



*Dornoch Academy
ML Department*

Higher Still French

External Exam

Directed Writing Practice

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INTRODUCTION TO DIRECTED WRITING

As the name suggests this part of the exam is a directed task and will require you to write an account of a trip or exchange visit to France.

To do well in this exercise you must ensure that:

- you write between 150-180 words
- your piece of writing is accurate and makes sense
- you answer each bullet point accurately and efficiently
- each bullet point is addressed in a clear, structured and balanced manner
- the standard of vocabulary is of a Higher level

Although the scenarios differ to a certain degree and generally you will only be asked to give information on six bullet points, you should be prepared to write about any of the following:

Points 1 and 2 (set the scene)

- When and where you went and for how long
- Who you went with
- How you travelled and what you thought of the trip
- Where you stayed and what you thought of the accommodation

Points 3 and 4 (purpose of the visit)

- Information about your job and your duties
- Information about the school and town
- What you thought of the people – colleagues, school teachers or pupils
- What you did in your free time and in the evenings
- What you thought of the food

Points 5 and 6 (reaction)

- Evaluation of the trip
- Good and bad aspects
- Future contact with the people you met
- Recommendations to others

Don't panic!

You are already familiar with a lot of the vocabulary and grammatical structures require for this piece of writing.

This booklet will therefore help to reinforce what you already know and prepare you for any eventuality in this part of the exam.

As the Directed Writing requires you to write about a past event, you will be predominantly using the PERFECT and IMPERFECT tenses.

LE PASSÉ COMPOSÉ ET L'IMPARFAIT – A REMINDER!

THE PERFECT TENSE – a reminder!

Present part of 'avoir'

j'ai
tu as
il/elle/on a
nous avons
vous avez
ils/elles ont

Present part of 'être'

je suis
tu es
il/elle/on est
nous sommes
vous êtes
ils/elles sont

Regular 'er', 'ir' and 're' verbs

<u>Infinitive</u>	<u>Past participle</u>	<u>Example</u>
-er (manger)	-é (mangé)	j'ai mangé (<i>I ate, I have eaten</i>)
-ir (finir)	-i (fini)	tu as/vous avez fini (<i>you finished/you have finished</i>)
-re (vendre)	-u (vendu)	il a/ils ont vendu (<i>he/they sold. he has they have sold</i>)

Remember there are some irregular past participles:

lire	lu
faire	fait
boire	bu

There are also 14 verbs of motion and all reflexive verbs that take 'être'.

The rule for these verbs is as in the above table but instead of 'avoir' use the correct form of 'être' and check that the past participle agrees with the subject (-, -e, -s, -es)

example: *I went* = je suis allé(e)
He arrived = il est arrivé
We got up = on s'est levé, nous nous sommes levé(s)

THE IMPERFECT TENSE – a reminder!

You will use this past tense mainly to **describe** what the journey/town/people, etc were like and to say what you used to do/did **regularly** – each day/in your free time/at weekends.

All you need to do to form this tense is:

- Look at the 'nous' form of the verb in the present tense.
- Remove the 'ons'
- Add the following endings –ais, -ais, -ait, -ions, -iez, -aient;

Example

Infinitive : aller Present tense : nous allons

Imperfect

je allais
tu allais
il/ell/on allait
nous allions
vous alliez
ils/ells allaient

One exception '**être**'

but it's not too complicated, use the stem **ét-** and then add the imperfect endings; j'étais, tu étais, il/elle/on était, nous étions, vous étiez, il/elles étaient

GRAMMAR QUIZ

1. Which of the following is incorrect?
 - a) J'ai passé deux semaines en France
 - b) L'an dernier nous avons passé un mois en France
 - c) Pendant les grandes vacances nous sommes allé en France
 - d) L'été dernier on est allé en France pour quatre semaines

2. Which of the following past participles would you use to complete this sentence ? Why?
Elles sont à dix heures du soir
 - a) arrivée
 - b) arrivé
 - c) arrivés
 - d) arrivées

3. Which of the following sentences is correct? Why are the others incorrect?
 - a) l'hôtel se trouvait en face d'une grande place
 - b) nous se promenions tous les jours
 - c) la chambre donnaient sur un lac
 - d) l'hôtel était situé en pleine ville

4. Which of the following past participles is incorrect ?

a) boire	bois	c) passer	passé
b) avoir	eu	d) faire	fait

Le passé composé ou l'imparfait?

Read each of the following statements and decide which tense you would use for each one. Explain your reasons why.

1. Yesterday I worked for 2 hours
2. last week, we left the house at 4am
3. she had blue eyes and brown hair
4. they were very cold
5. my friend Celine and I went to the cinema
6. It was a lovely day
7. On Saturday I went to town with my friends
8. Sorry I'm late, somebody stole my car!
9. She used to go swimming every day when she was a child
10. You travelled by car to France last year, didn't you?

EXTRA VERB PRACTICE

For some extra practice here are some verb phrases, in their infinitive form, which you will be able to use in your writing.

Practice putting them into the imperfect or perfect tenses

passer une semaine en France	<i>to spend a week in France</i>
*avoir de la chance de passer...	<i>to be lucky to spend...</i>
**aller en France	<i>to go to France</i>
*faire un voyage/un échange scolaire	<i>to go on a trip/school exchange</i>
*prendre le train/l'avion/l'Eurostar	<i>to take the train/plane/Eurostar</i>
quitter Dornoch	<i>to leave Dornoch</i>
loger dans une auberge de jeunesse	<i>to stay in a youth hostel</i>
*faire du camping	<i>to go camping</i>
partager une chambre	<i>to share a room</i>
**se trouver à...	<i>to be situated at...</i>
*prendre les repas/le dîner	<i>to have meals/dinner</i>
visiter les monuments	<i>to visit monuments</i>
*faire des excursions	<i>to go on excursions</i>
*faire du shopping/les courses	<i>to go shopping/food shopping</i>
acheter des cadeaux/des souvenirs	<i>to buy presents/souvenirs</i>
*faire du lèche-vitrine	<i>to go window shopping</i>
profiter du beau temps	<i>to take advantage of the good weather</i>
*faire une promenade en bateau mouche	<i>to go for a trip on a pleasure boat</i>
**aller au restaurant	<i>to go to a restaurant</i>
passer une journée à la plage	<i>to spend a day on the beach</i>
*prendre un verre sur la terrasse	<i>to have a drink on the terrace</i>
**se baigner	<i>to go swimming</i>
nager	<i>to swim</i>
jouer au volley, etc	<i>to play volley ball, etc</i>
*lire	<i>to read</i>
bronzer	<i>to sunbathe</i>
*faire du ski/de la natation, etc.	<i>to go skiing/swimming, etc</i>
**bien s'amuser	<i>to really enjoy oneself</i>
**s'ennuyer (à mourir)	<i>to be bored (to death)</i>
**se coucher tôt/tard	<i>to go to bed early/late</i>
**se lever de bonne heure	<i>to get up early</i>
*apprendre une langue	<i>to learn a language</i>
*voir un nouveau pays	<i>to see a new country</i>

* = irregular past participle

** = takes the verb être

ADJECTIVES AND OPINIONS

Read about these 4 people describing their journey and their accommodation.

Then go through each one and highlight as many **adjectives** as you can for each one.

Then underline all the **opinions**.

1. L'été dernier je suis allé en Bretagne dans le nord de la France avec l'école. Nous avons pris le car jusqu'à Douvres et puis le ferry jusqu'à Calais. Ensuite le car nous a amené jusqu'à notre destination en Bretagne. Le voyage était très long et ennuyeux et dans le ferry j'ai été très malade. C'était vraiment affreux. Une fois arrivés, nous sommes allés à l'auberge de jeunesse qui se trouvait dans un petit village. Elle était vieille mais vraiment jolie. En plus je devais partager la chambre avec mon meilleur ami. C'était génial et on s'est bien amusé.

2. Pendant les vacances de Pâques, j'ai eu la chance de trouver un travail dans un hôtel à Paris en France. J'ai pris l'avion à l'aéroport de Glasgow le samedi matin et je suis arrivé à Paris à midi. Le voyage était super pour aller dans le seizième arrondissement où se trouvait mon hôtel. Le métro n'était pas cher mais il était très sale. J'avais un peu peur. L'hôtel, par contre, était très propre et moderne, il était vraiment pratique car il se trouvait à cinq minutes de la Tour Eiffel. C'était super. J'avais ma propre chambre qui était vraiment grande et très bien équipée. Je me suis senti tout de suite à l'aise.

3. Il y a un an, pendant les vacances de Noël, j'ai participé à un échange scolaire. Nous sommes allés à Grenoble dans les Alpes pour une semaine et c'était vraiment magnifique. On est parti de Glasgow en train le dimanche matin pour arriver à Grenoble le lundi à midi. Le voyage était ennuyeux car c'était très long et il faisait froid dans les wagons. À la gare de Grenoble les familles d'accueil nous attendaient pour nous amener chez elles. C'était très sympa de leur part. La maison de ma famille d'accueil était super. C'était comme un chalet suisse et il y avait une belle vue sur les Alpes. C'était très joli. La maison était spacieuse et moderne et j'avais même une chambre à moi.

4. Pendant les grandes vacances je suis allée en Provence, en France avec l'école. Nous étions vingt élèves et trois professeurs. Nous avons quitté Glasgow en car à une heure du matin et puis nous avons pris l'Eurostar pour arriver en France le lendemain à deux heures de l'après-midi. Ensuite on a continué notre voyage en car jusqu'à notre destination en Provence. Le voyage était très pratique aussi. Nous avons logé dans une auberge de jeunesse en Provence qui se trouvait en pleine campagne. L'auberge était très vieille et assez sale. En plus les chambres étaient très petites et peu confortables. On n'était pas très content de notre logement.

Remember that you can use or adapt any of the above texts for your own Directed Writing piece.

WORK EXPERIENCE TRUE OR FALSE?

READ THE FOLLOWING EXTRACTS AND THEN ANSWER THE TRUE/FALSE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW.

Stéphanie

L'an dernier j'ai travaillé comme serveuse dans un hôtel à Grenoble. J'étais responsable des commandes des clients et du service du déjeuner. Je me suis très bien entendue avec mes collègues. Ils étaient vraiment gentils et m'ont énormément aidé avec le travail et la langue, et par conséquent j'ai beaucoup amélioré mon français. La ville de Grenoble était très jolie avec beaucoup de cafés où on buvait un verre après le travail.

Christophe

L'été dernier je suis allé en France où j'ai passé deux semaines chez mon correspondant. Sa maison n'était pas très grande alors je n'avais pas ma propre chambre. Sa famille était très accueillante et on a fait beaucoup de choses ensemble. Comme la ville n'était ni très jolie ni très grande, on faisait beaucoup d'excursions dans les environs et une fois on est allé à Paris.

Thomas

Le mois de mai dernier j'ai participé à un échange scolaire avec l'école. Nous sommes allés en France pendant deux semaines. L'école en France n'était pas aussi grande que mon école en Ecosse et elle était très vieille aussi. La famille d'accueil était super accueillante et vraiment gentille et je me suis senti vraiment comme chez moi. Le seul inconvénient était qu'il n'y avait pas grand chose à faire dans la ville mais on s'est bien amusé quand même.

True or False ?

1. Stephanie worked as a chamber maid.
She did not get on with her colleagues.
She really improved her French.
She and her colleagues went to coffee shops before going to work.
2. Christophe went to France with his friends.
He had his own room.
He thought the family was really welcoming.
He thought the town was quite big and pretty.
3. Thomas went on a school exchange.
He found the school smaller and more modern than his school.
He found that the people were very friendly and kind.
He thought that there was a lot to do in the town.

Remember that you can use or adapt any of the above texts for your own Directed Writing piece.

TRANSLATION EXERCISES

Points 1 and 2

1. L'été dernier, j'ai eu la chance de passer deux semaines en France, c'était un voyage d'études.
2. Pendant les vacances de Pâques je suis allé à Lyon en France toute seule.
3. L'année dernière, pendant les grandes vacances, je suis allé à Perpignan dans le sud-ouest de la France.
4. L'an dernier au mois de décembre, un de mes amis et moi, nous sommes allés à Grenoble dans les Alpes.
5. L'an dernier on a participé à un échange scolaire, on a passé deux semaines extraordinaires à Nîmes en Provence.
6. Il y avait vingt élèves dans le groupe et deux professeurs de Français nous accompagnaient.
7. Nous sommes partis en train de Glasgow très tôt le samedi matin et sommes arrivés en France le dimanche après-midi.
8. On a quitté Glasgow le lundi après-midi à bord d'un avion qui nous a amenés jusqu'à Paris.
9. Les professeurs ont organisé des quiz dans le car donc on s'est bien amusé pendant le voyage.
10. On a passé deux semaines dans une auberge qui se trouvait dans le 7ème arrondissement près du Quartier Latin.
11. La maison de mon correspondant était située à côté des Champs Elysées, c'était génial !
12. On a logé dans un hôtel qui donnait sur de hautes montagnes couvertes de neige.
13. Nous avons campé dans un petit village provençal à une demi-heure d'un lac où on se baignait tous les jours.

Points 3 and 4

14. Il y avait beaucoup de magasins dans la ville où j'ai acheté beaucoup de cadeaux pour ma famille.
15. J'étais responsable du nettoyage des chambres des clients et du service du petit déjeuner.
16. Je devais mettre les tables et accueillir les clients en arrivant. À la fin du service je débarrassais les tables.
17. De temps en temps je traduais pour les clients qui ne parlaient pas français.
18. Tout le monde était très accueillant et je me suis vraiment senti(e) à l'aise.
19. Mes collègues étaient tous très gentils et m'ont beaucoup aidé(e) dans mon travail.
20. Comme Paris est une grande ville animée, il y a énormément de choses à faire et à voir. On a fait des belles promenades le long de la Seine et puis on a visité les monuments historiques.
21. Après avoir passé une journée fatigante on sortait au restaurant pour manger les spécialités de cette région.
22. On s'est baigné dans la mer qui était un peu froide parfois.
23. On mangeait dans de bons restaurants français où on a pu déguster de la cuisine française.
24. Il a fait super beau pendant tout le séjour. C'était génial.

Points 5 and 6

25. C'était vraiment une expérience inoubliable.
26. À mon avis la ville était laide et on s'est vraiment ennuyé.
27. Il n'y avait pas grand chose à faire ni à voir.
28. J'aimerais beaucoup refaire un voyage semblable plus tard parce que je pense que ce genre de voyage est un bon moyen d'apprendre une langue.
29. J'aimerais bien retourner en France pour améliorer mon français.

AN EXAMPLE OF A VERY GOOD DIRECTED WRITING ESSAY

Your area is twinned with a partner town in France. You and a group from your school/college have been selected to be part of an exchange visit to the French town.

On your return from the visit, you have been asked to write an account of your experiences **in French** for inclusion in the foreign language section of your school/college magazine.

You must include the following information and **you should try to add** other relevant details:

- when you went and where you stayed
- who travelled with you and what the journey was like
- what was organized for you as part of the visit
- how you spent your freetime
- what you liked and/or disliked about the visit
- how you think the exchange will benefit you and your school/college.

Replace the infinitives with the verbs in the correct tense, remember that;
sometimes you won't have to change from the infinitive
some tenses have more than one verb

je fais mes devoirs	<i>I do my homework</i>
j' ai fait mes devoirs	<i>I did my homework</i>
je faisais mes devoirs	<i>I used to do/was doing my homework</i>
je vais faire mes devoirs	<i>I'm going to do my homework</i>
je ferai mes devoirs	<i>I will do my homework</i>
après avoir fait mes devoirs	<i>After having done my homework</i>

L'année dernière, pendant les grandes vacances je ^{1.}..... (partir) en groupe scolaire à Lyon. Il y ^{2.}..... (avoir) quinze élèves et deux professeurs dans notre groupe.

Nous ^{3.}..... (voyager) en avion, mais le voyage n'^{4.}..... (être) pas très intéressant donc je ^{5.}..... (m'endormir)!

Je ^{6.}..... (rester) une semaine chez une élève d'autre école, qui ^{7.}..... (s'appeler) Léa. Heureusement que je ^{8.}..... (m'entendre bien) avec la famille de Léa parce que je ^{9.}..... (devoir partager) une chambre avec sa sœur.

Nous ^{10.}..... (passer) cinq jours au collège français. Un jour nous ^{11.}..... (visiter) tous les monuments – c'^{12.}..... (être) très ennuyeux ! Les statues ^{13.}..... (ne pas m'intéresser) – c'est une perte de temps, surtout à mon âge.

Pendant mes temps libres je ^{14.}..... (faire) les magasins, mais ^{15.}..... (dépenser) trop d'argent ! Ce qui ^{16.}..... (me plaire) énormément ^{17.}..... (être) le fait qu'il ^{18.}..... (faire) beau presque tous les jours donc je ^{19.}..... (me bronzer)!

Dans l'ensemble, c'^{20.}..... (être) un voyage mémorable et je ^{21.}..... (croire) qu'il ^{22.}..... (s'aider) à ^{23.}..... (faire) des progrès en français. Je ^{24.}..... (penser) que mon collègue ^{25.}..... (organiser) plusieurs échanges à l'avenir.

TRANSLATE INTO FRENCH

- 1 Last year I went to the south of France.
- 2 I went with a group of friends from school.
- 3 We went by plane/train/coach.
- 4 The journey lasted 3 hours.
- 5 I spent the time reading.
- 6 To pass the time I read my book/listened to music/watched a film on the TV.
- 7 The journey was long and boring.
- 8 We stayed in a small hotel on the outskirts of Barcelona.
- 9 We stayed in a youth hostel beside the sea.
- 10 We stayed in a nice flat in the town centre.
- 11 Every day I went into town/went to the beach.
- 12 Every day we did the shopping/bought bread.
- 13 One day I went on a trip to the market.
- 14 One morning I visited the museum.
- 15 One afternoon I went to the beach.
- 16 One night we went out to a restaurant.
- 17 One night I went to the pictures.
- 18 I got on well with the teachers.
- 19 Most of the time I got on well with the family.
- 20 Now and again we argued.

During the holidays I went to Dijon in France. I took the plane and the boat and I spent my time reading. I spent a week with my pen pal. There were 4 people in the family. She lived in a big house and I shared a room with Christine. I got on really well the family. Her mother was very nice.

I really enjoyed myself in Dijon but I missed my family. One day I went shopping and I got lost in the town. We often went sight-seeing and I usually went to bed around midnight. I did not like the food in France but the family was very nice. I'd like to go back to Dijon. The weather was marvellous and I really made the most of my stay.

NOW YOU ARE ABOUT READY TO TRY YOUR HAND AT DIRECTED WRITING SO HERE'S SOME SOUND ADVICE FROM THOSE IN THE KNOW.

ADVICE TO CANDIDATES

- Read through the whole scenario carefully. Follow the instructions and directions that you have been given. Always mention the name of the country, even though it may seem obvious to you and make reference to each and every part of each bullet point. Some bullet points may require you to give more than one piece of information.
- Tick off each bullet point once you have written down the appropriate information. You may find that in the first two bullet points you are able to include all the relevant information in just a couple of lines.
- Always refer back to the scenario in the introduction. It is important that you give the correct information, e.g. if it is specified that you went to France last summer for two weeks, you must convey this information exactly, or if it states that you travelled by bus and ferry, you must not write that you went by train through the Eurotunnel.
- Remember too that you are encouraged to give any other relevant details. This is your opportunity to show off the French you know and to incorporate any relevant expressions you have learned during the year.
- Restrict your use of a dictionary to looking up key words required to convey the message in any of the bullet points or in the scenario, e.g., a choir, a restaurant, a concert, to go camping, etc., and for checking the spellings and genders of what you have already written.
- Read through your piece of writing once you have finished and check
 - have you covered all bullet points?
 - structure, e.g. have you written in paragraphs?
 - agreements, e.g., *une grande maison*,
 - verb tenses, e.g., *je suis allée*
 - all genders, e.g. *le / la gîte*.
 - and finally does it make sense?If you have time read through the scenario again and make sure that you have included all the appropriate information.
- There is no advantage in exceeding the word limit. Provided you have included all points accurately, credit will be given.
- Time yourself. Make sure you can complete the task in 40 minutes.

THE MARKING SCHEME

You are awarded a pegged mark out of 15 for this paper.

Very good	15/15
Good	12/15
Satisfactory	9/15
Unsatisfactory	6/15
Poor	3/15
Very Poor	0/15

For every bullet point omitted, 2 raw marks will be deducted.

i.e. a 'good' piece of writing (12/15) with one bullet point missing will receive a final score of 10/15

If 3 or more bullet points are missing no marks will be awarded.

To score highly in this paper you need to demonstrate a high level of accuracy, communicate clearly throughout and include all the information that is required. My advice is to practise writing as many different scenarios as possible during the year, paying close attention to the mistakes that you are making so that they do not recur in a subsequent piece of writing. On the day of the examination include all the bullet points, but write only what you know to be correct.

Directed Writing 1

Last summer you worked in France for two months before going to university. Towards the end of your stay you met a young French person who was considering finding a summer job in Britain.

On your return, you write to him / her, **in French**, to tell him / her of your experiences.

You must include the following information and **you should try to add** other relevant details:

- where you stayed in France and for how long
- where you worked and what you thought of the job
- the hours you worked and how you got on with the boss
- how you spent your free time
- any aspects of your stay you did not enjoy
- whether you would recommend working abroad

Your account should be 150-180 words in length.

Directed Writing 2

Last Easter you spent a fortnight with your pen friend in France. You travelled there by train and by boat. You spent one week at his / her home. During this time you met all of his / her friends. The second week you went camping with your pen friend and his / her family.

Now you have been asked to write an account of your experiences **in French** for inclusion in the foreign language section of your school / college magazine.

You must include the following information and **you should try to add** other relevant details.

- how you travelled to France and what you did during the journey.
- Who was in his / her family and how you got on with them
- what your pen friend's home was like
- what you did with your pen friend the first week
- whether you enjoyed the camping trip
- whether you would go back to stay with them again.

Your account should be 150-180 words in length.

Directed Writing 3

Last June a group of French pupils / students came to your school / college on an exchange trip for 10 days. One of them stayed with you. The French students spent one day in your school / college.

You have been chosen to write a report of the trip, **in French**, to send to the exchange school / college.

You must include the following information and **you should try to add** other relevant details.

- who stayed with you and for how long
- what the French person thought of your home
- what he / she thought of your school / college
- what else you did together during his / her stay
- what he / she disliked about Scotland
- whether you plan to visit him / her in France.

Your account should be 150-180 words in length.

Directed Writing 4

Last summer a French choir came to stay and to perform in your town for 3 days. Your family offered to host two of the choir members. As you are the only French speaker in the family, you agreed to help out, to go with them to some concerts in the evening and to show them the sights in your town in the afternoon.

You have been asked by the choirmaster to write a report, **in French**, for his community magazine.

You must include the following information and **you should try to add** other relevant details.

- who exactly came to stay and for how long
- what they thought of the Scottish food
- what you did with them in the afternoons
- what you thought of their concerts
- if you enjoyed their stay
- whether you would play host again

Your account should be 150-180 words in length.

Directed Writing 5

Last October you went on a school trip to Paris for five days. You travelled by bus and overnight ferry with six teachers and 47 of your classmates. You stayed in a youth hostel in the centre of the city. One day you went on an excursion to the town of Chartres to visit the cathedral.

On your return you are asked to write a report of your trip, **in French**, for inclusion in the school magazine.

You must include the following information and **you should try to add** other relevant details.

- who went on the trip and how long you were away
- how you travelled and what you did during the journey
- where you stayed and what you thought of the accommodation
- what you did during your stay
- how you got on with your friends and teachers
- whether you would go on a school trip in the future

Your account should be 150-180 words in length.

Directed Writing 6

Last year you went to Canada to study in a French-speaking school / college. You shared a flat in Montréal with three other students. You attended school every day and at the weekends and holidays you went travelling with your flatmates.

On your return you are asked to write a report, **in French**, of your year abroad for the Canadian school magazine.

You must include the following information and **you should try to add** other relevant details.

- where you stayed and with whom you shared
- which subjects you studied
- how this school compares with your own school / college
- how you organised the cooking and the housework in your flat
- what you did at weekends and during the holidays
- if you would recommend a year abroad to prospective students

Your account should be 150-180 words in length.

Directed Writing 7

Last summer you went on a family holiday. Your family rented a gîte in the south of France and you spent three weeks there. During your stay you met others of the same age and spent some time with them. During the day you went to the beach with your family or went shopping, and in the evening you went out with your friends.

Now you have been asked to write about your experiences, **in French**, for your French class.

You must include the following information and **you should try to add** other relevant details.

- with whom you went and how long you stayed
- where you stayed and what you thought of the accommodation
- what you did to help your family with the housework
- what you did during your stay
- what you did with your friends in the evening
- whether you would like to go on holiday with your family again

Your account should be 150-180 words in length.

Directed Writing 8

Last winter you went on a school skiing trip to Val d'Isère in the French Alps for a week. You flew to Lyon and then took a coach to your 3-star hotel. You travelled with 19 other pupils and 4 teachers. You went skiing during the day, although the weather was bad. In the evening you went out with your friends in the village.

On your return, you are asked to write about the trip, **in French**, for your school magazine.

You must include the following information and **you should try to add** other relevant details.

- where exactly you went and who went with you
- where you stayed and with whom you shared a room
- what the weather was like
- what you did during your stay
- how you spent the evenings
- if you would recommend a school skiing trip to other pupils

Your account should be 150-180 words in length.

Directed Writing 9

Last Easter you travelled alone to France to visit a Scottish friend who was studying at Rennes University. You flew to Paris and then took the train to the city of Rennes. Your friend was ill while you were there and you had to go sightseeing on your own. On your return journey your flight was delayed for four hours.

Now you are writing to a French friend, **in French**, to tell him / her about your trip.

You must include the following information and **you should try to add** other relevant details.

- why you went to France and how you travelled
- what sightseeing you did during your stay in Rennes
- what you did to help your friend
- if you enjoyed spending so much time on your own
- what you did at the airport on your return journey
- what you learned from the whole experience

Your account should be 150-180 words in length.

Directed Writing 10

Last Christmas you and a friend organised a party for a group of Belgian pupils / students who had been on an exchange trip to your school. It was the last night of the Belgian's stay in Scotland.

You are asked to write a report about the evening, **in French**, for the school magazine.

You must include the following information and **you should try to add** other relevant details.

- where the party took place and how many people you invited
- what you and your friend did to organise it
- what you wore to the party
- how the evening went
- if you and your friend enjoyed the party
- what you did to tidy up after the party was over

Your account should be 150-180 words in length.

DIRECTED WRITING PHRASES

Each of the following phrases relates directly to the bullet points in the Directed Writing tasks in this book. If you are having difficulty in expressing the message required in one of the bullet points, you will find an example of an appropriate phrase under the following headings:

- expressing when you went
- expressing where you went and with whom / who came to stay
- expressing how you travelled
- expressing what you did during the journey
- expressing how long you stayed
- expressing where you stayed
- describing your accommodation
- expressing how you got on with people
- giving your general opinion of your stay
- expressing what you did (on one occasion)
- expressing what you did (on more than one occasion)
- expressing likes and dislikes
- suggesting whether or not you would repeat the experience
- giving a reason for your opinion
- describing the job you did
- describing the weather

These phrases are not a substitute for learning the grammar rules, but they will provide emergency help for anyone who is working alone on these papers. Of course, once you use any of the phrases you need to learn it so that if you are required to write something similar in the future, you will know the expression.

In the initial stages of Directed Writing, you may need to refer to many of these pages and integrate them into your own French. As the Higher year progresses, however, and you learn many of the expressions and become more confident in French, you should become less dependant on this section of the book.

DIRECTED WRITING PHRASES

The following phrases relate directly to the Directed Writing topics in this book and should help you to write your essay.

Points 1 and 2

Expressing when you went

l'été/l'hiver dernier	<i>last summer/winter</i>
l'année dernière / l'an dernier	<i>last year</i>
l'an dernier au mois d'août	<i>in the month of August last year</i>
en juin dernier	<i>last June</i>
à Noël/à Pâques dernier	<i>last Christmas/Easter</i>
pendant les vacances de Noël / Pâques	<i>during the Christmas / Easter holidays</i>
pendant les grandes vacances	<i>during the summer holidays</i>
il y a deux ans	<i>two years ago</i>
il y a quelque mois	<i>a few months ago</i>
en été/automne/hiver	<i>in the summer/autumn/winter</i>
au printemps	<i>in the spring</i>
au début de septembre	<i>at the beginning of September</i>
à la fin d'août	<i>at the end of August</i>
pendant le trimestre scolaire	<i>in term-time</i>

Expressing where you went

je suis allé(e) en France	<i>I went to France</i>
on est allé(e) au Canada	<i>we went to Canada</i>
nous sommes allé(e)s à Lyon	<i>we went to Lyon</i>
je suis resté(e) dans un petit village	<i>I stayed in a small village</i>
dans le nord de la France	<i>in the north of France</i>
nous avons loué un gîte dans le Midi	<i>we rented a gîte in the south of France</i>
on est allé(e)s faire du ski dans les Alpes	<i>we went skiing in the Alps</i>

Expressing how long you stayed

nous sommes allés pour quelques jours	<i>we went for a few days</i>
j'ai passé une semaine à Paris	<i>I spent one week in Paris</i>
j'ai passé deux semaines extraordinaires	<i>I spent two amazing weeks</i>
nous avons passé une quinzaine inoubliable	<i>we spent a memorable fortnight</i>
on a passé quinze jours en France	<i>we spent a fortnight in France</i>
j'ai travaillé pendant deux mois en France	<i>I worked for two months in France</i>
je suis resté(e) quinze jours chez...	<i>I stayed a fortnight with ...</i>
mon correspondant / ma correspondante	<i>my pen friend</i>

Expressing who you went with / who came to stay

c'était un voyage d'études	<i>it was a school trip</i>
j'ai participé à un échange scolaire	<i>I took part in a school exchange</i>
douze jeunes sont venu(e)s dans notre école en échange scolaire	<i>12 young people came to our school on an exchange trip</i>
je suis parti(e) en famille	<i>I went away with my family</i>
je suis parti(e) avec un groupe scolaire	<i>I went away on a school trip</i>
je suis allé(e) tout(e) seul(e)	<i>I went on my own</i>
il y avait vingt personnes dans le groupe	<i>there were 20 people in the group</i>
nous étions une dizaine	<i>there were around 10 of us</i>
deux professeurs nous ont accompagnés	<i>2 teachers went with us</i>
une fille est restée chez moi	<i>a girl stayed with me</i>

Expressing how you travelled and what you thought of the trip

tout d'abord	<i>first of all</i>
puis	<i>then</i>
ensuite	<i>then</i>
on a voyagé par le train / en car	<i>we travelled by train / by coach</i>
on a pris le ferry de Douvres à Calais	<i>we took the ferry from Dover to Calais</i>
on est quitté Dornoch	<i>we left Dornoch</i>
on est parti dans un car	<i>we left by coach</i>
nous sommes partis en train d'Inverness le samedi matin	<i>we left Inverness by train on Saturday morning</i>
nous avons pris l'avion	<i>we took the plane</i>
nous avons voyagé par l'Eurotunnel	<i>we went through the Eurotunnel</i>
j'ai pris l'avion et le bateau qui nous a amenés jusqu'à Paris	<i>I took the plane and the boat that brought us to Paris</i>
le voyage était assez long et ennuyeux	<i>the journey was quite long and boring</i>
J'avais peur dans le ferry	<i>I was scared on the ferry</i>
la mer était très agitée	<i>the sea was choppy</i>
le voyage a passé très vite	<i>the journey went by quickly</i>
on s'est bien amusé pendant le voyage	<i>we had fun during the journey</i>

Expressing what you did during the journey

pour passer le temps...	<i>in order to pass the time...</i>
on a regardé un film dans l'avion	<i>we watched a film on the plane</i>
pendant le voyage je me suis endormi(e)	<i>during the journey I fell asleep</i>
j'ai parlé à d'autres voyageurs	<i>I talked to other travellers</i>

j'ai regardé par la fenêtre
j'ai passé mon temps à lire

*I looked out of the window
I spent my time reading*

Expressing where you stayed

on a logé dans un hôtel trois étoiles
l'hôtel se trouvait dans une station de ski
on est restés dans une auberge de jeunesse
je suis resté(e) dans une famille française
je suis allé(e) chez mon (ma) correspondant(e)
il y avait quatre personnes dans la famille
on a fait du camping en pleine campagne
l'hôtel donnait sur la Seine
l'hôtel se trouvait à cinquante mètres de la
plage/ à cinq minutes de la Tour Eiffel.

*we stayed in a 3-star hotel
the hotel was in a ski resort
we stayed in a youth hostel
I stayed with a French family
I went to my penfriend's house
there were four people in the family
we went camping out in the country
the hotel was overlooking the Seine
the hotel was 50 metres from the beach/
5 minutes from the Eiffel tower*

Describing your accommodation

il / elle habitait une grande maison
la maison de mon correspondant était...
l'hôtel était moche
l'appartement était tout petit
...grand(e)/petit(e)
...moderne
...vieux/vielle
...confortable/peu confortable
...spacieux/spacieuse
...joli(e)/laid(e)
...bien décoré(e)/de mauvais goût
...propre/sale
...beau/belle
j'ai partagé une chambre avec
j'avais la chance d'avoir ma propre chambre
je me suis vraiment senti(e) comme chez moi

*he / she lived in a big house
my penpal's house was...
the hotel was ugly
the flat was tiny
...big/small
...modern
...old
...comfortable/uncomfortable
...spacious
...pretty/ugly
...well decorated/bad taste
...clean/dirty
...beautiful
I shared a room with
I was lucky to get my own room
I really felt at home.*

Points 3 and 4

Describing the job you did

j'ai travaillé comme femme/valet de chambre
plongeur/plongeuse
serveur/serveuse
réceptionniste

*I worked as a chamber maid
dishwasher
waiter/waitress
receptionist*

le travail était facile / difficile
j'ai dû travailler dur
je devais (+infinitive)
...nettoyer les chambres des clients
...prendre les commandes des clients
...accueillir les clients

*the work was easy / hard
I had to work hard
I had to...
...clean the customer's rooms
...take customer's orders
...welcome clients*

Describing the weather

il faisait un temps splendide
il neigeait tous les matins
il faisait beau la plupart du temps
le soir il y avait de l'orage

*the weather was marvellous
it snowed every morning
the weather was nice most of the time
it was stormy in the evening*

Expressing how you got on with people

je me suis très bien entendu(e) avec...
la famille / mon patron / ses copains / copines
je ne me suis pas très bien entendu(e) avec...
je me suis fait des amis
mon chef était très sympa

*I got on really well with...
the family / my boss / his/her friends
I did not get on very well with...
I made friends
my boss was very nice*

Giving your general opinion of your stay

je me suis beaucoup amusé(e)
on s'est bien amusés
je me suis un peu ennuyé(e)
j'avais le mal du pays
ma famille m'a manqué
je me suis fait beaucoup d'ami(e)s
le travail était mal payé

*I really enjoyed myself
we had great fun
I got a bit bored
I felt homesick
I missed my family
I made lots of friends
the job was badly paid*

Expressing what you did (on one occasion)

un jour j'ai fait les magasins
nous avons décidé d'organiser une fête
un soir on est allé(e)s en boîte de nuit
un matin je suis allé(e) en ville
je me suis perdu(e) en ville
le premier jour il / elle est venu(e) à mon école
on a fait des sports aquatiques tels que la voile
une fois j'ai pris des escargots en entrée

*one day I went shopping
we decided to organise a party
we went clubbing one night
one morning I went into town
I got lost in the town
the first day he / she came to my school
we did water sports such as sailing
I tried snails as a starter once*

Expressing what you did (on more than one occasion)

j'allais souvent dans les cafés	<i>I often went to cafés</i>
je me couchais vers minuit d'habitude	<i>I usually went to bed around midnight</i>
il invitait souvent des amis à la maison	<i>he often invited friends over</i>
tous les soirs on mangeait à l'auberge de jeunesse	<i>every evening we ate in the youth hostel</i>
dans l'après-midi je me suis reposais	<i>in the afternoon I relaxed</i>
tous les matins je commençais mon travail à	<i>every morning I started my work at</i>
le matin je me bronçais sur la plage	<i>in the morning I sunbathed on the beach</i>
on sortait manger ensemble	<i>we went out for a meal together</i>
on faisait souvent du tourisme	<i>we often went out touring / sightseeing</i>
le week-end on visitait les monuments	<i>at the weekend we visited all the sights</i>
je nettoyais l'appartement	<i>I cleaned the flat</i>
chaque matin je passais l'aspirateur	<i>every morning I did the vacuum cleaning</i>
le soir j'aidais ma mère à préparer les repas	<i>in the evening I helped my mother prepare the meals</i>

Expressing likes and dislikes

je n'ai pas aimé la nourriture	<i>I did not like the food</i>
la nourriture était délicieuse/dégoûtante/trop riche/meilleure que la cuisine britannique	<i>the food was delicious/disgusting/too rich/better than British food</i>
on a très bien mangé	<i>the food was very good</i>
la famille était très gentille et accueillante	<i>the family was very nice and welcoming</i>
le travail était stressant	<i>the work was stressful</i>
il / elle a beaucoup aimé la nourriture écossaise	<i>he / she really like my school</i>
ma maison lui plaisait beaucoup	<i>he / she did not like Scottish food</i>
	<i>he / she really liked my house</i>

Points 5 and 6

Time phrases (future)

dans le futur	<i>in the future</i>
à l'avenir	<i>in the future</i>
après mes examens	<i>after my exams</i>
après avoir passé mes examens	<i>after having sat my exams</i>
quand j'aurai 18 ans	<i>when I am 18</i>
lorsque je serai étudiant(e) à l'université	<i>when I am a university student</i>
dans quelques mois/années	<i>in a few months'/years' time</i>

Suggesting whether or not you would repeat the experience

toutes choses considérées
ayant pesé le pour et le contre
je pense que/je suis d'avis que/je crois que/ je
dirais que
j'ai beaucoup amélioré mon français
ce genre de voyage est un bon moyen de
rencontre des gens d'autres cultures
j'aimerais retourner à Paris
je n'aimerais pas retourner à Lyon
je préférerais aller seul(e) ou avec des ami(e)s
je préférerais voyager en avion
je recommanderais un séjour à l'étranger
je n'y retournerais jamais
je ne repartirais jamais en famille
je préférerais ne pas inviter un(e) Français
chez moi
j'espère qu'il y aura d'autres voyages comme
celui-là parce que...

*all things considered
having weighed up the pros and cons
I think that/I'm of the opinion that/I think
that/I would say that
I really improved my French
this type of journey is a good way of
meeting people from other cultures
I'd like to go back to Paris
I would not like to go back to Lyon
I'd rather go on my own or with friends
I'd prefer to travel by plane
I'd recommend a spell abroad
I'd never go back there
I'd never go away again with my family
I'd prefer not to invite a French person to
my home
I hope that there will be other trips like
this one*

Giving a reason for your opinion

le voyage était trop long
je ne me suis pas bien entendu avec la famille/
les profs / mes camarades de classe
il faisait trop chaud pour moi
on n'avait rien en commun
les profs étaient trop sévères
j'ai dépensé trop d'argent
je me suis fait piquer par des moustiques
j'ai eu un coup de soleil
j'ai eu du mal à comprendre la langue
les Français parlent trop vite
du point de vue linguistique
j'ai beaucoup profité de mon séjour
la fête était un fiasco

*the journey was too long
I did not get on well with the family / the
teachers / my classmates
the weather was too hot for me
we didn't have anything in common
the teachers were too strict
I spent too much money
I was bitten by mosquitoes
I had sunburn
I had difficulty understanding the language
the French talk too fast
from a linguistic point of view
I really made the most of my stay
the party was a disaster*

COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID!

- Think about what you are writing, just because you have always used 'accompagnaient' in the plural form does not mean that this is the only form that exists, it may only be 1 teacher that accompanies you.
- **for** to express time.
Past - Use pendant rather than pour. e.g. *j'ai travaillé pendant six semaines.*
Future – Use pour
- **late**
tard = late at night
être en retard/avoir du retard = to be late
- **tout**
tout le temps all the time
tous les jours every day
toutes les semaines every week
- *le soir* = in the evening
l'après-midi = in the afternoon
- **Jobs**
do not use un or une to say what you did, *J'ai travaillé comme receptioniste*
- **J'ai dû** + infinitive
I had to + ... e.g. *j'ai dû parler en français.*
- **to and from**
to = à > *on a pris le bus jusqu'au camping.*
from = de
- **about**
environ use with *environ 15 élèves* = about 15 pupils
vers use with time, *vers minuit*
- **to stay**
j'ai logé dans un hotel = I stayed in a hotel
je suis resté dans un hotel = I remained in a hotel (and didn't go out)
- **Last year** *L'an dernier OR l'année dernière)*
- **A school group** un groupe scolaire (no h **Opinions** on your stay
use the past tense *j'ai beaucoup aimé* or *j'ai vraiment adoré*
- **reflexive verbs**
remember to make the past participle agree if you are using reflexive verbs or verbs which take être. *Je me suis bien amusé(e)* or *nous nous sommes couché(e)s.*
- **La famille** is a singular word in French
La famille avait une grande maison
- **with** + pronoun *avec moi, toi, lui (him), elle, nous, vous, eux (them)*