

Figure 2: Holistic Scoring Scale

Demonstrates Superiority	9	<i>Strong</i> control of the language; proficiency and variety in grammatical usage with few significant errors; broad command of vocabulary and of idiomatic language.
Demonstrates Competence	8 7	<i>Good</i> general control of grammatical structures despite some errors and/or some awkwardness of style. Good use of idioms and vocabulary. Reads smoothly overall.
Suggests Competence	6 5	<i>Fair</i> ability to express ideas in target language; correct use of simple grammatical structures or use of more complex structures without numerous serious errors. Some apt vocabulary and idioms. Occasional signs of fluency and sense of style.
Suggests Incompetence	4 3	<i>Weak</i> use of language with little control of grammatical structures. Limited vocabulary. Frequent use of anglicisms, which force interpretations on the part of the reader. Occasional redeeming features.
Demonstrates Incompetence	2 1	<i>Clearly unacceptable</i> from most points of view. Almost total lack of vocabulary resources, little or no sense of idiom and/or style. Essentially translated from English.
Floating point		A one-point bonus should be awarded for a coherent and well-organized essay or for a particularly inventive one.

(Taken from Johnson's Grading the Advanced Placement Examination in French Language, Princeton, NJ: Advanced Placed Program of the College Board, 1983.)