

Complete Guide to the DELF B1 Writing Test (2026)

DELF B1 writing exam guide. exercise types, evaluation criteria, and test-taking tips. Master personal expression in French within 45 minutes to succeed in the DELF B1 exam.

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1. Understanding the DELF B1 Writing Test

The writing test is a core part of the DELF B1 exam. It evaluates your ability to express yourself in French on various topics. Here's what you need to know:

Duration: 45 minutes

Task: One written production

Minimum length: 160 words

Objective: Express a personal opinion on a general topic

The test consists of writing a text on a given topic. It could be a letter, an email, an article, or a short essay. The topic is usually related to everyday life, professional, or educational situations.

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2. Sample Topic and Response

Here's a typical example of a topic you might encounter:

■ **Exercice**

160 mots minimum

25 points

Écrivez un e-mail à votre ami français à propos de votre récent changement d'emploi. Expliquez pourquoi vous avez changé de travail, décrivez vos nouvelles responsabilités et exprimez vos sentiments sur ce changement.

► English translation

Example response:

Cher Pierre,

J'espère que tu vas bien. J'ai une grande nouvelle à partager avec toi : j'ai changé de travail la semaine dernière !

J'ai décidé de faire ce changement car je cherchais de nouveaux défis professionnels. Mon ancien poste ne me permettait plus vraiment d'évoluer, et j'avais envie d'apprendre de nouvelles choses. De plus, le salaire proposé par cette nouvelle entreprise était plus intéressant.

Dans mon nouveau travail, je suis responsable de la gestion des projets internationaux. Je dois coordonner les équipes dans différents pays et m'assurer que les projets sont livrés à temps. C'est très stimulant et j'utilise beaucoup l'anglais maintenant. J'ai aussi l'occasion de voyager de temps en temps, ce qui me plaît énormément.

Je suis vraiment enthousiaste face à cette nouvelle opportunité. Bien sûr, c'est un peu stressant au début car il y a beaucoup à apprendre, mais je suis confiant que tout se passera bien. Je me sens motivé et prêt à relever ce nouveau défi !

Et toi, quoi de neuf dans ton travail ? J'aimerais beaucoup avoir de tes nouvelles.

À bientôt,
Thomas

Typical structure of a DELF B1 writing task

1. Introduction

Greet your friend and announce the main topic of your email.

2. Reasons for the change

Explain why you changed jobs.

3. New responsibilities

Describe your new tasks and responsibilities in your new position.

4. Feelings and reactions

Express your feelings about this professional change.

5. Conclusion

Ask for news from your friend and end the email appropriately.

3. Essential Writing Strategies for DELF B1

3.1 Analyzing the topic

■ Exercice

Écrivez un e-mail à votre ami français pour lui parler de votre nouveau travail. Décrivez vos responsabilités, expliquez ce que vous aimez et n'aimez pas, et invitez-le à vous rendre visite.

► English translation

Tip: Identify the key elements in the instructions:

Format: Email

Recipient: French friend

Main topic: New job

Points to address:

Responsibilities

What you like and dislike

Invitation to visit

This approach helps you structure your response and ensures you don't forget any important aspect of the instructions.

3.2 Structuring Your Response

■ Exercice

Écrivez un e-mail à votre ami français pour lui parler de votre nouveau travail. Décrivez vos responsabilités, expliquez ce que vous aimez et n'aimez pas, et invitez-le à vous rendre visite.

How to approach this task:

Format: Email with friendly greeting and appropriate conclusion

New job: Brief presentation of the position

Responsibilities: Details of main tasks

Personal opinion: Expression of positive and negative points

Invitation: Proposition for the friend to visit

Tip: Make sure to address all the requested points to maximize your score.

3.3 Mastering language registers

Adapt your language to the situation and recipient:

Friendly Register: For close friends or family.

Example: *"Salut Marie ! Ça fait un bail ! Quoi de neuf ?"*

Characteristics: Use of "tu", informal expressions, relaxed tone.

Semi-formal Register: For colleagues or less formal professional situations.

Example: *"Bonjour Thomas, J'espère que ce message vous trouve en forme. Je me permets de vous contacter au sujet de notre projet."*

Characteristics: Use of "vous", polite phrases, professional but not overly rigid tone.

Formal Register: For official situations or with strangers.

Example: *"Madame, Monsieur, Je vous prie de bien vouloir trouver ci-joint ma candidature pour le poste de..."*

Characteristics: Use of "vous", elaborate polite phrases, formal vocabulary.

3.4 Using simple logical connectors

Logical connectors structure your text and link your ideas:

To start: *D'abord, En premier lieu, Pour commencer*

To add ideas: *Ensuite, De plus, Également, Aussi*

To express opposition: *Mais, Cependant, Toutefois, En revanche*

To express cause: *Car, Parce que, Puisque, En effet*

To conclude: *Enfin, Pour conclure, En résumé, Finalement*

Example of use: *"D'abord, j'ai postulé pour ce travail car il correspondait à mes compétences. Ensuite, j'ai passé un entretien. Cependant, j'étais nerveux. Finalement, j'ai été accepté !"*

3.5 Managing Your Time Effectively

In the last few minutes:

Word count: Count quickly by underlining every tenth word

Proofreading: Check that you have answered all parts of the instructions

Correction: Fix obvious grammar and spelling errors

Key tip: Practice writing regularly with time constraints to improve your speed and efficiency.

4. Advanced Techniques to Enhance Your Writing

4.1 Developing your arguments

When expressing your opinion, it's important to support your ideas with concrete examples or personal experiences. This adds depth to your writing and demonstrates your ability to articulate thoughts clearly in French.

Example:

"Je pense que les réseaux sociaux ont un impact positif sur notre société. Par exemple, grâce à Facebook, j'ai pu retrouver un ami d'enfance que je n'avais pas vu depuis 15 ans. De plus, pendant la pandémie, Instagram m'a permis de rester en contact avec ma famille à l'étranger."

► English translation

4.2 Expanding Your Vocabulary

Using a range of vocabulary makes your writing more interesting and demonstrates your language proficiency. Here are some strategies:

Use synonyms

Incorporate idiomatic expressions

Employ descriptive adjectives

Example:

Instead of repeatedly saying "J'aime" (I like), you could use:

J'apprécie (I appreciate)

Je suis passionné(e) par (I'm passionate about)

Ça me plaît (It pleases me)

Je suis fan de (I'm a fan of)

Example:

Instead of repeatedly saying "Je n'aime pas" (I don't like), you could use:

Je ne supporte pas... (I can't stand...)

J'ai horreur de... (I detest...)

Je déteste... (I hate...)

Example:

Instead of repeatedly saying "Je veux" (I want), you could use:

J'espère que... (I hope that...)

J'ai envie de... (I feel like...)

Je rêve de... / Je caresse le rêve de... (I dream of...)

J'aspire à... (I aspire to...)

Example:

Instead of repeatedly saying "Je pense que" (I think that), you could use:

À mon avis,... (In my opinion,...)

Je crois que... / Je trouve que... (I believe that... / I find that...)

Je suis convaincu(e) que... (I'm convinced that...)

Je suis d'avis que... (I'm of the opinion that...)

To expand your French vocabulary specifically for the DELF B1 exam, we've compiled a comprehensive list of essential words and phrases. Check out our DELF B1 Vocabulary Guide to boost your language skills and feel more confident in your writing. You can also take our DELF B1 Vocabulary Quiz to test your knowledge and learn new words.

4.3 Mastering tenses

At B1 level, you should be comfortable using various tenses. Here's a quick guide:

Présent: For current actions or states

"Je travaille dans une entreprise internationale."

Passé composé: For completed actions in the past

"J'ai obtenu mon diplôme l'année dernière."

Imparfait: For describing past situations or habitual actions

"Quand j'étais étudiant, je travaillais à temps partiel."

Futur simple: For future actions or states

"Je commencerai mon nouveau travail le mois prochain."

4.4 Avoiding Common Pitfalls

Be careful not to fall into these common errors:

Ignoring part of the instructions

Writing less than 160 words

Using inappropriate language (too informal or too formal)

Forgetting to express your personal opinion

Neglecting proofreading and leaving obvious errors

Final tip: *The key to success lies in regular practice. Train yourself to write on various topics while respecting the time limit and required word count. With consistency, you'll improve your writing skills and be well-prepared for the DELF B1 exam.*

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Essential Vocabulary for DELF B1

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DELF B1 · Blank answer sheet

Your answer

160 words (minimum)

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