

Reading tone, irony and hidden criticism

French B2 (upper intermediate) · Test Answer Key

Level: French B2 (CEFR upper intermediate) · **Standards:** CEFR B2, Reading

Question 1 Name the register (2 points)

a) **familier**; b) **courant**; c) **soutenu**; d) **familier**.

Scoring: 0.5 point per answer.

Question 2 Choose tu or vous (2 points)

a) **vous**; b) **tu**; c) **vous**; d) **vous**.

Scoring: 0.5 point per answer.

Question 3 Standard equivalents (2 points)

a) **un policier**; b) **une maison**; c) **travailler**; d) **une chose** (accept *un objet*).

Scoring: 0.5 point per answer.

Question 4 Irony or sincere? (2 points)

a) **ironic**; b) **sincere**; c) The compliment contradicts the rainy situation in scene 1, while in scene 2 it fits the sun.

Scoring: 0.5 + 0.5 + 1 for a justification that links words and situation.

Question 5 Meaning of understatements (2 points)

a) **It is quite good**. b) **It is expensive**. c) **He was rather rude**. d) **I do not like it**.

Scoring: 0.5 point per answer.

Question 6 Make it formal (2 points)

a) **Je souhaiterais rencontrer le directeur**. b) **Je vous remercie de bien vouloir me répondre rapidement**. Accept any correct formal wording.

Scoring: 1 point per sentence; 0.5 if the register is right but there is an error.

Question 7 Reading: a neighbor's note (3 points)

a) **To complain about the noise.** b) **Nous avons beaucoup apprécié votre soirée** (or votre bonne humeur): the praise hides irritation. c) **Polite on the surface:** Cordialement is standard, but the note is a sarcastic warning.

Scoring: 1 point per sub-question.

Question 8 Hidden reproach (2 points)

a) **You should have told us you would be absent.** b) **Vous** and the softener **peut-être** with the conditional past auriez pu.

Scoring: 1 point per sub-question.

Question 9 Short writing (3 points)

Model: **Monsieur, je me permets de vous écrire au sujet du chauffage de mon appartement, qui ne fonctionne plus depuis quinze jours. Les soirées sont fraîches, et j'ai déjà signalé ce problème par téléphone. Je ne doute pas que vous trouverez rapidement une solution. Cordialement, Awa Kouyaté.**

Scoring: 1 point for register and politeness, 1 point for an implicit reproach and a clear request, 1 point for correct French.