

Examiners' Report/  
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2012

ELC French (8924)  
Paper 01

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## **Entry Level Certificate in French (8924)**

The majority of centres were able to submit their samples by the due date which greatly facilitated the moderation process. There were minor instances of administrative errors, but where materials were missing centres were quick to respond and to send the items requested.

It was noted that a minority of centres are still using the older version of the coursework record sheet. The updated version has the facility for both the teacher and the candidate to sign in order to authenticate the work. It is a requirement, as for all coursework, for both the teacher and the candidate to sign this sheet in order to authenticate the work.

The key to the Entry Level Certificate qualification is to keep accurate records throughout the course of the tasks the students have successfully completed and to make sure that the students' assessments and paperwork are fully completed according to the instructions.

The most current version of ELC documentation can be downloaded from the Edexcel website from the "Instruction to Centres" booklet.  
<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/elc/8924/Pages/default.aspx>

Centres had completed the correct number of tasks for the level claimed.

Centres may wish to note that if a candidate completes a task but is unsuccessful, it is still within the spirit of this specification for the task to be re-visited.

Students should complete a minimum of seven tasks for each language skill and across the areas of experience. There are specified levels for each task.

There are no definite rules as to when any particular tasks should be completed.

It is for the centres to choose when to do them to fit in with their own scheme of work.

LEVEL 1: 40 assessment tasks, plus one piece of coursework

LEVEL 2: 50 assessment tasks of which 20 must be at level 2 or above, plus 2 pieces of coursework

LEVEL 3: 50 assessment tasks of which 20 must be at level 3, plus 3 pieces of coursework.

The teacher's notes provide the mark scheme.

Coursework must be taken from the areas of experience and should consist of at least 30 words in the target language. Full sentences need not be used but in the spirit of the specification undue repetition should be avoided, for example phrases such as: *il y a, j'aime, c'est*.

It may be a single piece or a collection of shorter pieces. Candidates are afforded the opportunity to be creative and to make use of other skills such as IT or Art.

The standard of presentation varied greatly this year. Some centres went to a great deal of trouble to encourage their candidates to produce neat and colourful work.

The extent to which centres can explore a coursework topic in a cross-curricular way will depend on the level of support within a centre.

Coursework titles this year followed similar themes as in past years. There were no examples this year of speaking coursework. The following titles below are suggestions only for coursework titles:

- Draw your school timetable and say which subject like and why
- A family tree
- The modern world-gadgets in the home, mobile phones, computers etc
- The environment-ways in which it is endangered or what the candidate and their family/school can do to protect the environment. (This topic is suitable for a poster).
- The candidate's CV - This could be recorded as a short interview and submitted as speaking coursework.
- Design a menu in French - Ordering a simple meal could be submitted for speaking coursework.
- Healthy living - What one should and should not do remain healthy.

The coursework could consist of a poster. In one instance this year it was necessary to reduce the level claimed by the centre as the coursework did not meet the requirement of 30 words in French.

Moderators do not underestimate the amount time and effort that can go into the production of these pieces of work. Some candidates obviously enjoy the greater freedom that the coursework affords them.

It hoped that the comments above are helpful to centres in administering this specification in the future.

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