**General points:**

• Most candidates respected the given word limit of 400. Those who went beyond or fell short of this penalised themselves according to the criteria of the mark scheme.

• This meant that the essay was no longer of the same quality as a 400 word essay (lost conclusion, too many details and not concentrating on the question asked). Some essays were too short and quality of response and knowledge of film, book or region suffered.

• There is a tendency for candidates to rely too much on narrative, story-telling and scene setting and lengthy character descriptions. Candidates should think not “What”, but “Why”?

• Not that many centres seemed to favour a strong traditional essay French fashion with a concise introduction, a clear progression with linked paragraphs. The ones that did never deviated from the question in hand.

• A good essay is a planned essay – it was most encouraging to see evidence of planning. This does help candidates to harness their thoughts and ideas before beginning to write.

• Many of the questions ask for a personal response or viewpoint. Candidates should be encouraged to do this when practising their essay writing technique.

**Accuracy:**

* Verbs and tenses were quite well handled, unlike genders and adjectives. The use of historic present tense works very well in these types of essays.
* There were a lot of problems, surprisingly, with basic grammar like *de le* or *à le*.
* Some key words were wrongly spelt like *internat* spelt *internaut.*
* The verb *~”inclure”* was badly conjugated.
* *Mieux/meilleur mal/mauvais* were often used interchangeably.
* The syntactical difference between *À cause de/parce que* was poorly understood. *Parce que* is still being used where *à cause de* is required.
* A singular noun often had a plural verb and vice versa.
* *Expecter* and *promoter* are used fairly extensively now, as are *addicté* and *passer un examen* meaning to 'pass an examination.'
* *Faire bien* and *Je suis bien en anglais* are frequently used to render 'to do well' and 'I am good at' respectively.
* *Drouges* and *ganger* are now widespread versions of *drogues and gagner.*
* Common verbs used incorrectly - *ils boissent/boirent/buvent (boire).*
* The Present Tense of *aller, faire, avoir, être* were confused and used incorrectly. Basic present tense verb forms were badly handled (3rd person not known). As most candidates use the historic present for their essays, it is essential that they strive for greater accuracy.
* Few can use any Past Tense correctly.
* Common use of subjunctive very often was not used e.g. *Les parents veulent les enfants écouter.*
* *Dire* and *parler* were used interchangeably.
* Second verb infinitive rule was not obeyed: *Les ados doivent parle avec les parents.*
* Incorrect syntax with impersonal verbs: *Les ados faut respecter...*
* Adjectival agreements were often ignored or incorrect.
* The position of the negative *ne…pas* is a mystery to many candidates. It was frequently placed around nouns or adjectives, e.g. *Hugo est ne forte pas. / Annie est nheureux pas /Meursault namoureux pas Marie / Manon namour pas Ugolin.*
* Some candidates believe that every French word ending in e must have an accent.
* Many candidates confuse *montrer* with *monter*. There was also confusion between *savoir/connaître, épouser/ se marier avec/marier,* and also *personnage/caractère.*
* Pronouns seem to be causing more problems this year, e.g. *Ugolin aime elle / il regarde elle / Hugo veut tuer le / il donne la.*