



Practice Papers for GCSE Edexcel French

Writing: Foundation

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Teacher's Introduction

Purpose:

This pack contains three full practice papers for the Edexcel Foundation writing exam. When a new specification is launched, initially, teachers may find it difficult to source quality practice papers beyond those provided by the exam board, thereby making it difficult to accurately assess their students. Besides, there is always a risk that students can find the papers provided online by the exam board. The ZigZag practice papers allow teachers to give their students extra practice without taking this risk.

The author has taken every step to ensure the structure of these papers mirrors that of the Edexcel paper, and has used their extensive experience of resource writing to produce varied and unique content. These papers cover all six thematic contexts:

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

Remember!

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

How to use this resource:

We recommend setting each paper under exam conditions to give an accurate picture of students' ability at a given point. Papers can be used as teacher-assessed tasks (with the teacher marking the paper and feeding back to the students) or as self-/peer-assessment tasks (with each student or their partner assessing their work).

We are not providing a full mark scheme here as it can easily be obtained from the exam board's website, but the author has provided an explanation of the mark scheme and how to achieve the top marks for each task. They have also provided some self-/peer-assessment grids, which can be photocopied and given to students to assess their own or their partner's work.

October 2025

Structure of the paper and mark scheme

The Edexcel Foundation writing paper comprises four tasks:

1. The photo description

Students write four short sentences in French. There are 3 marks available for each sentence (response to stimulus). For each sentence, students can score between 0 and 3 marks. For 3 marks, the message is clearly communicated; for 2 marks, the message is partially communicated; for 1 mark, the message is not communicated; for 0 marks, no rewardable communication is shown.

2. The 40–50-word task

Students choose between two questions. There are 14 marks available for this task. It is marked based on two criteria: AO2 (response to stimulus) and AO3 (linguistic knowledge and accuracy). To score in the top band for AO2, students need to address all three bullet points, develop their ideas clearly. To score in the top band for AO3, students must use varied vocabulary, a range of grammatical structures, some connectives and use mostly accurate language, although some errors are tolerated.

3. The 80–90-word task

Students choose between two questions. Note this is a crossover task (it is both AO2 and AO3). There are 18 marks available for this task. It is marked based on two criteria: AO2 (response to stimulus) and AO3 (linguistic knowledge and accuracy). To score in the top band for AO2, students need to address all three bullet points, develop their ideas frequently and write in a mostly clear manner. To score in the top band for AO3, students need to vary their vocabulary and grammatical structures. This task requires longer sentences with connectives. They must generally be successful at referring to the stimulus, and the language they use must be generally accurate, although minor errors are tolerated.

4. The translation task

Students translate five short sentences into French. There are 10 marks available for this task. It is marked based on two criteria: AO2 (response to stimulus) and AO3 (linguistic knowledge and accuracy). To score in the top band for AO2, students must ensure that the meaning of the original sentences is accurately translated. Although occasional lack of clarity may occur. To score in the top band for AO3, the range and grammatical structures used by students must be mostly accurate, although some errors are tolerated.

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Self- and peer-assessment grid

Use the grids below to self- or peer-assess your written responses. Please note the

1. Photo description task:

Have you...	What the mark scheme says vs	What i
	communicated relevant information?	write only about what
	communicated the information clearly?	keep it simple so even
	used complete sentences or clauses (with a verb)?	include a subject and

2. 40–50-word task:

Have you...	What the mark scheme says	What i
	addressed all three BP?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • write at least one • what you have w • the BP • BP2 must contain • the future time fr
	developed your ideas?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give extra details, • for example, you • a negative opinio
	responded to the task in a mostly coherent and sensible manner?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • write in a way tha • use only language • if you translate it • make sense?
	used a variety of vocabulary and structures?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • check that you ar • you can replace 'j • préfère', etc.
	used simple and varied grammatical structures?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • write accurately • check your verbs • for the future, yo • voudrais' + infinit
	linked your sentences with conjunctions/connectives?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use connectives s • 'parce que', etc.
	used mostly accurate language?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when you have fi • carefully • check spelling, an • etc.), adjective ag • -e at the end of fe • the end of plural

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3. 80–90-word task:

Have you...	What the mark scheme says	What it means
	addressed all four bullet points?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • write at least one sentence • what you write must be relevant • give an opinion and at least one example (e.g. 'voiture' or 'car') • use the correct time frame
	frequently used ideas from your ideas?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give at least three or four ideas
	responded to the task in a comprehensible manner?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • write in a way that is easy to understand • if you translate it back into English, it should make sense
	used a variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • avoid repetitions (use each word only once) • include different subject pronouns, negatives, etc.
	formed extended sentences?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use a range of time phrases ('un jour', 'un mois prochain', etc.) • use connectives ('et', 'mais', 'parce que', 'car', 'alors', 'donc', 'mais', 'cependant', 'en premier', 'ensuite', 'fin') to link ideas
	occasionally used complex language?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use a couple of more interesting structures but only if you are confident • you could use relative clauses, infinitive structures such as 'aller + infinitive', etc.
	made successful use of present, past and future tenses?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use your present, past and future tenses correctly • use them in the right paragraph • remember, 'dernier' = last, 'prochain/prochaine' = future
	used generally accurate language?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when you have finished, proofread your work • check spelling, articles (un, une), adjective agreements (usage of feminine adjectives and ones), etc.

4. Translation task:

Have you...	What the mark scheme says	What it means
	transferred the meaning appropriately?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • translate the message like a native speaker • consider word order carefully
	translated the message (mostly) clearly?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • do not leave any gaps • if you translate the message, it should make sense
	used generally accurate vocabulary and grammatical structures?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when you have finished, proofread your work • check your verbs (present, past, future) • check spelling, articles (un, une), adjective agreements (usage of feminine adjectives and ones), etc.

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ZigZag Practice Exam

Supporting GCSE Edexcel French: 2024

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Write-on paper

French
Writing



Foundation Tier Practice Paper 3

Name

Time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes

The maximum mark for this paper is **50**.

Information:

- Answer all questions in the spaces provided.
- You should answer all of question 1 and question 4.
- You should answer **option a** or **option b** for questions 2 and 3.
- Answer all questions in French and use full sentences.
- You may use a dictionary.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets.



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1. Describe the photo. Write four short sentences **in French**.

(a)

.....

(b)

.....

(c)

.....

(d)

.....

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Answer **either** Question 2(a) **or** Question 2(b)
Only answer **one** of these questions.

2. (a) Write a review of your school.

You **must** include the following points:

- a description of your school
- your opinion of the school facilities
- where you will go to school next year

Write your answer **in French**. You should aim to write between 40 and 50 words.

[14 marks]

2. (b) Write a review of your school.

You **must** include the following points:

- where the school is
- your opinion of the school
- when you will go to school next year

Write your answer in French. You should aim to write between 40 and 50 words.

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Answer **either** Question 3(a) **or** Question 3(b)
Only answer **one** of these questions.

3. (a) Write to your friend about your part-time job.

You **must** include the following points:

- a description of your job
- your opinion of the person you work with, with a reason
- what you did at work yesterday
- the job you will do in the future

Write your answer **in French**. You should aim to write between 80 and 90 words.

[18 marks]

3. (b) Write to your friend about your part-time job.

You **must** include:

- a description of your job
- your opinion of the reasons for your job
- what you did at work yesterday
- an activity you will do next week

Write your answer **in French**. You should aim to write between 80 and 90 words.

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4. Translate the following five sentences **into French**.

(a) I live in a village.

.....

.....

(b) There is a big park.

.....

.....

(c) The bakery is behind the post office.

.....

.....

(d) When I go to the city, I use public transport.

.....

.....

(e) Yesterday, I went to the market to buy meat.

.....

.....



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ZigZag Practice Exam

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Non-write-on paper

**French
Writing**



Foundation Tier Practice Paper 3

Time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes

The maximum mark for this paper is **50**.

Information:

- Answer all questions in your exercise book.
- You should answer all of question 1 and question 4.
- You should answer **option a or option b** for question 2 and 3.
- Answer all questions in French and use full sentences.
- You must not use a dictionary.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets.



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1. Describe the photo. Write four short sentences **in French**.

- (a) [2 marks]
(b) [2 marks]
(c) [2 marks]
(d) [2 marks]



Answer **either** Question 2(a) **or** Question 2(b)
Only answer **one** of these questions.

2. (a) Write a review of your school.

You **must** include the following points:

- a description of your school
- your opinion of the school facilities
- where you will go to school next year

Write your answer **in French**. You should aim to write between 40 and 50 words.

[14 marks]

2. (b) Write a review of your school.

You **must** include the following points:

- where the school is
- your opinion of the school facilities
- when you will go to school next year

Write your answer **in French**. You should aim to write between 40 and 50 words.

Answer **either** Question 3(a) **or** Question 3(b)
Only answer **one** of these questions.

3. (a) Write to your friend about your part-time job.

You **must** include the following points:

- a description of your job
- your opinion of one person you work with, with reasons
- what you did at work yesterday
- what job you will do in the future

Write your answer **in French**. You should aim to write between 80 and 100 words.

[18 marks]

3. (b) Write to your friend about your part-time job.

You **must** include the following points:

- a description of your job
- your opinion of one person you work with, with reasons
- what you did at work yesterday
- an activity you will do next week

Write your answer **in French**. You should aim to write between 80 and 100 words.

4. Translate the following five sentences **into French**.

- (a) I live in a village.
(b) There is a big park.
(c) The bakery is behind the post office.
(d) When I go to the city, I use public transport.
(e) Yesterday, I went to the market to buy meat.

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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.

Indicative Content

Practice Paper 1

1. (a) Sur la photo, il y a quatre adolescents.
(b) Ils sont dans un parc.
(c) Ils jouent au foot.
(d) Il y a du soleil.
2. (a) Sur cette application, j'envoie tous les jours des photos à mes amis. Je pense que cette application est géniale car elle est facile à utiliser et elle va m'aider à trouver Internet pour faire des recherches pour mes devoirs.
2. (b) En ce moment, je regarde une émission de télé-réalité. Il y a dix personnes dans une maison. Je trouve cette émission assez intéressante donc je la regarderai la semaine prochaine, je vais regarder un film d'action avec ma famille.
3. (a) Mon collège est assez grand. Il y a plusieurs bâtiments et beaucoup de sports. Il y a aussi une piscine. J'adore mon professeur d'anglais car il est sympa et toujours disponible. Hier, pendant la pause déjeuner, j'ai mangé avec mes amis puis nous sommes allés sur le terrain de sport. C'était vraiment amusant ! La semaine prochaine, nous aurons une leçon de classe d'histoire. Je pense que ça va être un peu ennuyeux !
3. (b) J'habite dans une grande ville près de Paris. Dans ma ville, il y a beaucoup de magasins, une banque, mais il n'y a pas de boulangerie. Pendant les vacances, j'aime aller à la campagne avec mon petit frère parce que c'est vraiment intéressant. La semaine dernière, j'ai visité un village avec mes amis. Nous avons regardé une comédie mais elle n'était pas amusante.
4. (a) J'adore aller à la mer pendant les vacances.
(b) En été, il y a beaucoup de soleil.
(c) Nous allons souvent à la campagne.
(d) Si je peux, je reste dans un hôtel près de la gare.
(e) L'année dernière, j'ai visité un château avec ma famille.

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