



French

GCSE | AQA | 8652



Practice Papers for GCSE AQA French

Speaking: Foundation and Higher

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Teacher's Introduction

Purpose:

This pack contains three full practice papers each for the AQA Foundation and Higher speaking exams. When a new specification is launched, teachers may, initially, find it difficult to source quality practice papers beyond those provided by the exam board, therefore 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.

Remember!

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

The author has taken every step to ensure these papers mirror the AQA paper structure and has used their extensive experience of resource writing to produce varied and unique content. These papers cover all three themes:

1. People and lifestyle
2. Popular culture
3. Communication and the world around us

Vocabulary:

This resource has been checked against the 2024 vocabulary list to ensure compliance with new exam style, offering the best possible exam practice for your students.

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. The papers can also be used for practice with a language assistant, for instance.

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.

August 2025

GCSE AQA French: Foundation Speaking

Exam Information

Structure of the paper and mark scheme exemplification:

The AQA Foundation speaking paper comprises three tasks:

Task 1: The role-play task

This task should last between 1 and 1 ½ minutes and there are 10 marks available. Each task can be awarded 0, 1 or 2 marks. In order to score 2 marks per task, the student must speak clearly, with no ambiguity. If students are required to give two responses or details, they must be given in a score of 1 mark.

Task 2: The reading aloud task

In this task, students must read aloud a short text (for a potential 5 marks), which could be a conversation, made up of four compulsory questions, about the topic of the text. There are 15 marks available for the reading aloud task, as a whole, and it should last between 1 and 2 minutes.

- The reading aloud passage is a new task which tests students' understanding of the text (for a potential 5 marks) and their pronunciation (for a potential 5 marks). It is marked for AO3 only (demonstrate understanding and accurate use of grammar and vocabulary prescribed in the specification). To score in the top band for AO3, students must use a good variety of grammar and vocabulary. To score in the middle band, students must use a good range of grammar and vocabulary. To score in the bottom band, students must use a limited range of grammar and vocabulary. Some minor and a few major errors in pronouncing the passage are allowed.
- The four follow-on questions are assessed as a whole and are marked for AO1 (understand and respond to spoken language in speaking and in writing). To score in the top band for AO1, students must respond to all four questions clearly. For two of the four questions (minimum), they must give a detailed response. For one of the other two questions (minimum), they must develop their answer.

Task 3: The photo card task

This task comprises two parts: a description of the photos printed on the card, and a conversation. Students must describe both pictures (for a potential 5 marks) for approximately 1 minute. They then take part in an unprepared conversation (for a potential 15 marks) for approximately 2 minutes. There are 20 marks available for the picture task, as a whole, and it should last between 4 and 5 minutes.

- The picture description is marked for AO2 only (understand and respond to spoken language in speaking and in writing). To score in the top band for AO2, students must convey quite a lot of information. To score in the middle band, students must convey some information. To score in the bottom band, students must convey a limited amount of information. The message must be mostly clear.
- The conversation part of the task is marked for AO1 (understand and respond to spoken language in speaking and in writing) and AO3 (demonstrate understanding and accurate use of grammar and vocabulary prescribed in the specification). To score in the top band for AO1, students must respond to all four questions clearly. For two of the four questions (minimum), they must give a detailed response. For one of the other two questions (minimum), they must develop their answer. To score in the top band for AO3, students must use a good variety of grammar and vocabulary. To score in the middle band, students must use a good range of grammar and vocabulary. To score in the bottom band, students must use a limited range of grammar and vocabulary. There may be some repetition. There may be frequent minor errors and some major errors in linguistic structures.

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ZigZag Practice Exam Papers

Supporting GCSE AQA French

French Speaking

Foundation Tier Practice Paper 1

Time allowed:

15 minutes preparation
7–9 minutes examination

The maximum mark for this paper is 50.

Information:

- The test has three tasks: a role play, a reading of a task and conversation.
- You will have 15 minutes to prepare. You are not allowed to practise reading.
- You may take notes on a separate piece of paper, but you will have to hand them in. Do not write on the stimulus materials.
- You can use a dictionary.

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Instructions:

- You are speaking to your French friend.
- Your teacher will play the part of your friend. They will speak first.
- Use the 'tu' form to address your friend.
- ? indicates that you have to ask a question.
- In order to score full marks, each response must contain a **verb**.

Task:

1. Describe your family. (Give **one** detail.)
2. Say what you do with your family. (Give **one** detail.)
3. Say what you do with your family. (Give **one** detail.)
4. Give **one** opinion of family holidays.
5. ? Ask your friend a question about their family.

Your teacher will ask you to read the following text **in French**.

J'ai seize ans.

Aujourd'hui, c'est mon anniversaire.

J'ouvre mes cadeaux et je lis mes cartes.

Pour ma fête, j'invite mes amis et ma famille.

Nous faisons un grand repas et nous dansons toute la nuit.

Your teacher will then ask you four questions **in French** on the topic of **Customs**, for example:

To get the highest possible score, try to **develop your answers to all four questions**.

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Use the preparation time to look at the two pictures and make notes on a separate sheet of paper. You should try to say at least one thing about each picture.

Your teacher will ask you to discuss the content of the pictures. You should spend 2 minutes on each picture. You should try to say at least one thing about each picture.

After you have discussed the content of the two pictures, your teacher will ask you questions about the theme of **Crime, Justice and the world around us**.

Picture 1



Picture 2



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TASK 1: ROLE PLAY

TEACHER VERSION

You should begin the role play and address the candidate as 'tu'.
The target language phrases must be read out exactly as they appear below.
The role play should begin with the following introduction:
« *Tu parles avec ton ami(e) français(e). Moi, je suis ton ami(e).* »

1		Ask the candidate to describe their family. Décris ta famille. Allow the candidate to give one detail of their family.
2		Ask the candidate when they spend time with their family. Quand est-ce que tu passes du temps avec ta famille ? Allow the candidate to say when they spend time with their family. (Elicit one detail)
3		Ask the candidate what they do with their family. Qu'est-ce que tu fais avec ta famille ? Allow the candidate to say what they do with their family. (Elicit one detail)
4		Ask the candidate what they think of family holidays. Qu'est-ce que tu penses des vacances en famille ? Allow the candidate to give one opinion of family holidays.
5	?	Très bien. Allow the candidate to ask you a question about your family. Give an appropriate response.

TASK 2: READING ALOUD

TEACHER VERSION

The reading aloud task and the four questions below should last between 2 and 2.5 minutes.
Once the role play is over, ask the student to read the text aloud by saying 'Lis-moi le texte'.
After the student has read the text aloud, you must ask the questions below. You must ask all four questions; they must be asked exactly as they appear below.

- *C'est quand ton anniversaire ?*
- *Qu'est-ce que tu fais normalement pour célébrer ton anniversaire ?*
- *Qu'est-ce que tu aimes recevoir comme cadeaux ?*
- *Qu'est-ce que tu penses de célébrer ton anniversaire avec tes amis ?*

TASK 3: PHOTO CARD

TEACHER VERSION

Theme: Communication and the world around us

- There are two pictures on the student card. During the preparation time, the student must describe **both** of the two pictures.
- You then ask the student to discuss the pictures. This should last approximately 3 minutes. The student must say at least one thing about each picture.
- After the picture discussion, you take part in an unprepared conversation with the student. This should last between **3 and 4 minutes**.
- Students are allowed to use the notes they made during the preparation time.

Start by asking the student to discuss the pictures.

- Parle-moi des photos.

After the student has finished describing the pictures, you start a conversation on **any** of the topics below. You may include **any** or **all** of the topics contained within the list below.

- Travel & Tourism, including places of interest
- Media and technology
- The environment and where people live

This part of the speaking assessment (description of the pictures and conversation) should last between **4 and 5 minutes**.

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GCSE AQA French: Higher Speaking

Exam Information

Structure of the paper and mark scheme exemplification:

The AQA Higher speaking paper comprises three tasks:

Task 1: The role-play task

This task should last between 1 and 1 1/4 minutes and there are 10 marks available. Each task can be awarded 0, 1 or 2 marks. In order to score 2 marks per task, the responses must be clear, with no ambiguity. Students are required to give two responses or details in a score of 2 marks.

Task 2: The reading aloud task

In this task, students must read aloud a short text (for a potential 5 marks), which is a conversation, made up of four compulsory questions, about the topic of the text. There are 15 marks available for the reading aloud task, as a whole, and it should last between 1 and 1 1/4 minutes.

- The reading aloud passage is a new task which tests students' understanding of spoken language (demonstrate understanding and accurate application of grammar and vocabulary prescribed in the specification). To score in the top band for AO3, responses must be generally accurate although minor errors are tolerated.
- The four follow-on questions are assessed as a whole and are marked for AO3 (demonstrate understanding and accurate application of grammar and vocabulary prescribed in the specification). To score in the top band for AO3, responses must be generally accurate although minor errors are tolerated. For two of the four questions (minimum), they must respond to spoken language in speaking and in writing. For one of the other two questions (minimum), they must develop their answers.

Task 3: The photo card task

This task comprises two parts: a description of the photos printed on the card, and a conversation. Students must describe both parts (for a potential 5 marks) for approximately 1 minute. They must take part in an unprepared conversation (for a potential 15 marks) for approximately 1 1/4 minutes. There are 20 marks available for the picture task, as a whole, and it should last between 1 and 1 1/4 minutes.

- The picture description is marked for AO2 only (understand and respond to spoken language and in writing). To score in the top band for AO2, students must convey a lot of information. The message needs to always be clear.
- The conversation part of the task is marked for AO1 (understand and respond to spoken language and in writing) and AO3 (demonstrate understanding and accurate application of grammar and vocabulary prescribed in the specification). To score in the top band for AO1, students must respond to spoken language in speaking and in writing. They must consistently and successfully develop their responses and extend them. The message needs to always or nearly always be clear. For AO3, students must use a wide range of structures. There may be some minor errors and very few major errors in communication.

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ZigZag Practice Exam Papers

Supporting GCSE AQA French

French Speaking

Higher Tier Practice Paper 1

Time allowed:

15 minutes preparation

10–12 minutes examination

The maximum mark for this paper is 50.

Information:

- The test has three tasks: a role play, a reading and a task and conversation.
- You will have 15 minutes to prepare. You are not allowed to practise reading.
- You may take notes on a separate piece of paper, but you will have to hand them in. Do not write on the question cards.
- You can use a dictionary.

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Instructions:

- You are speaking to your French friend.
- Your teacher will play the part of your friend. They will speak first.
- Use the 'tu' form to address your friend.
- ? indicates that you have to ask a question.

Task:

1. Say where you prefer to go on holiday, and why. (Give **one** opinion and **one** detail.)
2. Say how you like to eat. (Give **one** detail.)
3. Say what activities you do on holiday. (Give **two** details.)
4. Describe your favourite holiday. (Give **two** details.)
5. ? Ask your friend a question about going on holiday.

Your teacher will ask you to read the following text **in French**.

Le mois dernier, je suis allée à un concert avec mes copains.

J'ai vu mon groupe préféré sur scène.

Les paroles de leurs chansons sont extraordinaires.

Je voudrais télécharger leur dernière vidéo.

Normalement, j'écoute de la musique en allant au collège.

Ma sœur trouve que je suis mieux quand elle fait du sport.

Your teacher will then ask you four questions **in French** on the topic of **Free-time**.

To get the highest possible score, try to **develop your answers to all four questions**.

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Use the preparation time to look at the two pictures and make notes on a separate sheet of paper. You should try to say at least one thing about each picture.

Your teacher will ask you to discuss the content of the pictures. You should spend 2 minutes on each picture. You should try to say at least one thing about each picture.

After you have discussed the content of the two pictures, your teacher will ask you questions about the pictures. The questions will be contained within the theme of **People and Lifestyle**.

Picture 1



Picture 2



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TASK 1: ROLE PLAY

TEACHER VERSION

You should begin the role play and address the candidate as 'tu'.
The target language phrases must be read out exactly as they appear below.
The role play should begin with the following introduction:

« *Tu parles avec ton ami(e) français(e). Moi, je suis ton ami(e).* »

1		Ask the candidate to say where they prefer to go on holiday, and why. <i>Où est-ce que tu préfères aller en vacances ? ... Pourquoi ?</i> Allow the candidate to say where they prefer to go on holiday, and why. (Elicit one option and one reason.)
2		Ask the candidate how they like to travel. <i>Comment est-ce que tu aimes voyager ?</i> Allow the candidate to say how they like to travel. (Elicit one detail.)
3		Ask the candidate what activities they do on holiday. <i>Quelles activités est-ce que tu fais en vacances ?</i> Allow the candidate to say what activities they do on holiday. (Elicit one activity.)
4		Ask the candidate to describe a past holiday. <i>Parle-moi de tes vacances dans le passé.</i> Allow the candidate to describe a past holiday. (Elicit two details.)
5	?	<i>Génial.</i> Allow the candidate to ask you a question about going on holiday. <i>Give an appropriate response.</i>

TASK 2: READING ALOUD

TEACHER VERSION

The reading aloud task and the four questions below should last between 3 and 3 ½ minutes.
Once the role play is over, ask the student to read the passage by saying 'Lis-moi le passage'.
After the student has read the text aloud, you must ask the questions below. You must ask all the questions; they must be asked exactly as they appear below.

- *Quel est ton genre de musique préféré ?*
- *Quand commencent tes études de musique ?*
- *Qu'est-ce que tu aimes faire avec tes amis ?*
- *Qu'est-ce que tu penses des concerts ?*

TASK 3: PHOTO CARD

TEACHER VERSION

Theme: People and lifestyle

There are two pictures on the student card. During the preparation time, the student must describe the two pictures.

You then ask the student to discuss the pictures. This should last approximately 1 ½ minutes. The student must say at least one thing about each picture.

After the picture discussion, you take part in an unprepared conversation with the student. This should last between **4 ½ and 5 ½ minutes**.

Students are allowed to use the notes they made during the preparation time.

Start by asking the student to discuss the pictures.

- *Parle-moi des photos.*

After the student has finished describing the pictures, you start a conversation on the theme of **lifestyle**. You must include **any** or **all** of the topics contained within this theme:

- Identity and relationships with others
- Healthy living and lifestyle
- Education and work

This part of the speaking assessment (description of the pictures and conversation) should last between **6 and 7 minutes**.

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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.