French Continuers – text types

# What are texts (text types)?

Texts (text types) are various forms of spoken and written language, such as articles, conversations, letters and so on. Each text type varies in its characteristics of format, style, and language. In the French Continuers HSC written examination, the following text types are specified for production:

1. article
2. diary entry
3. email
4. letter
5. message
6. note
7. notice
8. postcard
9. recount
10. report
11. script of an interview
12. script of a speech/talk.

Note: In the oral examination, you participate in a conversation.

In the written section of the HSC examination, you are required to produce 2 different styles of writing:

* the first style is informative or descriptive
* the second style is reflective, persuasive or evaluative, and could require you to explain or justify a point of view.

Using the correct text type and including the correct style of content is important.

# Sample tasks and practice questions

Past HSC papers can be downloaded from the [NESA website](http://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/Understanding-the-curriculum/resources/hsc-exam-papers). Some past HSC questions have been used as sample tasks in this document.

**For each task, identify the following:**

* **What is the purpose?**
* **Who is the audience?**
* **What is the context?**
* **What is the required text type?**
* **What is the style?**

## The texts (text types)

### 1 – article

#### Purpose

* to sustain an argument
* to describe
* to inform, persuade, amuse or entertain

#### Structure

* titles/headings (if appropriate)
* development of ideas/arguments
* sequencing and linking of ideas
* statement of conclusion or advice

#### Language features

* range of tenses (past, present, future, conditional)
* language can be descriptive, factual, judgemental, emotive or persuasive, depending on context
* informal or formal register (be consistent throughout the article)

#### Sample questions

Write 200 words in FRENCH. Write an article for a school magazine explaining how you feel about wearing school uniform.

Adapted from 2002 Higher School Certificate Examination, French Continuers, Section III, Question 13(b) (9 marks) © NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales, 2002

Note: This question is now worth 10 marks.

You want your fellow school students to help you organise a French cultural day at your school. Write an article for the school newsletter persuading students to be involved. Write approximately 200 words in FRENCH.

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### 2 – diary entry

#### Purpose

* a personal reflection on a theme, place or situation

#### Structure

* date
* opening (*Cher journal*)
* development of ideas/arguments
* sequencing and linking of ideas
* concluding statement (for example *Il faut que je dorme maintenant* or *C’est tout pour aujourd’hui)*
* sign off with name (optional)

#### Language features

* written in the first person (keep the tone/perspective of the character from whose perspective you are writing)
* usually written in past tense (perfect/imperfect)
* language can be descriptive, factual, judgemental, emotive or persuasive, depending on context
* informal register

#### Sample question

Write approximately 200 words in FRENCH. You have just found a letter you wrote to yourself when you were 13 years old. Write a diary entry reflecting on the contents of the letter.

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### 3 – email

#### Purpose

* to use technology-based methods of communication
* to send greetings
* to retell events
* to inform
* to seek a response

#### Structure

* email conventions (you are not usually required to write an email address in the exam)
* specific details without elaboration
* salutation (for example *Madame/Monsieur* or *Salut…!)*
* conclusion (for example *Cordialement*, *Je t’embrasse)*

#### Language features

* range of tenses (present, perfect, imperfect, conditional)
* language can be descriptive, factual, judgemental, emotive or persuasive, depending on context
* informal or formal register (be consistent throughout the email)

#### Sample question

Answer the following question by writing approximately 75 words in FRENCH. Write an email to a friend telling him/her about a new activity you have recently started in your local area.

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### 4 – letter

#### Purpose

* to communicate in writing with acquaintances, friends, family or the public
* to inform, amuse, persuade

#### Structure

* your name and address on the right (informal)
* date below your address (informal)
* salutations (for example *Cher/Chère…*, *Monsieur/Madame*)
* letter conventions (for example *Je te remercie de ta lettre*)
* ending (for example *Croyez, cher Monsieur/chère Madame*, *à l’expression de mes sentiments les meilleurs or Bien amicalement*)

#### Language features

* range of tenses (present, perfect, future, imperfect, conditional)
* descriptive, factual, judgemental, emotive or persuasive, depending on context
* formality of language will depend on relationship with audience (for example, letter to a friend or letter to a newspaper)

#### Sample question

Write approximately 200 words in FRENCH. A technology-free day for everyone has been proposed. Write a letter to be published in your local newspaper to persuade readers of your point of view on this.

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### 5 – message

#### Purpose

* to inform
* to request
* to instruct
* to remind

Note: The difference between a message and a note is that a message can vary in type, such as voicemail message, text message, email, social media.

#### Structure

* succinct (short and to the point)
* general statement, description, procedure
* lack of descriptive detail

#### Language features

* shorter than a standard letter
* informal or formal register (be consistent throughout the message)
* frequent use of colloquial language if to a close friend/family member

#### Sample question

Answer the following question by writing approximately 75 words in FRENCH. A friend is coming from France to visit you. Write him/her a message about a trip you have planned to do with him/her.

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### 6 – note

#### Purpose

* to inform
* to request
* to instruct
* to remind

Note: The difference between a message and a note is that a message can vary in type such as voicemail message, text message, email.

#### Structure

* succinct (short and to the point)
* general statement, description, procedure
* lack of descriptive detail

#### Language features

* shorter than a standard letter
* frequent use of colloquial language (does not necessarily mean informal register)
* formality of language will depend on relationship with audience (for example friend or boss)

#### Sample question

Answer the following question by writing approximately 75 words in FRENCH. Write a note to your mother/father explaining why you are unable to help out at home this afternoon.

2010 Higher School Certificate Examination, French Continuers, Section III, Question 12 (5 marks) © NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales, 2010

### 7 – notice

#### Purpose

* to inform
* to seek a response (for example looking for a roommate to share accommodation)

#### Structure

* heading/addressee
* specific details without elaboration
* statement of conclusion or advice (for example giving contact details)

#### Language features

* often written in the present tense
* language can be descriptive, factual, judgemental, emotive or persuasive, depending on context
* informal or formal register

#### Sample question

Write approximately 75 words in FRENCH. A famous sportsperson is going to visit your school and make a speech. Write a notice for the noticeboard.

Adapted from 2009 Higher School Certificate Examination, Chinese Continuers, Section III, Question 12(a) (5 marks) © NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales, 2009

### 8 – postcard

#### Purpose

* to provide information, amuse or entertain
* to retell events and experiences (for example who, where, what, when)

#### Structure

* salutations (*Cher/Chère…,* *Salut…!)*
* brief description or message
* formulaic ending (*À bientôt/Amitiés, …)*

#### Language features

* descriptive language
* personal impressions
* present or past tense, for example what it is like, or where you went, what you did, what you saw

#### Sample question

Answer the following question by writing approximately 75 words in FRENCH. You are a young French tourist newly arrived in Australia. You write a postcard to a friend giving your first impressions.

2011 Higher School Certificate Examination, French Continuers, Section III, Question 12 (5 marks) © NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales, 2011

### 9 – recount

#### Purpose

* to inform or entertain
* to retell past events or experiences
* to retell a series of events

#### Structure

* introduction/orientation (set the scene – who, what, where, when)
* events sequenced in chronological order
* closing statement

#### Language features

* often told in the first person (*je*)
* descriptive language
* often told in past tense (imperfect, perfect)
* time words to connect events (for example *d’abord, ensuite, puis, après, quand*)
* words which tell us when, where, with whom and how
* linking words (for example *qui, parce-que, mais*)

#### Sample question

Write approximately 200 words in FRENCH. Write a recount for your school blog reflecting on a special family celebration.

Adapted from 2013 Higher School Certificate Examination, Korean Continuers, Section III, Question 13(a) (10 marks) © NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales, 2013

### 10 – report

#### Purpose

* to present information about a class of things (to classify) OR
* to describe the way things are
* to organise facts
* to draw conclusions

#### Structure

* general statement or classification
* series of paragraphs that describe
* logical progression
* concluding statement or summary

#### Language features

* supporting evidence, such as statistics, examples
* factual
* language specific to the topic
* objective language
* linking words (for example *qui, parce-que, mais*)

#### Sample question

Write approximately 200 words in FRENCH. You have just finished your HSC examinations. Write a report for a youth magazine reflecting on the positive lifestyle strategies you used during your HSC year.

Adapted from 2018 Higher School Certificate Examination, Indonesian Continuers, Section III, Question 13(a) (10 marks) © NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales, 2018

### 11 – script of an interview

#### Purpose

* to find out information (for example a story or a response)
* to communicate ideas, opinions and attitudes
* to draw conclusions

#### Structure

* salutations
* clear idea of the purpose of the interview (*J’aimerais parler de…*)
* question and response sequence, initials followed by a colon, for example A: and B:
* use of filler expressions (*…, n’est-ce pas?, mais oui, mais non, bien sûr, en fait, eh bien*)
* conclusion (for example *Je vous remercie*)

#### Language features

* question forms (by the interviewer)
* register – use polite language (for example *vous*)
* phrases to delve deeper (for example *au sujet de, qu’est-ce que vous pensez de, pourquoi*)
* transition strategies when switching topics (*Maintenant, je voudrais aborder un autre sujet, parlons de, passons au prochain sujet*)

#### Sample question

You have recently interviewed someone for the school magazine. In the interview they reflected on some of their successes. Write the script of the interview. Write approximately 200 words in FRENCH.

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### 12 – script of a speech/talk

#### Purpose

* to communicate ideas, opinions and attitudes
* to entertain
* to persuade
* to welcome
* to thank

#### Structure

* salutations (for example *Bonjour/bonsoir mesdames et messieurs*)
* introductory statement of purpose (for example *Aujourd'hui, je vais parler de…, Je m’adresse à vous car…*)
* ideas and information are organised and linked
* concluding remarks (for example *Pour conclure, Pour finir, Enfin, …*)

#### Language features

* choice of expressions to engage the audience
* descriptive words
* range of tenses
* usually subjective language (this depends on the context)

#### Sample question

Write approximately 200 words in FRENCH. You are going to give a speech in honour of someone important in your life at his/her birthday celebration. Write the script of the speech.

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