



Mark Scheme (Results)

Summer 2025

Pearson Edexcel GCSE

In French (1FR0)

Paper 4F Writing in French

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General Marking Guidance

- All candidates must receive the same treatment. Examiners must mark the first candidate in exactly the same way as they mark the last.
- Mark schemes should be applied positively. Candidates must be rewarded for what they have shown they can do rather than penalised for omissions.
- Examiners should mark according to the mark scheme not according to their perception of where the grade boundaries may lie.
- There is no ceiling on achievement. All marks on the mark scheme should be used appropriately.
- All the marks on the mark scheme are designed to be awarded. Examiners should always award full marks if deserved, i.e. if the answer matches the mark scheme. Examiners should also be prepared to award zero marks if the candidate's response is not worthy of credit according to the mark scheme.
- Where some judgement is required, mark schemes will provide the principles by which marks will be awarded and exemplification may be limited.
- When examiners are in doubt regarding the application of the mark scheme to a candidate's response, the team leader must be consulted.
- Crossed out work should be marked UNLESS the candidate has replaced it with an alternative response.

GCSE Foundation tier

Paper 4 – Mark scheme

Marking guidance

This marking guidance is for the use of Pearson-appointed external examiners. The guidance has been included for teacher reference to aid understanding of how the assessment criteria are applied.

General guidance on using levels-based mark schemes

Step 1 Decide on a band

- Examiners should first of all consider the answer as a whole and then decide which descriptors most closely match the answer and place it in that band. The descriptors for each band indicate the different features that might be seen in the student's answer for that band.
- When assigning a level you should look at the overall quality of the answer and not focus disproportionately on small and specific parts of the answer where the student has not performed quite as well as the rest. If the answer covers different aspects of different bands of the mark scheme you should use a 'best fit' approach for defining the level and then use the variability of the response to help decide the mark within the level, for example if the response is predominantly band 5–8 with a small amount of band 9–12 material, it would be placed in band 5–8 but be awarded a mark near the top of the band because of the band 9–12 content.

Step 2 Decide on a mark

- Once you have decided on a band you will then need to decide on a mark within the band.
- You will decide on the mark to award based on the quality of the answer; you will award a mark towards the top or bottom of that band depending on how students have evidenced each of the descriptor bullet points.
- You will modify the mark based on how securely the bullet point descriptors are met at that band.
- You will need to go back through the answer as you apply the mark scheme to clarify points and assure yourself that the band and the mark are appropriate.
- Please note that the number of bullet points in the band descriptor does not directly correlate to the number of marks in the band descriptor.

Assessment criteria for the Foundation tier

Question 1 (12 marks)

For this question, students' work is marked by Pearson using assessment criteria given in two mark grids:

- communication and content
- linguistic knowledge and accuracy.

The student is expected to produce 20–30 words for this task. The number of words is approximate and students will not be penalised for writing more or fewer words than recommended in the word count. All work produced by the student must be marked.

Question 1: communication and content mark grid – Foundation tier

Mark	Descriptor
0	No rewardable material
1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some relevant, basic information without development• Uses language to inform, give short descriptions and express opinions with limited success• Uses limited selection of common, familiar vocabulary and expression with frequent repetition
3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mostly relevant information, little extra detail• Uses language to give short descriptions, simple information and opinions with variable success• Uses small selection of common, familiar vocabulary and expression with some repetition
5–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relevant information with occasional extra detail• Uses language to give short descriptions, simple information and opinions with some success• Uses small selection of common, familiar vocabulary and expression with little repetition

Question 1: linguistic knowledge and accuracy mark grid – Foundation tier

Mark	Descriptor
0	No rewardable material
1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Produces simple, short sentences in isolation• Limited accurate application of a small selection of simple grammatical structures, limited success in referring to present events; errors frequently prevent meaning being conveyed
3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Produces simple, short sentences with little linking• Inconsistently accurate application of a small selection of simple grammatical structures, inconsistently successful reference to present events; errors occur that often hinder clarity of communication and occasionally prevent meaning
5–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Produces simple sentences with some linking• Accurate application of a small selection of simple grammatical structures, refers successfully to present events as appropriate to the task; errors occur that occasionally hinder clarity of communication

Additional guidance

Errors: students are not expected to produce perfect, error-free writing in order to access the top band as errors are also made by native speakers. The mark grid describes the frequency of errors and the impact that errors have on coherence.

Errors that **do not hinder clarity:**

- errors that do not affect meaning, for example incorrect definite and indefinite, adjectival agreements, gender; errors of this type that are infrequent will not distract the reader from the content and will result in coherent writing.

Errors that **hinder clarity:**

- errors that make writing difficult to understand immediately/force readers to re-read in order to understand what is meant, for example mixing up tenses, time frames and structures, frequent errors will also hinder clarity as they will distract the reader from the content of the writing.

Errors that **prevent meaning being conveyed**:

- errors that give the wrong message
- errors that make it unclear who is carrying out the action, i.e. using the incorrect person of the verb
- using Anglicisms.

NB: these are examples only and do not constitute a finite list.

Question 2 – Foundation tier (16 marks)

For this question, students' work is marked by Pearson using assessment criteria given in two mark grids:

- communication and content
- linguistic knowledge and accuracy.

This question contains four compulsory bullet points that form part of the task. Although there may be uneven coverage of the bullet points, as long as students refer to all bullet points in their response they can potentially access full marks provided they meet the other criteria within the band.

This question requires students to write in a formal style (see **Additional guidance** below).

The student is expected to produce 40–50 words for this task. The number of words is approximate and students will not be penalised for writing more or fewer words than recommended in the word count. All work produced by the student must be marked.

Question 2: communication and content mark grid – Foundation tier

Mark	Descriptor
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No rewardable material
1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited information given likely to consist of single words and phrases• Limited ability to use language to present simple facts, inform and note down key points; expression is frequently constrained and communication often breaks down• Repetitive use of a limited selection of common words and phrases• Knowledge of register and style is rarely evident because of restricted use of vocabulary and expression
3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some brief information given, basic points made without development• Occasional success in using language to present simple facts, information and to note down key points but expression is sometimes constrained and communication occasionally breaks down• Limited use of common, familiar vocabulary and expression with frequent repetition• Occasional appropriate use of register and style
5–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some relevant information given appropriate to the task, basic points made with little development• Uses language with some success, to present simple facts, information and to note down key points with occasional restriction of expression• Uses common, familiar vocabulary and expression with some repetition• Mostly appropriate use of register and style, mostly sustained
7–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relevant information given appropriate to the task, basic points made with some development• Uses language mostly with success, to present simple facts, information and to note down key points using simple ideas• Uses small selection of common, familiar vocabulary and expression with little repetition• Appropriate use of register and style sustained

Additional guidance

Style and register

Formal register and style includes, for example, avoidance of slang, over-familiar language, exaggeration, 'text-speak', inappropriate colloquialisms or writing in a conversational style. Formal register and style require the use of the formal structure when using, for example, verbs and possessive adjectives.

Question 2: linguistic knowledge and accuracy mark grid – Foundation tier

Mark	Descriptor
0	No rewardable material
1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Repetitive use of minimal selection of straightforward grammatical structures• Produces individual words/set phrases• Limited accuracy in grammatical structures used, limited success in referring to present and future events; errors regularly prevent meaning being conveyed
3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use of a restricted range of straightforward grammatical structures, much repetition• Produces simple, short sentences, which are not linked• Occasional accuracy in grammatical structures used, occasional success in referring to present and future events; errors sometimes prevent meaning being conveyed
5–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uses straightforward grammatical structures, frequent repetition• Produces simple, short sentences; minimal linking• Some accurate use of straightforward grammatical structures, some success in referring to present and future events to meet the requirements of the task; errors occasionally prevent meaning being conveyed
7–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uses straightforward grammatical structures, some repetition• Produces predominantly simple sentences occasionally linked together• Mostly accurate use of straightforward grammatical structures, mostly successful references to present and future events to meet the requirements of the task; errors occasionally hinder clarity of communication

Additional guidance

Straightforward grammatical structures is considered to be:

- repetitive, simple word order
- short, simple sentences that use a repetitive range of common, high-frequency structures
- simple ideas, opinions and thoughts that are expressed but are not justified.

Errors: students are not expected to produce perfect, error-free writing in order to access the top band as errors are also made by native speakers. The mark grid describes the frequency of errors and the impact that errors have on coherence.

Errors that **do not hinder clarity:**

- errors that do not affect meaning, for example gender, adjectival agreements
- infrequent errors that do not distract the reader from the content and that result in coherent writing.

Errors that **hinder clarity:**

- errors that make writing difficult to understand immediately (even if the meaning is eventually understood)/errors that force readers to re-read in order to understand what is meant, for example inappropriate tense formation, mismatch of subject and the possessive adjective
- frequent errors hinder clarity as they will distract the reader from the content of the writing.

Errors that **prevent meaning being conveyed:**

- errors that mean the reader cannot understand the message
- errors that convey the wrong message
- errors that make it unclear who is carrying out the action, for example using the incorrect person of the verb
- mother-tongue interference.

NB: these are examples only and do not constitute a finite list.

Question 3 – Foundation tier (20 marks)

For this question, students' work is marked by Pearson using assessment criteria given in two mark grids:

- communication and content
- linguistic knowledge and accuracy.

This question contains four compulsory bullet points that form part of the task. Although there may be uneven coverage of the bullet points, as long as students refer to all bullet points in their response they can potentially access full marks provided they meet the other criteria within the band.

This question requires students to write in an informal style (see **Additional guidance** below).

The student is expected to produce 80–90 words for this task. The number of words is approximate and students will not be penalised for writing more or fewer words than recommended in the word count. All work produced by the student must be marked.

Question 3: communication and content mark grid – Foundation tier

Mark	Descriptor
0	No rewardable material
1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Communicates brief information relevant to the task with little developmentUses straightforward language to narrate, inform and interest; straightforward personal opinions are given with limited justificationExpresses straightforward thoughts and ideas; uses common, familiar language with repetitionVariable use of appropriate register and style
4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Communicates information relevant to the task, with development of the occasional key point and ideaEffective adaptation of straightforward language to narrate and inform; attempts are made to interest and give convincing personal opinions which are occasionally successfulExpresses mainly straightforward thoughts and ideas with the occasional individual thought/idea; some different examples of common, familiar languageAppropriate use of register and style is evident but with inconsistencies
7–9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Communicates information relevant to the task, with development of some key points and ideasMostly effective adaptation of language to narrate and inform, some effective language to interest and give convincing personal opinionsSome examples of creative language use to express individual thoughts and ideas; a variety of mainly common, familiar language with the occasional example of uncommon languageAppropriate use of register and style is evident but with occasional inconsistency
10–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Communicates information relevant to the task with expansion of key points and ideasEffective adaptation of language to narrate, inform, interest and give convincing personal opinionsFrequent examples of creative language use to express individual thoughts and ideas; a variety of vocabulary and expression, some examples of uncommon languageAppropriate use of register and style throughout with minimal inconsistency

Additional guidance

Creative language use – examples of creative language use are:

- using language to create an effect
- using language, including familiar, high-frequency and simple language, to respond to unfamiliar/unexpected contexts and purposes
- using language to express thoughts, ideas, feelings and emotions
- using language to inform and narrate ideas, thoughts and points of view to maintain interest
- applying a variety of vocabulary and structures to maintain interest
- using language effectively to achieve more complex purposes, for example to interest, to convince.

Individual thoughts, ideas and opinions: this is linked to creative use of language whereby students use language to express original thoughts, ideas and points of view which go beyond the minimum/standard/predictable response.

Register and style

Informal register and style: examples of informal style include colloquial, conversational language which students would use with friends. It also requires use of the informal structure when using, for example, verbs and possessive adjectives.

Adaptation of language to narrate, inform, interest and give convincing opinions: adapts language to achieve different purposes in the language; students may adapt language more effectively for one purpose than another, for example they may use language effectively to narrate but less effectively to interest or give a convincing opinion.

Question 3: linguistic knowledge and accuracy mark grid – Foundation tier

Mark	Descriptor
0	No rewardable material
1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uses straightforward grammatical structures, much repetition• Produces brief, simple sentences, limited linking of sentences• Some accurate phrases and sentences evident, inconsistent success when referring to present, future and past events, regular ambiguity; errors often prevent meaning being conveyed
3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uses mostly straightforward grammatical structures, some repetition• Produces occasionally extended sentences linked with familiar, straightforward conjunctions• Some accurate language and structures, including some successful references to present events; less successful when referring to future or past events where there is some ambiguity; errors occur that often hinder clarity of communication and occasionally prevent meaning being conveyed
5-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Different examples of straightforward grammatical structures are evident• Produces some extended sentences that are linked with familiar, straightforward conjunctions• Frequently accurate language and structures, including successful references to present events; occasional ambiguity when referring to future or past events where there is some ambiguity; errors occur that sometimes hinder clarity of communication
7-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some variation of grammatical structures, occasional complex item• Produces frequently extended sentences, well linked together• Generally accurate language and structures, including successful references to past, present and future events with only occasional ambiguity; errors occur that occasionally hinder clarity of communication

Additional guidance

Complex or **straightforward** grammatical structures/language

Complex grammatical structures/language are considered to be:

- all grammar and structures that are included in the grammar list which are specific to Higher tier GCSE
- varied and complex word order
- using extended sentences that include a range of structures, for example conjunctions, pronouns, reported speech and/or a range of lexis, for example to express abstract ideas/convey justified arguments
- conceptually more challenging language.

Straightforward grammatical structures/language is considered to be:

- repetitive, simple word order
- short, simple sentences that use a repetitive range of simple structures
- expresses simple ideas, for example opinions that are expressed but are not justified.

Errors: students are not expected to produce perfect, error-free writing in order to access the top band as errors are also made by native speakers. The mark grid describes the frequency of errors and the impact that errors have on coherence.

Errors that **do not hinder clarity:**

- errors that do not affect meaning, for example gender, adjectival agreements
- infrequent errors that do not distract the reader from the content and which result in coherent writing.

Errors that **hinder clarity:**

- errors that make writing difficult to understand immediately (even if the meaning is eventually understood)/errors that force readers to re-read in order to understand what is meant, for example inappropriate tense formation, mismatch of subject and the possessive adjective
- frequent errors hinder clarity as they will distract the reader from the content of the writing.

Errors that **prevent meaning being conveyed:**

- errors that mean the reader cannot understand the message
- errors that convey the wrong message
- errors that make it unclear who is carrying out the action, for example using the incorrect person of the verb
- mother-tongue interference.

NB: these are examples only and do not constitute a finite list.

Question 4 – Foundation tier (12 marks)

Translation mark grids and example responses

Mark grid for sentences (a), (b) and (c), which are worth 2 marks each. The mark grid will be applied to each individual sentence.

Mark	Descriptor
0	No rewardable material
1	Meaning partially communicated with errors that hinder clarity or prevent meaning being conveyed
2	Meaning fully communicated with occasional errors that do not hinder clarity

Mark grid for sentences (d) and (e), which are worth 3 marks each. The mark grid will be applied to each individual sentence.

Mark	Descriptor
0	No rewardable material
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Some words are communicated but the overall meaning of the sentence is not communicated
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The meaning of the sentence is partially communicatedLinguistic structures and vocabulary are mostly accurate with some inaccuracies that hinder clarity or prevent meaning being conveyed
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The meaning of the sentence is fully communicatedLinguistic structures and vocabulary are accurate with only occasional errors that do not hinder clarity

Additional guidance

Errors that **do not hinder clarity**:

- errors that do not affect meaning, for example incorrect definite and indefinite, adjectival agreements, gender; errors of this type that are infrequent will not distract the reader from the content and will result in coherent writing.

Errors that **hinder clarity**:

- errors that make writing difficult to understand immediately/force readers to re-read in order to understand what is meant, for example mixing up tenses, time frames and structures; frequent errors will also hinder clarity as they will distract the reader from the content of the writing.

Errors that **prevent meaning being conveyed**:

- errors that give the wrong message
- errors that make it unclear who is carrying out the action, i.e. using the incorrect person of the verb
- using Anglicisms.

NB: these are examples only and do not constitute a finite list.

Example response

Question number	Example response
4(a)	J'aime la musique.
4(b)	Je vais souvent à des festivals.
4(c)	J'écoute mon groupe préféré tous les jours.

Question number	Example response
4(d)	Mon frère préférè regarder la musique à la télévision.
4(e)	Hier je suis allé à un concert dans le parc avec mes amis.

French GCSE Higher tier

Paper 4 – Mark scheme

Marking guidance

This marking guidance is for the use of Pearson-appointed external examiners. The guidance has been included for teacher reference to aid understanding of how the assessment criteria are applied.

General guidance on using levels-based mark schemes

Step 1 Decide on a band

- Examiners should first of all consider the answer as a whole and then decide which descriptors most closely match the answer and place it in that band. The descriptors for each band indicate the different features that might be seen in the student's answer for that band.
- When assigning a level you should look at the overall quality of the answer and not focus disproportionately on small and specific parts of the answer where the student has not performed quite as well as the rest. If the answer covers different aspects of different bands of the mark scheme you should use a 'best fit' approach for defining the level and then use the variability of the response to help decide the mark within the level, for example if the response is predominantly band 5–8 with a small amount of band 9–12 material, it would be placed in band 5–8 but be awarded a mark near the top of the band because of the band 9–12 content.

Step 2 Decide on a mark

- Once you have decided on a band you will then need to decide on a mark within the band.
- You will decide on the mark to award based on the quality of the answer; you will award a mark towards the top or bottom of that band depending on how students have evidenced each of the descriptor bullet points.
- You will modify the mark based on how securely the bullet point descriptors are met at that band.
- You will need to go back through the answer as you apply the mark scheme to clarify points and assure yourself that the band and the mark are appropriate.
- Please note that the number of bullet points in the band descriptor does not directly correlate to the number of marks in the band descriptor.

Assessment criteria for the higher tier

Question 1 – Higher tier (20 marks)

For this question, students' work is marked by Pearson using assessment criteria given in two mark grids:

- communication and content
- linguistic knowledge and accuracy.

This question contains four compulsory bullet points that form part of the task. Although there may be uneven coverage of the bullet points, as long as students refer to all bullet points in their response they can potentially access full marks provided they meet the other criteria within the band.

This question requires students to write in an informal style (see **Additional guidance** below).

The student is expected to produce 80–90 words for this task. The number of words is approximate and students will not be penalised for writing more or fewer words than recommended in the word count. All work produced by the student must be marked.

Question 1: communication and content mark grid – Higher tier

Mark	Descriptor
0	No rewardable material
1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communicates brief information relevant to the task with little development• Uses straightforward language to narrate, inform and interest; straightforward personal opinions are given with limited justification• Expresses straightforward thoughts and ideas; uses common, familiar language with repetition• Variable use of appropriate register and style
4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communicates information relevant to the task, with development of the occasional key point and idea• Effective adaptation of straightforward language to narrate and inform; attempts are made to interest and give convincing personal opinions which are occasionally successful• Expresses mainly straightforward thoughts and ideas with the occasional individual thought/idea; some different examples of common, familiar language• Appropriate use of register and style is evident but with inconsistencies
7–9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communicates information relevant to the task, with development of some key points and ideas• Mostly effective adaptation of language to narrate and inform, some effective language to interest and give convincing personal opinions• Some examples of creative language use to express individual thoughts and ideas; a variety of mainly common, familiar language with the occasional example of uncommon language• Appropriate use of register and style is evident but with occasional inconsistency
10–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communicates information relevant to the task with expansion of key points and ideas• Effective adaptation of language to narrate, inform, interest and give convincing personal opinions• Frequent examples of creative language use to express individual thoughts and ideas; a variety of vocabulary and expression, some examples of uncommon language• Appropriate use of register and style throughout, with minimal inconsistency

Additional guidance

Creative language use: examples of creative language use are:

- using language to create an effect
- using language, including familiar, high frequency and simple language, to respond to unfamiliar/unexpected contexts and purposes
- using language to express thoughts, ideas, feelings and emotions
- using language to inform and narrate ideas, thoughts and points of view to maintain interest
- applying a variety of vocabulary and structures to maintain interest
- using language effectively to achieve more complex purposes, for example to interest, to convince.

Individual thoughts, ideas and opinions: this is linked to creative use of language whereby students use language to express original thoughts, ideas and points of view that go beyond the minimum/standard/predictable response.

Register and style

Informal register and style: examples of informal style include colloquial, conversational language that students would use with friends. It also requires use of the informal structure when using, for example, verbs and possessive adjectives.

Adaptation of language to narrate, inform, interest and give convincing opinions: adapts language to achieve different purposes in the language; students may adapt language more effectively for one purpose than another, for example they may use language effectively to narrate but less effectively to interest or give a convincing opinion.

Question 1: linguistic knowledge and accuracy mark grid – Higher tier

Mark	Descriptor
0	No rewardable material
1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uses straightforward grammatical structures, much repetition• Produces brief, simple sentences, limited linking of sentences• Some accurate phrases and sentences evident, inconsistent success when referring to present, future and past events, regular ambiguity; errors often prevent meaning being conveyed
3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uses mostly straightforward grammatical structures, some repetition• Produces occasionally extended sentences linked with familiar, straightforward conjunctions• Some accurate language and structures, including some successful references to present events; less successful when referring to future or past events where there is some ambiguity; errors occur that often hinder clarity of communication and occasionally prevent meaning being conveyed
5–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Different examples of straightforward grammatical structures are evident• Produces some extended sentences that are linked with familiar, straightforward conjunctions• Frequently accurate language and structures, including successful references to present events; occasional ambiguity when referring to future or past events where there is some ambiguity; errors occur that sometimes hinder clarity of communication
7–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some variation of grammatical structures, occasional complex item• Produces frequently extended sentences, well linked together• Generally accurate language and structures, including successful references to past, present and future events with only occasional ambiguity; errors occur that occasionally hinder clarity of communication

Additional guidance

Complex or **straightforward** grammatical structures/language

Complex grammatical structures/language are considered to be:

- all grammar and structures that are included in the grammar list which are specific to Higher tier GCSE
- varied and complex word order
- using extended sentences that include a range of structures, for example conjunctions, pronouns, reported speech and/or a range of lexis, for example to express abstract ideas/convey justified arguments
- conceptually more challenging language.

Straightforward grammatical structures/language is considered to be:

- repetitive, simple word order
- short, simple sentences that use a repetitive range of simple structures
- expresses simple ideas, for example opinions that are expressed but are not justified.

Errors: students are not expected to produce perfect, error-free writing in order to access the top band as errors are also made by native speakers. The mark grid describes the frequency of errors and the impact that errors have on coherence.

Errors that **do not hinder clarity**:

- errors that do not affect meaning, for example gender, adjectival agreements
- infrequent errors that do not distract the reader from the content and which result in coherent writing.

Errors that **hinder clarity**:

- errors that make writing difficult to understand immediately (even if the meaning is eventually understood)/errors that force readers to re-read in order to understand what is meant, for example inappropriate tense formation, mismatch of subject and the possessive adjective
- frequent errors hinder clarity as they will distract the reader from the content of the writing.

Errors that **prevent meaning being conveyed**:

- errors that mean the reader cannot understand the message
- errors that convey the wrong message
- errors that make it unclear who is carrying out the action, for example using the incorrect person of the verb
- mother-tongue interference.

NB: these are examples only and do not constitute a finite list.

Question 2 – Higher tier (28 marks)

For this question, students' work is marked by Pearson using assessment criteria contained in two mark grids:

- communication and content
- linguistic knowledge and accuracy.

This question contains four compulsory bullet points that form part of the task. Although there may be uneven coverage of the bullet points, as long as students refer to all bullet points in their response they can potentially access full marks provided they meet the other criteria within the band.

This question requires students to write in a formal style (see **Additional guidance** below).

The student is expected to produce 130–150 words for this task. The number of words is approximate and students will not be penalised for writing more or fewer words than recommended in the word count. All work produced by the student must be marked.

Question 2: communication and content mark grid – Higher tier

Mark	Descriptor
0	No rewardable material
1–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Communicates occasionally detailed information relevant to the task with occasionally effective development of key points and ideasSome effective adaptation of language to narrate, inform, interest/convinceOccasional examples of creative use of language to express individual thoughts, ideas and points of view, occasional justification; variety of mainly common, familiar language, occasional examples of uncommon languageAppropriate use of register and style with the occasional inconsistency
5–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Communicates some detailed information relevant to the task, frequently effective development of key points and ideasFrequently effective adaptation of language to narrate, inform, interest/convinceExamples of creative use of language to express some individual thoughts, ideas and points of view, some justified; some variation of vocabulary and expression with some examples of uncommon languageAppropriate use of register and style with few inconsistencies
9–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Communicates detailed information relevant to the task, with mostly effective development of key points and ideasMostly effective adaptation of language, to narrate, inform, interest/convinceCreative use of language to express a range of individual thoughts, ideas and points of view, most of which are justified; variety of vocabulary and expression, frequent examples of uncommon languagePredominantly appropriate use of register and style
13–16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Communicates detailed information relevant to the task, with consistently effective development of key points and ideasConsistently effective adaptation of language to narrate, inform, interest/convinceCreative use of language to express and fully justify a wide range of individual thoughts, ideas and points of view; wide variety of vocabulary and expression, many examples of uncommon languageConsistent use of appropriate register and style throughout

Additional guidance

Creative use of language: examples of creative language use are:

- using language to create an effect
- using language, including familiar, high frequency and simple language, to respond to unfamiliar/unexpected contexts and purposes
- using language to express thoughts, ideas, feelings and emotions
- using language to inform and narrate ideas, thoughts and points of view to maintain interest
- applying a variety of vocabulary and structures to maintain interest
- using language effectively to achieve more complex purposes, for example to interest, to convince.

Individual thoughts, ideas and opinions: this is linked to creative use of language whereby students use language to express original thoughts, ideas and points of view that go beyond the minimum/standard/predictable response.

Adaptation of language to narrate, inform, interest/convince: adapts language to achieve different purposes in the language; students may adapt language more effectively for one purpose than another, for example they may use language effectively to narrate but less effectively to interest/convince.

Register and style

Formal register and style includes, for example, avoidance of slang, over-familiar language, exaggeration, 'text-speak', inappropriate colloquialisms or writing in a conversational style. Formal register and style require the use of the formal structure when using, for example, verbs and possessive adjectives.

Question 2: linguistic knowledge and accuracy mark grid – Higher tier

Mark	Descriptor
0	No rewardable material
1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uses a variety of mainly straightforward grammatical structures, occasional examples of repetitive complex language• Occasional sequences of fluent writing, occasionally extended, well-linked sentences• Straightforward grammatical structures are largely accurate with occasional accurate use of complex language, some successful references to past, present and future events but some ambiguity; errors occur that sometimes hinder clarity of communication
4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some variation of grammatical structures, including some repetitive instances of complex language• Prolonged sequences of fluent writing, some extended, well-linked sentences• Generally accurate language and structures, frequently successful references to past, present and future events, occasional ambiguity; errors occur that occasionally hinder clarity of communication
7–9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uses a variety of grammatical structures including some different examples of complex language• Predominantly fluent response; frequent extended sentences, mostly well linked• Mostly accurate language and structures, mostly successful references to past, present and future events; errors occur but they rarely hinder clarity of communication
10–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Uses a wide variety of grammatical structures, including complex language• Fluent response throughout with extended, well-linked sentences• Consistently accurate language and structures, consistently successful references to past, present and future events; any errors do not hinder the clarity of the communication

Additional guidance

Complex or **straightforward** grammatical structures/language

Complex language is considered to be:

- all grammar and structures that are included in the grammar list which are specific to Higher tier GCSE
- varied and complex word order
- using extended sentences that include a range of structures, for example conjunctions, pronouns, reported speech and/or a range of lexis, for example to express abstract ideas/convey justified arguments
- conceptually more challenging language.

Straightforward is considered to be:

- repetitive, simple word order
- short, simple sentences that use a repetitive range of simple structures
- expresses simple ideas, for example opinions that are expressed but are not justified

Errors: students are not expected to produce perfect, error-free writing in order to access the top band as errors are also made by native speakers. The mark grid describes the frequency of errors and the impact that errors have on coherence.

Errors that **do not hinder clarity:**

- errors that do not affect meaning, for example gender, adjectival agreements
- infrequent errors that do not distract the reader from the content and which result in coherent writing.

Errors that **hinder clarity:**

- errors that make writing difficult to understand immediately (even if the meaning is eventually understood)/errors which force readers to re-read in order to understand what is meant, for example inappropriate tense formation, mismatch of subject and the possessive adjective
- frequent errors hinder clarity as they will distract the reader from the content of the writing.

Errors that **prevent meaning being conveyed:**

- errors that mean the reader cannot understand the message
- errors that convey the wrong message
- errors that make it unclear who is doing the action, for example using the incorrect person of the verb
- mother-tongue interference.

NB: these are examples only and do not constitute a finite list.

Question 3 – Higher tier (12 marks)

Translation mark grid and example response

Translation mark grid assesses both communication and content and linguistic knowledge and accuracy. When awarding marks, the student's response across the whole paragraph should be considered.

Mark	Descriptor
0	No rewardable material
1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meaning of some individual words or phrases is conveyed; frequent omissions/incorrectly communicated words and phrases/mother-tongue interference• Some simple structures are accurate but regular errors prevent meaning of individual phrases/sentences being conveyed and thus prevent overall meaning of the passage being conveyed
4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The meaning of the passage is partially communicated, some words and phrases are omitted/incorrectly communicated• Language and structures are accurate in some phrases and sentences but some errors prevent meaning being conveyed
7–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The meaning of the passage is mostly communicated, occasional words are omitted/incorrectly communicated• Mostly accurate language and structures; errors occur that occasionally hinder clarity and in rare instances prevent meaning being conveyed
9–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The meaning of the passage is fully communicated• Consistently accurate language and structures, any errors do not hinder clarity

Additional guidance

Errors: students are not expected to produce perfect, error-free writing in order to access the top band as errors are also made by native speakers. The mark grid describes the frequency of errors and the impact that errors have on coherence.

Errors that ***do not hinder clarity***:

- errors that do not affect meaning, for example gender, adjectival agreements
- infrequent errors that do not distract the reader from the content and which result in coherent writing.

Errors that ***hinder clarity***:

- errors that make writing difficult to understand immediately (even if the meaning is eventually understood)/errors that force readers to re-read in order to understand what is meant, for example inappropriate tense formation, mismatch of subject and the possessive adjective
- frequent errors hinder clarity as they will distract the reader from the content of the writing.

Errors that ***prevent meaning being conveyed***:

- errors that mean the reader cannot understand the message
- errors that convey the wrong message
- errors that make it unclear who is carrying out the action, for example using the incorrect person of the verb
- mother-tongue interference.

NB: these are examples only and do not constitute a finite list.

Example response

Question number	Example response
4	(a) J'aime la musique. (b) Je vais souvent à des festivals. (c) J'écoute mon groupe favori tous les jours. (d) Mon frère préfère regarder la musique à la télévision. (e) Hier, je suis allé(e) à un concert dans le parc avec mes amis.