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.

Two different styles of writing

In the written section of the HSC examination, you are required to produce two different styles of writing. The first style is informative or descriptive and the second 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 kind of content is important.

Sample questions 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.

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 question

Write 100–150 words in FRENCH. Write an article for a school magazine explaining how you feel about wearing school uniform.

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.

Task

Identify the following for the sample question:

1. What is the purpose?
2. Who is the audience?
3. What is the context
4. What is the required text type?
5. What is the style?

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.

2016 Higher School Certificate Examination, French 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, 2016

Task

Identify the following for the sample question:

1. What is the purpose?
2. Who is the audience?
3. What is the context
4. What is the required text type?
5. What is the style?

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.

2015 Higher School Certificate Examination, French Continuers, Section III, Question 12 (5 marks)   
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Task

Identify the following for the sample question:

1. What is the purpose?
2. Who is the audience?
3. What is the context
4. What is the required text type?
5. What is the style?

4 Letter

Purpose:

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

Structure:

* your name/address on the left with the address to which you are writing on the right (formal)
* your name and address on the right (informal)
* date above the salutation on the left (formal)
* 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.

2015 Higher School Certificate Examination, French 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, 2015

Task

Identify the following for the sample question:

1. What is the purpose?
2. Who is the audience?
3. What is the context
4. What is the required text type?
5. What is the style?

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 post.

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.

2016 Higher School Certificate Examination, French Continuers, Section III, Question 12 (5 marks)   
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Task

Identify the following for the sample question:

1. What is the purpose?
2. Who is the audience?
3. What is the context
4. What is the required text type?
5. What is the style?

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
* informal or formal register (be consistent throughout the note)
* frequent use of colloquial language (does not necessarily mean informal register)

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

Task

Identify the following for the sample question:

1. What is the purpose?
2. Who is the audience?
3. What is the context
4. What is the required text type?
5. What is the style?

7 Notice

Purpose:

* to inform
* to seek a response (for example looking for a pen pal or 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 present tense
* language can be descriptive, factual, 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.

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

Task

Identify the following for the sample question:

1. What is the purpose?
2. Who is the audience?
3. What is the context
4. What is the required text type?
5. What is the style?

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

Task

Identify the following for the sample question:

1. What is the purpose?
2. Who is the audience?
3. What is the context
4. What is the required text type?
5. What is the style?

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 100–150 words in FRENCH. Yesterday was your school’s annual spectacular. Write a review for your French club newsletter.

2007 Higher School Certificate Examination, French Continuers, Section III, Question 13(a) (6 marks) © NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) for and on behalf of the Crown in right of the State of New South Wales, 2007

Note: This question is now worth 5 marks.

Task

Identify the following for the sample question:

1. What is the purpose?
2. Who is the audience?
3. What is the context
4. What is the required text type?
5. What is the style?

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 describes
* 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 100–150 words in FRENCH. Write a report for a French youth magazine commenting on the current trend for young people to live at home longer.

2003 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, 2003

Note: This question is now worth 10 marks.

Task

Identify the following for the sample question:

1. What is the purpose?
2. Who is the audience?
3. What is the context
4. What is the required text type?
5. What is the style?

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

A journalist from *Parlons* magazine has interviewed you about why you are learning French. Write the script of the interview. Write approximately 200 words in French.

Task

Identify the following for the sample question:

1. What is the purpose?
2. Who is the audience?
3. What is the context
4. What is the required text type?
5. What is the style?

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.

2014 Higher School Certificate Examination, French 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, 2014

Task

Identify the following for the sample question:

1. What is the purpose?
2. Who is the audience?
3. What is the context
4. What is the required text type?
5. What is the style?