



2024 specification
(first exams in 2026)

Practice Papers for GCSE Edexcel French

Listening: Higher



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Teacher's Introduction

These Practice Papers have been written to help your students prepare for the **Listening** examination (Paper 2) for the GCSE Edexcel French **2024 specification**.

This pack contains three **Higher** Tier practice papers. They have been designed in the style of the real Edexcel exam but with completely original content, including questions, transcripts and mark schemes.

Remember!

Always check the exam board website for new information, including changes to the specification and sample assessment material.

The papers contain all of the question types that appear in the new SAMs, so that students can revise effectively. Each paper includes Section A: Listening Comprehension and Section B: Dictation, totalling 50 marks.

How to use this resource:

Set the paper under exam conditions to give students an idea of what level they are working at. Go over the answers in class to identify strategies, such as:

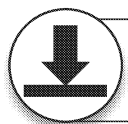
- reading the questions and predicting plausible answers before listening to the recordings
- applying a mixture of grammatical awareness and common sense
- using the context to aid intelligent guessing

Students should be encouraged to note down, and learn, any new vocabulary from the questions they got wrong. The same paper could be set again after a couple of months, when students should aim to get 100%.

Additional note:

Dictation is a new skill for the 2024 specification. Students should be encouraged to practise this in class and discuss specific techniques. ZigZag Education has a Dictation Skills Pack available to support knowledge and skill-building in this area.

June 2025



All tracks are provided on the ZigZag Education Support Files system, which can be accessed via zzed.uk/productsupport

Specification Match Grid

The grid below provides the subtopics covered that relate to the six Thematic Content Scales of the 2024 specification:

1. My personal world
2. Lifestyle and wellbeing
3. My neighbourhood
4. Media and technology
5. Studying and my future
6. Travel and tourism

Paper 1		Paper 2		
Q1	Environment	Q1	Tourist Attractions	Q1
Q2	Reading	Q2	Mental Well-being	Q2
Q3	Food & Drink	Q3	Gaming	Q3
Q4	Travel	Q4	Physical Well-being	Q4
Q5	Physical Well-being	Q5	Shopping	Q5
Q6	Music	Q6	Friends	Q6
Q7	Sport	Q7	Future Opportunities	Q7
Q8	Social Media & Gaming	Q8	Environment	Q8
Q9	School	Q9	Food & Drink	Q9
Q10	Transport	Q10	Places in Town	Q10

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Track Listings

Track	Edexcel Paper 2 – Listening and Understanding – Higher Tier
1	Introduction
2	Question 1: Protecting the Environment
3	Question 2: Reading
4	Question 3: The Restaurant
5	Question 4: The School Holiday
6	Question 5: Healthy Lifestyle
7	Question 6: Musical Instruments
8	Question 7: Sport
9	Question 8(a): Mobile Phone (Part 1)
10	Question 8(b): Mobile Phones (Part 2)
11	Question 9(a): Home Schooling (Part 1)
12	Question 9(b): Home Schooling (Part 2)
13	Section B: Dictation: Sentence 1: Transport
14	Section B: Dictation: Sentence 2: Transport
15	Section B: Dictation: Sentence 3: Transport
16	Section B: Dictation: Sentence 4: Transport
17	Section B: Dictation: Sentence 5: Transport
18	Section B: Dictation: Sentence 6: Transport

Track	Edexcel Paper 2 – Listening and Understanding – Higher Tier
19	Question 1: The Eiffel Tower
20	Question 2: Mental Health
21	Question 3: Gaming
22	Question 4: At The Doctor's
23	Question 5: Fashion
24	Question 6: My Best Friend
25	Question 7: Work Experience
26	Question 8(a): Environmental Issues (Part 1)
27	Question 8(b): Environmental Issues (Part 2)
28	Question 9(a): Eating Better (Part 1)
29	Question 9(b): Eating Better (Part 2)
30	Section B: Dictation: Sentence 1: Places in Town
31	Section B: Dictation: Sentence 2: Places in Town
32	Section B: Dictation: Sentence 3: Places in Town
33	Section B: Dictation: Sentence 4: Places in Town
34	Section B: Dictation: Sentence 5: Places in Town
35	Section B: Dictation: Sentence 6: Places in Town

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Track	Edexcel Paper 2 – Listening and Understanding – Higher T
36	Question 1: Teachers
37	Question 2: Transport
38	Question 3: Protecting Nature
39	Question 4: Mobile Phones
40	Question 5: Cinema
41	Question 6: Daily Routine
42	Question 7: Restaurants
43	Question 8(a): Equality (Part 1)
44	Question 8(b): Equality (Part 2)
45	Question 9(a): Family (Part 1)
46	Question 9(b): Family (Part 2)
47	Section B: Dictation: Sentence 1: Sport
48	Section B: Dictation: Sentence 2: Sport
49	Section B: Dictation: Sentence 3: Sport
50	Section B: Dictation: Sentence 4: Sport
51	Section B: Dictation: Sentence 5: Sport
52	Section B: Dictation: Sentence 6: Sport

Teacher's note:

Before starting the first track for a mock exam, students should be given 5 minute time. All tracks include the correct number of pauses and repetitions.

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ZigZag Practice Exam

Supporting GCSE (9–1) Edexcel French: 2024

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Write-on paper

French Listening Examination

Higher Tier: Practice Paper 1

Name

Time allowed: 60 minutes

5 minutes: reading time

55 minutes: exam time

The maximum mark for this paper is 50

Information:

- Answer each question in the space provided.
- Use a pen to write your answers.
- Answer all questions in both sections.
- In **Section A**, answer the questions in **English**.
- In **Section B**, complete the dictation in **French**.
- You must not use a dictionary.
- The marks for each question are provided. These should help you to plan your time.

Advice:

- You have 5 minutes to read the questions and the instructions before listening to the recordings.
You can use that time to take notes if you want to.
- The recording will be played three times. There will be a short pause between the recordings when you can read the questions again, and each will be followed by one, two or three beeps.
- You can write at any time during the test.

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Section A

Listening comprehension

Protecting the Environment

1. Sylvie is talking about what she does at home to protect the environment.

What does she say?

Listen to the recording and complete the sentences by putting a cross ☒ in the box.

- a. Sylvie...

☐	A	takes out the bins
☐	B	reduces energy at home
☐	C	goes to school by bike

- b. Her parents refuse to...

☐	A	travel to work by bus
☐	B	take the train on holiday
☐	C	buy an electric car

- c. In the future, Sylvie intends to...

☐	A	protect the forests
☐	B	use public transport
☐	C	buy local produce

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Reading

2. Alessandro's mother is talking about her son's love of reading.

What does she say?

Fill in the gap in each sentence using a word or phrase from the box below.

There are more words/phrases than you need.



library bookshop internet
stories science-fiction magazine
educational exciting cooking

- a. Alessandro always gets books from the
- b. Before going to bed, Alessandro prefers to read
- c. Alessandro is not interested in reading
- d. Alessandro's brother thinks that reading is
- e. is Alessandro's favourite pastime.



The Restaurant

3. Listen to the following advert for the restaurant 'des Anglais'.

What is mentioned?

Listen to the recording and put a cross ☐ in each one of the **three** correct boxes.

☐	A	drinks
☐	B	service
☐	C	location
☐	D	desserts
☐	E	local produce
☐	F	price



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The Ideal Holiday

4. Fathia, Jade and Théo are talking about their ideal holidays.

What do they say?

Listen to the recording and complete the sentences by putting a cross ☒ in the

- a. Fathia is going to Martinique.

	A	in summer
	B	at Christmas
	C	next year

- b. Fathia is going away for the...

	A	hiking
	B	swimming
	C	shopping

- c. Jade would always go on holiday...

	A	to the beach
	B	to the city
	C	to the mountains

- d. According to Théo, the beach helps him to...

	A	get a tan
	B	keep fit
	C	rest

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A Healthy Lifestyle

5. Jules, Mathis and Eva are talking about their lifestyle.

What do they say?

Listen to the recording and complete the following table in **English**.

You do not need to write in full sentences.

a.

	What he prefers to eat
---	-----------------------------------

b.

Mathis	A fitness preference
---------------	---------------------------------

c.

Eva	Advice on sleep
------------	----------------------------



Musical Instruments

6. Thomas is talking about being in a band. What does he say?

Complete the gap in each sentence using a word or phrase from the box below.

There are more words / phrases than gaps.

online	with young people	be rich
sense	playing to 2000 people	part of

- a. The songs are popular and Thomas has for rhythm.

- b. The is going to be.....



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Sport

7. Camille, Alex and Yanis are talking about the advantages and disadvantages of sport.

What do they say?

Listen to the recording and complete the following table in English.

You do not need to write in full sentences.

- a. Camille

 advantage	
disadvantage	

- b. Alex

advantage	
disadvantage	

- c. Yanis

advantage	
 disadvantage	

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Mobile Phones

8. Lola and Raphael are talking about their mobile phones. What do they say?

Listen to the recording and complete the sentences by putting a cross ☒ in the box.

a. Lola

- (i) Lola spends her evenings...

☐	A	on her mobile only
☐	B	on her mobile or watching a film
☐	C	on her mobile or reading

- (ii) She takes her mobile with her...

☐	A	in her bag
☐	B	in the cinema
☐	C	in the swimming pool

- (iii) Her mobile phone causes her to...

☐	A	get up too early
☐	B	wake up during the night
☐	C	get to bed late

b. Raphael

- (i) Raphael thinks that his mobile phone use...

☐	A	worrying
☐	B	normal
☐	C	insufficient

- (ii) He is going to...

☐	A	switch his mobile off before going to bed
☐	B	try one day a week without his mobile
☐	C	give up his mobile

- (iii) No longer keeping his phone in his room would be...

☐	A	a good idea
☐	B	impossible
☐	C	easy

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Home Schooling

9. a. Lina is talking about being schooled at home.

What does she say?

Listen to the podcast and put a cross ☐ in each one of the **three** correct

	A	She likes to like her teachers
	B	Her father decided to home school her
	C	She misses her friends
	D	Tests at home are still stressful
	E	She can learn at her own speed
	F	She wants to return to school in the future

- b. You also hear this report on home schooling.

Listen to the recording and complete the following questions **in English**.

You do not need to write in full sentences.

- (i) What happens at 9 o'clock in the morning?

.....

- (ii) Where exactly do the lessons take place?

.....

- (iii) What is one advantage of not going to school each day?

.....

- (iv) What subject do they not normally study enough at school?

.....

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Section B

Dictation

10. You are going to hear someone talking about transport.

Sentences 1-2: write down the missing words in the gaps provided. In each gap write one word in French.

Example: *Je voyage en train, à vélo et à pied.*

1. Le et le
l'

2. La de l' est

Sentences 3-6: write down the full sentence that you hear in the spaces provided.

Example: *Je voyage en métro, à vélo et à pied.*

3.

4.

5.

6.

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ZigZag Practice Exam

Supporting GCSE (9–1) Edexcel French: 2024

Non-write-on paper

French Listening Examination

Higher Tier: Practice Paper 1

Time allowed: 60 minutes

5 minutes: reading time

55 minutes: exam time

The maximum mark for this paper is 50.

Information:

- Answer each question in your exercise book.
- Use a black pen to write your answers.
- Answer all questions in all sections.
- In Section 1, answer the questions in **English**.
- In Section 2, complete the dictation in **French**.
- You must not use a dictionary.
- The marks for each question are provided. These should help you to plan your time.

Advice:

- You have 5 minutes to read the questions and the instructions before listening to the recordings.
You can use that time to take notes if you want to.
- The recording will be played three times. There will be a short pause between the recordings when you can read the questions again, and each will be followed by one, two or three beeps.
- You can write at any time during the test.

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Section A – LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Protecting the Environment

1. Sylvie is talking about what she does at home to protect the environment. What does she do?
Listen to the recording and write A, B or C for each question.

- a. Sylvie... (1) b. Her parents are used to... (1)
- A takes out the bins A travel to work by bus
B reduces energy at home B take the train on holiday
C goes to work by bike C buy an electric car



Reading

2. Alessandro's mother is talking about her son's love of reading. What does she say?
Write the word or phrase from the box below which fits in the gap of each sentence. Use no more than one word/phrase in each gap.

library	bookshop	internet	newspaper
science-fiction	magazines	educational	exciting

- a. Alessandro always gets books from the
b. Before going to bed, Alessandro prefers to read
c. Alessandro is not interested in reading
d. Alessandro's brother thinks that reading is
e. is Alessandro's favourite pastime.



The Restaurant

3. Listen to the following advert for the restaurant 'des Anglais'. What is mentioned?
Listen to the recording and identify the **three** correct answers.

A	drinks	D	desserts
B	service	E	local produce
C	location	F	price

The Ideal Holiday

4. Fathia, Jade and Théo are talking about their ideal holidays. What do they say?
Listen to the recording and write A, B or C for each question.

- a. Fathia is going to Martinique... (1) c. Jade would always go... (1)
- A this summer A to the beach
B at Christmas B to the city
C next year C to the mountains
- b. Fathia is going away for the... (1) d. According to Théo... (1)
- A hiking A get a tan
B swimming B keep fit
C shopping C rest



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A Healthy Lifestyle

5. Jules, Mathis and Eva are talking about their lifestyle. What do they say?

Listen to the recording and write your answers in **English**.

You do not need to write in full sentences.

- a. Jules: What he prefers to eat
- b. Mathis: A fitness preference
- c. Eva: Advice on



Musical Instruments

6. Thomas is talking about being in a band. What does he say?

Complete the gap in each sentence using a word or phrase from the box below. Do not use more than one word or phrase than gaps.

online	with young people	be rich
sense	playing to 2000 people	part of a

- a. The songs are popular and Thomas has a good
- b. The band is going to be



Sport

7. Camille, Alex and Yanis are talking about the advantages and disadvantages of

Listen to the recording and write your answers in **English**.

You do not need to write in full sentences.

- a. Camille
 - Advantage
 - Disadvantage
- b. Alex
 - Advantage
 - Disadvantage
- c. Yanis
 - Advantage
 - Disadvantage



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Mobile Phones

8. Lola and Raphael are talking about their mobile phones. What do they say?

Listen to the recording and write A, B or C for each question.

a. Lola

b. Raphael

- (i) Lola spends her evenings... (1)

A on her mobile only
B on her mobile or watching film
C on her mobile or reading

- (i) Raphael thinks...

A worrying
B normal
C insufficient

- (ii) She takes her mobile with her... (1)

A in her bag
B in the cinema
C in the swimming pool

- (ii) He is going to...

A switch his
B try one day
C give up his

- (iii) Her mobile phone causes her to... (1)

A get up too early
B wake up during the night
C get to bed late

- (iii) No longer keeps... would be...

A a good idea
B impossible
C easy

Home Schooling

9. a. Lina is talking about being schooled at home. What does she say?

Listen to the recording and identify the **three** correct answers.

A	She used to like her teachers	D	Tests at home
B	Her father decided to home school her	E	She can learn
C	She misses her friends	F	She wants to

- b. You are going to hear this report on home schooling.

Listen to the recording and answer the questions **in English**. You do not

- (i) What happens at 9 o'clock in the morning?
(ii) Where exactly do the lessons take place?
(iii) What is one advantage of not going to school each day?
(iv) What subject do they not normally study enough at school?

Section B – DICTATION

10. You are going to hear someone talking about travel.

Sentences 1–2: Write down **only** the missing words in French.

Example: Je voyage en méto, à vélo et à pied.

1. Le et le plus rapide est l'.....

2. La de l'..... est

Sentence 5: write down the full sentence that you hear, in French.

Example: Je voyage en méto, à vélo et à pied.

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Preview of Questions Ends Here

This is a limited inspection copy. Sample of questions ends here to avoid students previewing questions before they are set. See contents page for details of the rest of the resource.

Transcript

Section A: Listening Comprehension

Track	Question 1: Teachers		
36	Maria	F1	Mon prof de maths n'est pas très strict et la prof de français travaille beaucoup de travail chaque soir, mais on a des différences: en anglais, je ne suis pas très forte, mais en français, j'ai fait beaucoup.

Track	Question 2: Transport		
37	Narrator	F1	Alessandro ?
	Alessandro	M1	Pour aller au travail, je prends toujours le métro. Les trains ne sont jamais en retard.
	Narrator	F1	Enzo ?
	Enzo	M2	Moi, je vais au bureau en train, où une place est gratuite. La gare est assez loin de chez moi.
	Narrator	F1	Jade ?
	Jade	F2	Je voudrais prendre la route pour aller au travail, mais le coût est trop cher pour moi, alors j'y vais à vélo.

Track	Question 3: Protecting Nature		
38	Nadia	F1	J'habite à la campagne et la nature est vraiment belle. On donne du foin aux animaux en hiver et je travaille dans le lac près de mon jardin. Pour aider l'environnement, j'ai acheté des choses en plastique.

Track	Question 4: Mobile Phones		
39	Narrator	F1	Myriam, tu as un portable ?
	Myriam	F2	Oui, c'est le dernier modèle et je suis très populaire.
	Narrator	F1	Comment est-ce que tu utilises ton portable, Zoé ?
	Zoé	F3	Je l'utilise pour rester en contact avec ma famille. Appeler, c'est gratuit.
	Narrator	F1	Et toi, Rachid, tu t'en sers comment ?
	Rachid	M1	Mon portable est utile pour acheter des vêtements. Pouvoir faire les courses 24 heures sur 24 est pratique.

Track	Question 5: Cinema		
40	Narrator	F1	Yanis ?
	Yanis	M1	Récemment j'ai regardé un film qui m'a fait peur. Plusieurs scènes !
	Narrator	F1	Louis ?
	Louis	M2	Regarder un film de science-fiction au cinéma sur un écran est vraiment plus passionnant.
	Narrator	F1	Sarah ?
	Sarah	F2	Mes parents ont adoré les effets spéciaux du dernier film. Moi, je ne les ai pas aimés.
	Narrator	F1	Et toi, Jade ?

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Track	Question 6: Daily Routine		
41	Yasmina	F1	Selon moi, rester au lit le matin est une perte de temps. Je me réveille très tôt, souvent avant six heures, même le samedi. Je mange de petit déjeuner, je m'habille rapidement et je vais au travail avec les cheveux un peu partout : je dois penser à me préparer.

Track	Question 7: Restaurants		
42	Narrator	F1	Nadia ?
	Nadia	F2	Le samedi dernier un nouveau restaurant a ouvert et j'allais y aller. Je voulais y aller hier soir car la cuisine est tellement bonne. Mais il était impossible de réserver une table.
	Hugo	F1	Hugo ?
	Hugo	M1	Mon ami m'a conseillé d'essayer un restaurant car il est efficace. Par contre, ce n'est jamais ouvert pour le midi. Je préfère sortir à midi.
	Narrator	F1	Clément ?
	Clément	M2	La semaine dernière j'ai mangé dans un restaurant. Les assiettes et les fourchettes n'étaient pas du tout sales. Je mange pour pas cher.

Track	Question 8a: Equality		
43	Camille	F1	Camille L'année dernière, mon demi-frère jouait pour son club de football. Un de ses matchs, moi aussi j'ai eu envie de participer. Mais il n'existait pas, alors mon père a parlé avec la directrice. Elle a dit que beaucoup d'autres filles n'étaient pas faciles. Nous avons essayé pendant les premières semaines de femmes et de filles du club. Elles ont eu de bons résultats au début, mais la plupart ont arrêté. Maintenant tout le monde nous encourage.

Track	Question 8b: Equality		
44	Charlie	M1	Charlie J'ai commencé à faire de la danse quand j'avais 12 ans. J'étais en train d'écouter des chansons en ligne. Et puis, mes parents m'ont dit de danser. A l'école, d'autres garçons ne m'ont pas aimé. Ils pensaient que la danse était une activité de filles. J'ai fait une semaine de cours de danse qui m'a permis de tout apprendre. Maintenant tout le monde trouve que danser est amusant.

Track	Question 9a: Family		
45	Inès	F1	Inès Pour moi, avoir seulement un frère ou une sœur n'est pas suffisant. D'ailleurs, j'en ai eu deux. Je suis l'aînée. Nous sommes très proches, mais un manque de paix peut arriver. Mon frère jouait de la musique forte hier et aujourd'hui. Tout le monde à table le soir est génial : nous discutons et partageons nos histoires de la journée.

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Track	Question 9b: Family		
46	Narrator	M1	Une enquête récente dit qu'un quart des adolescents vivent avec leurs deux parents ensemble. Le nombre de mariages a augmenté, donc vivre entre deux maisons devient plus difficile. L'association "Aider la Famille" existe pour aider les familles à partager leurs expériences. Ils peuvent aussi communiquer avec des professionnels de la situation sur un réseau en ligne. L'année dernière, plus de mille jeunes ont rejoint l'association.

Section B: Dictation

Track	Question 10: Sport		
47	Narrator	F1	Exemple: Je joue au sport demain matin dans le stade. Ma passion est l'escalade.
48	Narrator	F1	Faire de l'équitation est affreux.
49	Narrator	M1	Exemple : Je joue au sport demain matin dans le stade. Elle va au stade.
50	Narrator	M1	Je rêve de devenir un joueur célèbre.
51	Narrator	M1	Il s'amuse quand il regarde un match.
52	Narrator	M1	Je suis fort en tennis.

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Mark Scheme

SECTION A: LISTENING COMPREHENSION

Question number	Answer
1(a)	A
1(b)	A
1(c)	B
2(a)	underground
2(b)	new
2(c)	the
2(d)	car
2(e)	expensive
3	B, C, D
4(a)	B
4(b)	A
4(c)	C
4(d)	C
5(a)	was scared
5(b)	Big screen
5(c)	Didn't like them
6(a)	Early
6(b)	gets dressed and leaves the house
7(a)	Excellent food Impossible to book a table / Long queues
7(b)	Efficient service Not open for lunch
7(c)	Dirty Cheap
8(a) (i)	C
8(a) (ii)	
8(a) (iii)	
8(b) (i)	B
8(b) (ii)	A
8(b) (iii)	B
9 (a)	B, D, F
9 (b) (i)	25% / A quarter
9 (b) (ii)	The divorce rate
9 (b) (iii)	Help young people speak to specialists or help to connect with youngsters
9 (b) (iv)	Last year they helped over a thousand youngsters

SECTION B: DICTATION

Sentence number	Answer
1	Passion / est / escalade
2	Faire / équitation / affreux
3	Elle va au stade
4	Je rêve de devenir un joueur célèbre
5	Il s'agit d'un match
6	Il s'est tort en tennis

Mark
10
9
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1
0

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Preview of Answers Ends Here

This is a limited inspection copy. Sample of answers ends here to stop students looking up answers to their assessments. See contents page for details of the rest of the resource.