



TONBRIDGE SCHOOL

Scholarship Examination Sample Paper

FRENCH I

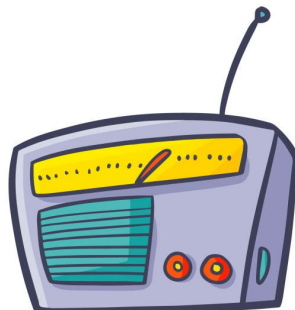
Time allowed: 1 hour

SECTION A: Listening Comprehension

[10 marks]

You are going to hear five short news bulletins in French. You will hear each bulletin twice. There will be a 30-second pause between the first and the second reading of each bulletin.

You may make notes and write your answers at any time. Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided.



Bulletin 1: Criminals on the loose!

1. What has been stolen? [1]
2. How is the suspect described? Give three details. [1]

Bulletin 2: The Cannes Film Festival

3. What nationality was the director of the winning film at this year's Festival? [1]
4. Why might it be considered surprising that this film won? [1]

Bulletin 3: Transport problems!

5. Why have a large number of flights been cancelled today? [1]
6. At what time are flights expected to resume at Bordeaux-Mérignac Airport? [1]

Bulletin 4: Refugee crisis

7. Have more, or fewer, refugees come to the country than last year? [1]
8. How are conditions in the refugee camp described? Give two details. [1]

Bulletin 5: Politics

9. What percentage of the votes did the winner of the election receive? [1]
10. What is the first priority of the new President? [1]

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SECTION B: Reading Comprehension

[15 marks]

Read the passage and then answer the questions that follow. Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided.

This article is about Félicette, a stray Parisian cat who was the first feline launched into space

Quand nous parlons d'animaux dans l'espace, les premiers noms qui nous viennent à l'esprit sont Belka et Strelka, les courageux chiens qui ont voyagé au-delà de notre planète. Mais il y a un autre voyageur spatial remarquable qui mérite notre attention : Félicette, une petite chatte blanche et noire qui a marqué l'histoire en octobre 1963.

En 1963, des scientifiques français ont sélectionné 14 chats potentiels pour devenir astronautes, dont certains ont été pris dans les rues de Paris. Tous les chats étaient des femelles en raison de leur tempérament plus calme. Ils ont subi une sélection supplémentaire et deux mois d'entraînement spécial "astronaute" pour se préparer à leur vol.

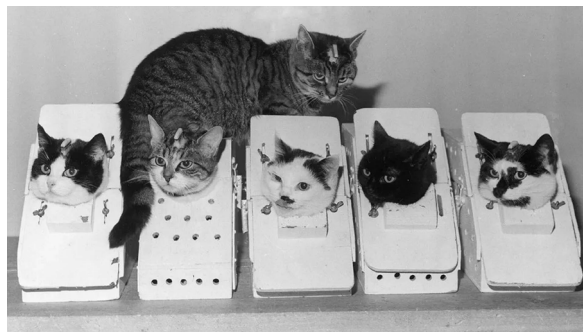
Les chats étaient placés dans des conteneurs pendant des périodes de plus en plus longues, tournés dans des centrifugeuses pour simuler les forces du décollage, et testés pour leur calme et leur adaptabilité. Ils étaient également implantés d'électrodes pour surveiller leur activité cérébrale.

Un chat particulier noir et blanc s'est démarqué des autres. À l'époque, elle était seulement connue sous le nom de C341 ; pour éviter tout attachement émotionnel aux sujets de l'expérience, les scientifiques ne donnaient pas de noms aux chats, seulement des numéros.

Le 18 octobre 1963, Félicette a fait son voyage historique dans le cadre du programme spatial français. **Une fusée**, la Véronique AG1, a emporté le chat dans une capsule à une altitude de 157 kilomètres et est officiellement entrée dans l'espace. Le temps passé par Félicette dans l'espace a été limité à environ cinq minutes. Et contrairement aux astronautes, elle n'avait pas de vue de la Terre depuis sa capsule.

Pendant le vol, la petite chatte a subi des forces allant jusqu'à 9,5 g ! Cependant, les données de vol ont confirmé que Félicette est restée parfaitement calme. En effet, elle était le bon choix pour la mission — toute réaction de panique de sa part aurait rendu les signaux cérébraux impossibles à interpréter.

Malgré ses contributions à la science, Félicette a reçu beaucoup moins de reconnaissance que les autres animaux astronautes. Ham, le chimpanzé, par exemple, a été honoré par un enterrement au International Space Hall of Fame, tandis que Laika, la chienne, a eu des monuments érigés en sa mémoire. Cependant, l'histoire de Félicette a pris un tournant en 2017 lorsque l'enthousiaste Matthew Serge Guy a lancé une campagne Kickstarter en son honneur. Plus de 1 100 personnes ont fait un don et la campagne a recueilli 57 000 \$ pour honorer la mémoire de Félicette. L'argent a été utilisé pour réaliser une statue en bronze de Félicette.



The 'cat'-tronauts in 1963. Félicette is on the far left.

Text adapted from: <https://starwalk.space/fr/news/first-cat-in-space-felicette>

1. According to the first paragraph, who or what exactly were Belka and Strelka? [1]
2. According to the second paragraph, why did the scientists only consider sending female cats into space? [1]
3. In the third paragraph, three details about the training the cats underwent as part of their selection process are given. Write down any two of these three details. [2]
4. According to the third paragraph, what purpose did the electrodes implanted in the cats serve? [1]
5. According to the fourth paragraph, why were the cats referred to by numbers (e.g. C341) rather than their names (e.g. Félicette)? [1]
6. In the fifth paragraph, the term *une fusée* is written **in bold type**. It is unlikely you have come across this word before. Based on the sentence in which the term is found, what do you think *une fusée* might be? [1]
7. According to the last sentence of the fifth paragraph, how was Félicette's experience of space travel different to those of a typical astronaut? [1]
8. According to the sixth paragraph, what suggests that Félicette was the perfect choice for the mission? [1]
9. In the seventh, and final, paragraph we learn that Félicette is less well known than some other animals that have travelled into space. How, according to the seventh paragraph, have (i) Ham, the space-travelling chimpanzee, and (ii) Laika, the space-travelling dog, been honoured? [2]
10. Read the underlined segment of the text (beginning, Cependant, l'histoire de Félicette...). Translate this sentence into accurate English. [4]

SECTION C: Writing in French

[25 marks]

Write an essay in French of between 120 and 150 words according to the task description below. Write your answer in the separate answer booklet provided.

Imagine that you have been on an interesting trip – perhaps to an attraction (like a museum or theme park); a part of your country, or another country; or even to somewhere like the moon. **You may, of course, invent anything you like!**

Write about your trip, including all the following points:

- Whether you like travelling or visiting new places, and why (not)
- Why you decided to go on this trip
- Some details of what happened on the trip – for example, who you went with, how you travelled, what you saw, what you ate, anything you learnt...
- Whether you intend to make a similar trip in the future, and why (not)

Marking criteria for Section C	
Content /10	• Are all of the bullet points answered in sufficient detail and in a structured and logical manner, with expansion of key points and ideas? • Are personal opinions backed up with appropriate justification and/or examples? • Is language used effectively to narrate, inform and interest?
Range of language /10	• Is a variety of vocabulary and expression, including some examples of uncommon language, used? • Is a variety of grammatical structures, including some of examples of complex structures, used? • Is usage of register and style consistent throughout the essay?
Accuracy /5	• Are the language and structures used generally accurate? • Are successful references made to past, present and future events? • How significantly do any errors that occur hinder quality or clarity of communication?