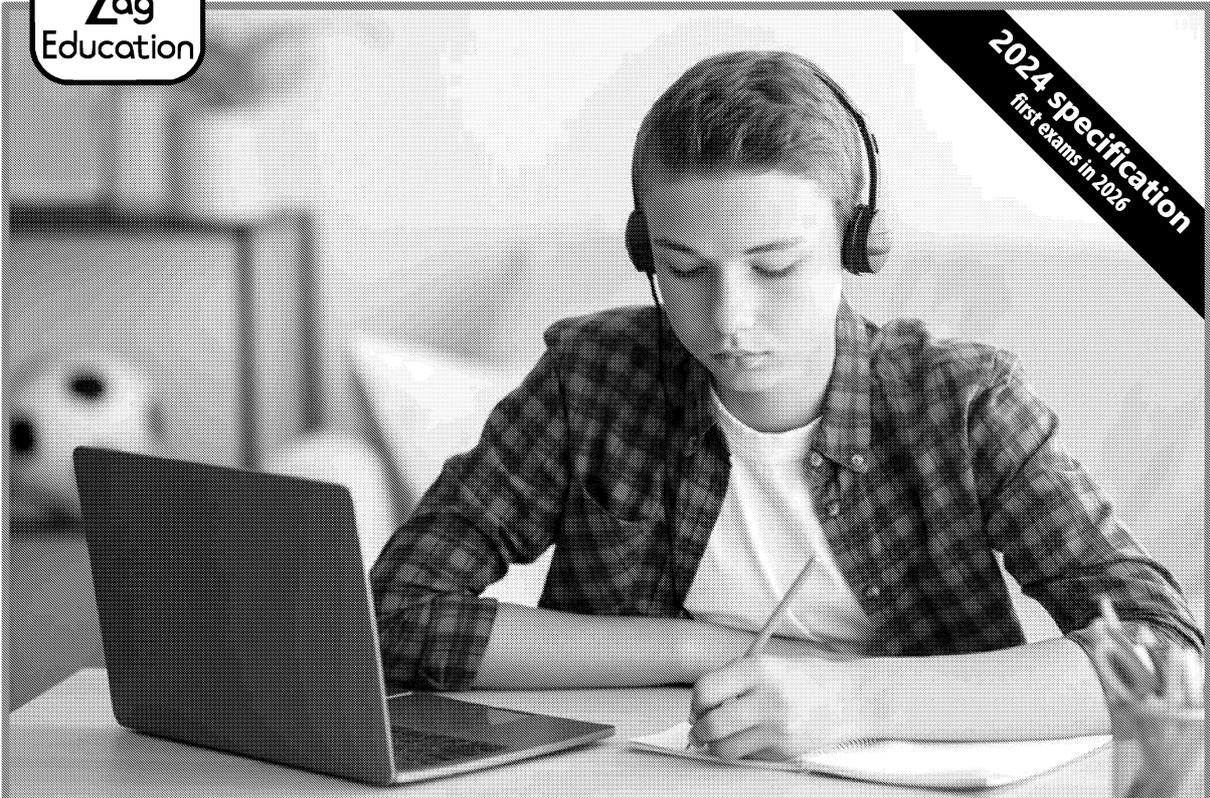




French

GCSE | AQA | 8652



2024 specification
first exams in 2026

Practice Papers for GCSE AQA 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 for the GCSE AQA French **2024 specification**.

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

The papers contain 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:

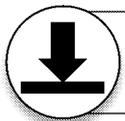
- reading the questions and predicting plausible answers before listening to the recordings
- applying a mixture of grammatical awareness and common sense
- using the context to aid intelligent guessing

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.

September 2025



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

Specification Match Grid

The grid below shows how the **audio tracks** for the questions correspond with the 2024 specification:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Identity and relationships with others | 6. Celebrity culture |
| 2. Healthy living and lifestyle | 7. Travel and tourism |
| 3. Education and work | 8. Media and technology |
| 4. Free-time activities | 9. The environment and where people live |
| 5. Customs, festivals and celebrations | |

Paper 1		Paper 2	
Track	Title	Track	Title
2	Identity and relationships with others	2	Free-time activities
3	Free-time activities	3	The environment and where people live
4	Travel and tourism	4	Healthy living and lifestyle
5	Celebrity culture	5	Media and technology
6	Customs, festivals and celebrations	6	Customs, festivals and celebrations
7	Media and technology	7	Identity and relationships with others
8	Education and work	8	Travel and tourism
9	The environment and where people live	9	Celebrity culture
10	Healthy living and lifestyle	10	Education and work

Track Listings

Paper 1		Paper 2	
Track	Title	Track	Title
1	Introduction	1	Introduction
2	Relationships	2	Sporting events
3	A swimming star	3	A new house
4	Travelling around Bordeaux	4	Shopping
5	Silmane	5	Mobile phones
6	A Paris festival	6	Marriage
7	Mobile phone	7	Family relations
8	Home schooling	8	Holiday choices
9	Protecting the environment	9	Film plots
10	Mental health	10	A famous film
11	Dictation sentence 1	11	Dictation sentence 1
12	Dictation sentence 2	12	Dictation sentence 2
13	Dictation sentence 3	13	Dictation sentence 3
14	Dictation sentence 4	14	Dictation sentence 4
15	Dictation sentence 5	15	Dictation sentence 5

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 AQA French: 2024

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Write-on paper

French
Listening



Higher Tier Practice Paper 2

Name

Time allowed

The exam lasts approximately 45 minutes. This includes:

- 5 minutes' reading time before the test starts
- 2 minutes' checking time at the end of the test
- **Do not turn over this page until you are told to.**

Information:

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- You may write at any time during the test.
- You will hear a bleep when the next question is about to start.
- You must answer **all** the questions in the spaces provided and write down all the information you are asked to give.

In **Section A**, answer the questions in **English**. In the dictation, which is **Section B**, write in French.

Your teacher will tell you when to begin the exam.

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Section A

Listening comprehension

Sporting Events

You hear some French students talking about famous French sporting events.

What is the opinion of the student(s) on the following aspects?

Write **P** for a **positive** opinion
N for a **negative** opinion
PN for a **positive** and **negative** opinion

1. Monaco Grand Prix

2. Roland Garros tennis

3. Paris Olympics

4. Tour de France cycling

A New House

You hear this podcast about Camille, who is looking for a new house.

Choose the correct answer and write the letter in each box.

Answer both parts of question 5.

5.1 Camille has been living in her house...

A	for 10 years
B	for 19 years
C	since she was 19 years old

5.2 In the house, at the moment...

A	three people are living there
B	two people are living there
C	one person is living there

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Answer both parts of question 6.

6.1 The flat that Camille recently saw...

A	is next to the train station
B	is expensive
C	is in the town centre

6.2 She has also viewed houses which...

A	she is going to buy
B	she is going to buy
C	is currently a holiday home

7 Camille's dream house would be...

A	in the mountains
B	by the beach
C	in town

Shopping

You hear this announcement at the airport

- Write **A** if only statement **A** is correct
B if only statement **B** is correct
A and B if both statements **A** and **B** are correct

Write the correct letter(s) in each box.

Answer both parts of question 8.

8.1 There's a sale on...

A	all shoes
B	all day

8.2 You can get...

A	10% off all bags
B	10% off all bags

9. The shop...

A	is also going to go online
B	will have a sale on all clothes

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Mobile Phones

You hear this programme about mobile phones.

Complete the sentences in English.

Answer both parts of question 10.

10.1 Having the latest mobile phone can annoy people...

.....

10.2 You can annoy your family who...

.....

Answer both parts of question 11.

11.1 Anais uses her mobile to buy...

.....

11.2 Online, the shops...

.....

Marriage

You hear an interview with Sophie talking about marriage. Answer the questions.

12. Give two reasons about why people want to get married in a church.

1.

2.

Answer both parts of question 13.

13.1 What problem is mentioned?

.....

13.2 Why do some weddings cost a lot of money?

.....

Choose the correct answer and write the letter in the box.

14. What do people like to talk about weddings?

A	the ring
B	the meal
C	cake

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Family Relations

You hear this documentary about how Marie's family life has changed. Answer the questions.

Answer both parts of question 15.

15.1 What was Marie's reaction to her parents' separation?

.....

15.2 What is now making Marie's life complicated?

.....



Answer both parts of question 16.

16.1 This year, Marie's mother has...

A	a new husband
B	a stepdaughter
C	remained single

16.2 Marie is...

A	still annoyed
B	looking for a new interest
C	hopeful

17. Soon, Marie is going to...

A	move back to her dad
B	get used to having three parents
C	look for her own place to live

Holiday Choices

You hear two people talking about their holiday preferences. They are talking about the following activities.

A	relaxing	D	de-stressing from work
B	shopping	E	being active
C	seeing friends or relatives	F	letting out

What **two** reasons does each person give? Write the correct letter in each box.

18.

19.



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Film Plots

You hear these plot summaries of three different films.

A	the film came out two months ago
B	the main character is a contract killer
C	the main character needs money
D	a young singer has been killed

Choose the **two** correct statements.

Write the correct letters in the boxes.

20.

A	Benoit is single
B	Benoit is about to get married
C	Benoit's family is arranging the wedding to Fiona
D	Fiona is an English teacher

Choose the **two** correct statements.

Write the correct letters in the boxes.

21.

A	the film takes place in the 1960s
B	Jacques and Sylvie meet at university
C	they spend all their time together
D	Jacques is hiding a secret

Choose the **two** correct statements.

Write the correct letters in the boxes.

22.

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A Famous Chef

You listen to this podcast about a famous Canadian chef, Jérémié Bastien.

Choose the correct answer and write the letter in each box.

Answer both parts of question 23.

23.1 Jérémié learnt to cook...

A	thanks to his dad
B	thanks to his mum
C	by himself

23.2 In Paris, Jérémié...

A	studied
B	worked
C	travelled

Answer both parts of question 24.

24.1 Jérémié found working in restaurants abroad...

A	sociable
B	friendly
C	easygoing

24.2 The number of restaurants Jérémié currently owns is...

A	one
B	two
C	three

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Section B

Dictation

You will now hear five short sentences. Listen to them carefully.

Write down in **French** exactly what you hear for each sentence. Use your knowledge

Each sentence is repeated **three** times:

1. As a full sentence
2. In short words or
3. Again as a full sentence

Use your knowledge of French sounds and grammar to make sure that what you write is correct.
Check carefully that your spelling is accurate.

Sentence 1

.....
.....

Sentence 2

.....
.....

Sentence 3

.....
.....

Sentence 4

.....
.....

Sentence 5

.....
.....

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ZigZag Practice Exam

Supporting GCSE AQA French: 2024

Non-write-on paper

**French
Listening**



Higher Tier Practice Paper 2

Time allowed

The exam lasts approximately 45 minutes. This includes:

- 5 minutes' reading time before the test starts
- 2 minutes' checking time at the end of the test
- **Do not turn over this page until you are told to do so.**

Information:

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- You may write at any time during the test.
- You will hear a bleep when a new question is about to start.
- You must answer all questions in the spaces provided and write down the information you are asked to give.

In **Section A**, answer the questions in **English**. In the dictation, which is **Section B**, write in French.

Your teacher will tell you when to begin the exam.

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Section A
Listening comprehension

Sporting Events

You hear some French students talking about famous French sporting events. Write **P** for a positive opinion, **N** for a negative opinion or **P+N** for a positive and a negative opinion on the following aspects?

Write **P** for a **positive** opinion
N for a **negative** opinion
P+N for a **positive and a negative** opinion

1. Monaco Grand Prix (1 mark) 3. Paris Olympic Games (1 mark)
2. Roland Garros tennis (1 mark) 4. Tour de France (1 mark)

A New House

You hear this podcast about Camille, who is looking for a new house. Choose the correct answer.

Answer both parts of question 5.

- 5.1 Camille has been living in her house... (1 mark)
A for 10 years
B for 19 years
C since she was 19 years old
- 5.2 In the house... (1 mark)
A three people
B two people
C one person

Answer both parts of question 6.

- 6.1 The flat that Camille recently saw... (1 mark)
A is next to the train station
B is expensive
C is in the town centre
- 6.2 She has also visited... (1 mark)
A is old
B she is going to buy
C is currently for sale

7. Camille's ideal house would be... (1 mark)
A in the mountains
B by the beach
C in town

Shopping

You hear this announcement at the airport.

Write **A** if only statement **A** is correct
B if only statement **B** is correct
A + B if both statements **A** and **B** are correct

Write the correct letter(s) for each question.

Answer both parts of question 8.

- 8.1 There's a sale on... (1 mark)
A all shoes B all day
- 8.2 You can get... (1 mark)
A 10% off all bags B 10 euros off all bags
9. The shop... (1 mark)
A is also going to go online B will have a sale on all clothes

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Mobile Phones

You hear this programme about mobile phones. Complete the sentences in English.

Answer both parts of question 10.

- 10.1 Having the latest mobile phone can make people...
- 10.2 You can call family who...

Answer both parts of question 11.

- 11.1 Anais uses her mobile to buy...
- 11.2 Online, the shops...

Marriage



You hear an interview with Sophie talking about marriage. Answer the questions in English.

- 12. Give **two** details about why people want to get married in a church.

Answer both parts of question 13.

- 13.1 What problem is mentioned?
- 13.2 Why do some weddings cost a lot of money?

Choose the correct answer.

- 14. What do people like most about weddings?
 A dancing B the meal C cake

Family Relations

You hear this documentary about how Marie's family life has changed. Answer the questions in English.

Answer both parts of question 15.

- 15.1 What was Marie's reaction to her parents' separation?
- 15.2 What is making life more complicated?



Answer both parts of question 16.

- 16.1 This year, Marie's mother has... (1 mark)
 A a new husband
 B a stepdaughter
 C remained single
- 16.2 Marie is...
 A still annoyed
 B looking forward
 C hopeful

- 17. Soon, Marie is going to... (1 mark)

- A talk to her dad
- B get used to having three parents
- C look for her own place to live

Holiday Choices

You hear two people talking about their holiday preferences. They are talking about their preferences for...

A	relaxing	D	de-stressing from work
B	short	E	being active
C	seeing friends or relatives	F	eating out



What **two** reasons does each person give? Write the correct letters for each question.

- 18. Reason 1: / Reason 2: (2 marks)
- 19. Reason 1: / Reason 2: (2 marks)

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Film Plots

You hear these plot summaries of three different films.

A	the film came out two months ago	C	the main character is a young singer
B	the main character is a contract killer	D	a young singer has a problem

20. Choose the **two** correct statements.

A	Benoit is single	C	Benoit's family is angry
B	Benoit is about to get married	D	Fiona is an English teacher

21. Choose the **two** correct statements.

A	the film takes place in the 1960s	C	they spend all their money
B	Jacques and Sylvie meet at university	D	Jacques is hiding a secret

22. Choose the **two** correct statements.

A Famous Chef

You listen to this podcast about a famous Canadian chef, Jérémie Bastien.

Choose the correct answer and write the letter in each box.

Answer both parts of question 23.

- 23.1 Jérémie learnt to cook... (1 mark)
- A thanks to his dad
 - B thanks to his mum
 - C by himself
- 23.2 In Paris, Jérémie...
- A studied
 - B worked
 - C travelled

Answer both parts of question 24.

- 24.1 Jérémie is... (1 mark)
- A sociable
 - B fun
 - C tiring
- 24.2 The number of restaurants he currently owns is...
- A one
 - B two
 - C three

Section B
Dictation

You will now hear five short sentences. Listen to them carefully. Write down in French the meaning of each sentence. Use your knowledge of French sounds to help you.

Each sentence should be repeated **three** times:

1. As a full sentence
2. In short sections
3. Again as a full sentence

Use your knowledge of French sounds and grammar to make sure that what you write is correct. Check carefully that your spelling is accurate.

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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.

Transcripts

Practice Paper 1

Section A: Listening Comprehension

Track	Question	Relationships	
2	1	F1	Je ne veux pas me marier. Il y a trop de personnes mariées.
	2	F2	Parfois, la vie est difficile pour moi. Je voudrais partager.
	3	M2	Parfois ils sont embêtants mais, avec ma famille, ce n'est pas grave.

Track	Question	A Swimming Star	
3	5	F1	Léon nage depuis l'âge de neuf ans, mais il a assisté à sa première compétition à seulement quatre ans. Ses parents l'ont toujours encouragé à nager. Ils sont heureux d'aider leur fils.
	6	F1	Léon va à la piscine tous les jours, sauf le vendredi, et il aime aller arriver à la piscine avant tout le monde. "Être seul le matin est dur" mais devoir me lever si tôt n'est jamais facile, surtout quand on a froid dans l'eau.
	7	F1	Son rêve serait de gagner une compétition nationale, mais sa mère dernière veut dire qu'il a encore du boulot à faire et qu'il n'est pas prêt dans l'eau.

Track	Question	Traveling around Bordeaux	
4	8	M1	A tous les touristes et été profitez des billets au prix spécial pour toute la ville. Achetez vos cartes à la gare avant de partir.
	9	M1	Voyager sur le réseau de bus n'est pas cher mais n'oubliez pas que le prix n'est presque rien.

Track	Question	Slimane	
5	10	F1	Sa famille a toujours adoré la musique, alors Slimane a commencé à jouer à douze ans. Ce qu'il aime le plus c'est d'écrire des chansons.
	11	F1	Slimane est devenu célèbre quand il a gagné une émission de France a fini en quatrième place au concours culturel.

Track	Question	A Paris Festival	
6	12	F1	Monsieur Bondoux, qu'est-ce qu'on fête au festival de la cuisine ?
		M1	Depuis plus de cinquante ans le festival des livres a lieu à Paris, France.
	13	F1	Il y a plein de choses à faire ?
		M1	Bien sûr ! Pour tout le monde, c'est l'occasion de rencontrer des auteurs.
		F1	Et pour les enfants ?
	14	M1	Comment trouve-t-on des salles pour apprendre à écrire de courtes nouvelles ?
		F1	Quel style de livre est le plus populaire ?
		M1	Les livres historiques rencontrent un énorme succès et se vendent toujours bien. Mais il faut dire que les plus populaires sont les livres sur la cuisine.

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Track	Question	Mobile Phone	
7	15	M1	Quand j'étais adolescent, j'avais du mal à quitter mon téléphone en regardant son écran tout le temps, je ne profitais plus de ce qui était intéressant. Mon portable se trouvait toujours près de moi pour écouter de la musique.
	16	M1	C'est important pour s'intégrer à un groupe de nouveaux amis. Passer sept heures par jour sur les réseaux sociaux n'est plus pour moi. J'ai essayé une journée par semaine sans portable, mais ça n'a pas marché. Je préfère le laisser sur mon lit avant de me coucher.
	17	M1	Pour convaincre les jeunes au sujet des fausses informations, j'ai écrit un article sur la façon d'utiliser les portables, et j'écris des lettres. J'ai aussi parlé aux enfants aux collègues.

Track	Question	Home Schooling	
8	18	M1	Mes amis ont des contrôles toutes les semaines à l'école. À la maison, c'est plus efficace. Des professeurs me manquent parfois quand j'étais plus petit. Mon père disait que les heures de contrôle étaient mieux, cependant je ne suis pas d'accord avec lui.
	19	F1	Quand j'étais plus jeune je ne m'entendais jamais bien avec mes amis. Ils ne comprenaient pas. Je me lève toujours de bonne heure le matin. Le choix de matières dépend toujours de moi.

Track	Question	Protecting the Environment	
9	20	F1	Dans un supermarché à Rouen, les habitants de la ville ont remarqué que les produits qui viennent de pays étrangers. Seule la nourriture locale trouve moins de choix mais tout est plus frais.
	21	M1	Dans des appartements à Chamonix, les règles sont strictes pour protéger les ressources naturelles. Pour conserver l'eau, on utilise la puissance de l'eau transformée pour créer de l'énergie.
	22	F2	Une école de Strasbourg est en train de développer un projet pour construire un avion sans énergie polluante afin de permettre une voiture qu'on peut conduire avec l'énergie du soleil qu'on trouve partout.

Track	Question	Mental Health	
10	23	M1	Comment allez-vous, Manon ?
		F1	En ce moment, je me sens un peu inquiète à cause des examens du mois prochain. Je veux voir des amis mais, récemment, ça ne va pas.
		M1	Alors, que faites-vous en ce moment ?
		F1	Pour être en bonne santé, le plus important pour moi est de bien manger mais dormir huit heures chaque nuit est essentiel.
	24	M1	Et pendant la journée ?
		F1	Je préfère ne jamais être seule, alors j'aime passer du temps avec mon animal peut m'aider à me relaxer.
		M1	Vous avez d'autres idées ?
		F1	Mes parents m'ont dit que j'aurais peut-être intérêt à faire de la natation, mais je n'aime pas. Les promenades à la campagne et être dans la nature me fait du bien.

Section B: Dictation

Track	Section B: Dictation	Section B: Dictation
11	F1	La bouteille / est vide
12	M1	Ma sœur va / au marché
13	F1	Nous pouvons parler / aux filles / de la fête
14	M1	J'ai pris / du gâteau / en dessert
15	F1	Il y aura / du vent

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Mark Schemes

Practice Paper 1

Section A: Listening comprehension

Question number	Answer
1	N
2	N
3	P
4	N
5.1	B
5.2	B
6.1	C
6.2	B
7	A
8.1	A + B
8.2	A
9	A + B
10.1	12
10.2	writing songs
11.1	a reality TV show/contest
11.2	4th
12	About books / more than fifty years old / in the French capital
13.1	Meet the authors
13.2	Learn to write short stories
14	A
15.1	Being on his own
15.2	In the living room
16.1	A
16.2	B
17	B
18	B D
19	A F
20	B D
21	A C
22	B C
23.1	A
23.2	C
24.1	B
24.2	C

Section B: Dictation

Sentence 1	La bouteille / de vin
Sentence 2	Ma soeur / au marché
Sentence 3	On ne peut pas / nous pouvons parler / aux filles / de la fête
Sentence 4	J'ai pris / du gâteau / en dessert
Sentence 5	Il y aura / du vent

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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.