



GCE A LEVEL MARKING SCHEME

SUMMER 2025

**A LEVEL
FRENCH - UNIT 5
1800U50-1**

About this marking scheme

The purpose of this marking scheme is to provide teachers, learners, and other interested parties, with an understanding of the assessment criteria used to assess this specific assessment.

This marking scheme reflects the criteria by which this assessment was marked in a live series and was finalised following detailed discussion at an examiners' conference. A team of qualified examiners were trained specifically in the application of this marking scheme. The aim of the conference was to ensure that the marking scheme was interpreted and applied in the same way by all examiners. It may not be possible, or appropriate, to capture every variation that a candidate may present in their responses within this marking scheme. However, during the training conference, examiners were guided in using their professional judgement to credit alternative valid responses as instructed by the document, and through reviewing exemplar responses.

Without the benefit of participation in the examiners' conference, teachers, learners and other users, may have different views on certain matters of detail or interpretation. Therefore, it is strongly recommended that this marking scheme is used alongside other guidance, such as published exemplar materials or Guidance for Teaching. This marking scheme is final and will not be changed, unless in the event that a clear error is identified, as it reflects the criteria used to assess candidate responses during the live series.

GCE A LEVEL FRENCH

SUMMER 2025 MARK SCHEME

UNIT 5: CRITICAL AND ANALYTICAL RESPONSE IN WRITING (40 total marks)

General Advice for Examiners

The candidate is required to write one essay on the literary work they have studied; the skills assessed on this paper are AO3 and AO4. For AO3 the candidate must demonstrate that he/she is able to manipulate French accurately in written forms, using a wide range of lexis and structure. For AO4 the candidate must show knowledge and understanding of, and respond critically to, different aspects of the culture and society of countries or communities where French is spoken. In Unit 5, AO4 will be in the context of the literary work studied. There is one marking grid. You will apply the mark scheme as set out in the marking grid. In the marking grid there are five bands for AO3 and AO4. Each band contains 4 marks. To select the appropriate band and mark you must do the following:

Applying banded mark schemes

Banded mark schemes are divided so that each band has descriptors for the performance level of that band. You should first read and annotate a candidate's response to pick out the evidence that is being assessed in that question. Once the annotation is complete, the mark scheme can be applied.

Stage 1 – Deciding on the band

When deciding on a band for each assessment objective, the response should be viewed holistically. Beginning at the lowest band, you should look at the descriptors for that band and see if they match the qualities shown in the candidate's response. If the descriptors at the lowest band are evidenced, you should move up to the next band and repeat this process for each band until the descriptors match the response.

If a candidate's response covers different aspects of different bands within the mark scheme, a 'best fit' approach should be adopted to decide on the band. For instance, if the response is mainly in band 2 but with a limited amount of band 3 content, the mark awarded would be close to the top of band 2 as a result of the band 3 content. Small omissions in some parts of their response may not negatively affect the mark awarded.

Stage 2 – Deciding on the mark

Once the band has been decided, you can then assign a mark. WJEC will provide standardising material to be used as reference material throughout the assessment period.

When marking, you can use this material to decide whether a candidate's response is of a superior, inferior or comparable standard to the examples. You are reminded of the need to revisit the standardising material as you apply the mark scheme in order to confirm that the band and the mark allocated are appropriate to the response given.

For AO4 a successful critical and analytical response is one which will clearly demonstrate that the candidate is able to present and justify points of view, develop arguments and draw conclusions based on understanding. At A Level, knowledge and understanding of the work must include a critical and analytical response to aspects such as structure of the plot, characterisation, and use of imagery or other stylistic features, as appropriate to the work studied.

The approximate number of words advised for the essay response is 400 words. Responses which exceed the guidance must not be penalised and reward must be given for all valid responses. It is content which will determine whether a candidate has written enough to access the full mark scheme and not the number of words. Additional notes are provided with the mark scheme but they are not exhaustive, and any other valid points must be credited. In order to reach the highest bands of the mark scheme a candidate need not cover all of the points mentioned in the indicative content but must meet the requirements of the highest mark band. Where a response is not creditworthy, that is, contains nothing of any significance to the mark scheme, or where no response has been provided, no marks should be awarded.

When marking you should have the titles to hand as the questions require the candidate to deal with a specific idea or ideas. The candidate is expected to answer the questions as set and not provide a **general** comment on the subject matter as a whole. If a candidate adopts a broad-brush approach he/she will be unlikely to focus on the questions as set, leading to digression and irrelevance.

Unit 5: Mark scheme

For each question the marks are divided as follows between the assessment objectives AO3 and AO4.

Task	AO3	AO4	Total Marks
One essay either (a) or (b)	20	20	40
Total	20	20	40

UNIT 5: MARKING GRID FOR CRITICAL AND ANALYTICAL RESPONSE IN WRITING [40 MARKS]

Marks	AO3: manipulate the language accurately, in written forms, using a range of lexis and structure	Marks	AO4: show knowledge and understanding of, and respond critically and analytically to, different aspects of the culture and society of countries/communities where the language is spoken
17-20	- Excellent manipulation of the language of study; almost error-free - A wide range of lexis and idiomatic structures used - Excellent use of language appropriate to the task set	17-20	- Excellent knowledge of different aspects of the culture and society of France and French-speaking countries and communities appropriate to the question set - Arguments and points of view developed and justified by evidence from the source material - Conclusions drawn based on detailed analysis of issues and themes
13-16	- Very good manipulation of the language; some errors occur when attempting more sophisticated or abstract contexts and structures - A good range of lexis and idiomatic structures used - Very good use of language appropriate to the task set	13-16	- Very good knowledge of different aspects of the culture and society of France and French-speaking countries and communities appropriate to the question set - Arguments and points of view usually justified by evidence from the source material - Conclusions usually drawn based on analysis of issues and themes
9-12	- Sound manipulation of the language of study; some errors occur which are repeated - A range of lexis and idiomatic structures used - Some evidence of language appropriate to the task set	9-12	- Good knowledge of different aspects of the culture and society of France and French-speaking countries and communities generally appropriate to the question set - Arguments and points of view are not fully developed or justified by evidence from the source material - Conclusions are based on superficial analysis of issues and themes
5-8	- Limited manipulation of the language of study; high incidence of elementary errors - A limited range of lexis and structures influenced by English/Welsh idiom - Limited use of language appropriate to the task set	5-8	- Limited knowledge of different aspects of the culture and society of France and French-speaking countries and communities and not always relevant to the question set - Response is descriptive rather than critical - Conclusions are unconvincing and not based on an analysis of issues and themes
1-4	- Very limited manipulation of the language of study; sentences fragmented - Very few correct patterns or features - Virtually no use of language appropriate to the task set	1-4	- Very limited knowledge of different aspects of the culture and society of France and French-speaking countries and communities and generally inappropriate to the question set - Response is fragmentary. No critical appreciation - No conclusions drawn
0	Nothing of value.	0	Nothing of value.

Additional Notes

Répondez à **une** question (a) ou (b). Écrivez environ 400 mots **en français**.

1. Irène Némirovsky: *Le bal*

[40]

- (a) Cette œuvre traite du thème de l'humiliation. Analysez cette idée et justifiez votre réponse.

In response to the essay question the candidate may consider:

- Antoinette's constant humiliation by her mother
- M. Kampf's humiliation by his wife
- Mme Kampf's humiliation by her daughter's actions
- The impact of M. Kampf's departure at the end.

The above points are **suggestions** only and are **not exhaustive**. Look for and reward **all relevant points** argued by the candidate.

Ou

- (b) Analysez les difficultés dans la vie d'Antoinette. Donnez et justifiez vos idées.

In response to the essay question the candidate may consider:

- Antoinette as a rebellious teenager
- Antoinette's relationship with her mother
- Antoinette's feelings of jealousy towards Miss Betty
- The departure of Antoinette's father.

The above points are **suggestions** only and are **not exhaustive**. Look for and reward **all relevant points** argued by the candidate.

2. Faïza Guène : *Kiffe kiffe demain*

[40]

- (a) Analysez l'importance de la banlieue pour ses habitants. Donnez et justifiez vos idées.

In response to the essay question the candidate may consider:

- The sense of community
- A place of safety and growth
- A place where relationships thrive
- A place of isolation.

The above points are **suggestions** only and are **not exhaustive**. Look for and reward **all relevant points** argued by the candidate.

Ou

- (b) Cette œuvre traite de l'espoir. Êtes-vous d'accord ? Donnez et justifiez vos idées.

In response to the essay question the candidate may consider:

- Positive changes for Doria
- Yasmina's improved prospects
- Mme Burlaud's positive impact
- The importance of the title.

The above points are **suggestions** only and are **not exhaustive**. Look for and reward **all relevant points** argued by the candidate.

3. **Philippe Grimbert : *Un secret***

[40]

- (a) Le thème principal de cette œuvre est le passé. Êtes-vous d'accord ? Donnez et justifiez vos idées.

In response to the essay question the candidate may consider:

- Maxime and Hannah's relationship
- Maxime and Tania's relationship
- Louise's revelation of the past
- How the narrator deals with the past and the present.

The above points are **suggestions** only and are **not exhaustive**. Look for and reward **all relevant points** argued by the candidate.

Ou

- (b) Analysez la notion d'identité. Donnez et justifiez vos idées.

In response to the essay question the candidate may consider:

- Maxime's Jewish identity
- Maxime's new identity
- The discovery of Simon's existence
- The narrator establishing his own identity.

The above points are **suggestions** only and are **not exhaustive**. Look for and reward **all relevant points** argued by the candidate.

4. Elsa Triolet : *Les Amants d'Avignon*

[40]

- (a) « L'officier allemand était toujours là ». Analysez l'occupation allemande décrite dans cette œuvre. Donnez et justifiez vos idées.

In response to the essay question the candidate may consider:

- Shortages and rationing
- Signs in German/reserved compartments on trains
- The presence of German officers
- How the German occupation leads to acts of resistance.

The above points are **suggestions** only and are **not exhaustive**. Look for and reward **all relevant points** argued by the candidate.

Ou

- (b) Analysez le thème de la clandestinité dans cette œuvre. Donnez et justifiez vos idées.

In response to the essay question the candidate may consider:

- Juliette's work as an undercover agent
- The work of other resistance agents
- The secret work of ordinary people
- Secret relationships.

The above points are **suggestions** only and are **not exhaustive**. Look for and reward **all relevant points** argued by the candidate.