the bar carriage. the train bar. the bar compartment.</p>	<p>the car bar. the bar cart. the carriage bar.</p>	<p>travelling a lecture</p> <p>and his cape on</p>

UNIT 7

TEXT	Accept (2)	(1)	Reject (0)
<p>Pourquoi le bar? «Je me suis fixé un objectif:</p> <p>Je me suis fixé</p> <p>un objectif</p>	<p>Why the bar? I have set myself a target</p> <p>I have decided on I've fixed myself I've made my mind up about I have set my mind on</p> <p>an objective one objective a goal</p>	<p>I have a fixed objective I am fixed on I decided on I set myself</p>	<p>I am a fixed object</p>

UNIT 8

TEXT	Accept (2)	(1)	Reject (0)
<p><i>avoir un contact professionnel par voyage, raconte-t-il.</i></p> <p>Avoir un contact professionnel par voyage,</p> <p>raconte-t-il</p>	<p>to make one professional contact per trip, he says</p> <p>to have one/a professional contact</p> <p>per journey on each trip every time I travel</p> <p>he explains he tells me/us</p>	<p>omission of one/a</p> <p>by/on the trip per voyage during my journey</p> <p>he tells</p>	<p>a working meeting</p> <p>by travel while travelling through travelling</p>

UNIT 9

TEXT	Accept (2)	(1)	Reject (0)
<p><i>Ou je rencontre quelqu'un que je connais, ou on me présente une personne.»</i></p> <p>Ou je rencontre quelqu'un... ou on me présente une personne.»</p>	<p>Either I meet someone I know or (else) I am introduced to someone</p> <p>Whether I meet someone...</p> <p>or I get introduced to someone or I am introduced to someone new</p>	<p>Or ... or</p> <p>or I am presented to someone or someone is introduced to me or a person is introduced to me or I am introduced to a person</p>	<p>Where ...</p> <p>or I introduce myself to someone or I present myself in person or one introduces me to a person one presents a person to me or someone introduces themselves</p>

UNIT 10

TEXT	Accept (2)	(1)	Reject (0)
<p>Malgré la distance il ne jure que par le TGV.</p> <p>Malgré la distance</p> <p>il ne jure que par le TGV</p>	<p>Despite the distance he swears by the TGV and only by the TGV</p> <p>In spite of the distance</p> <p>he swears only by the TGV he swears by the TGV</p>	<p>he only swears by the TGV by TGV (omission of 'the')</p>	<p>he doesn't swear by he only bets on</p>

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]