

Évaluez l'importance du milieu social dans l'œuvre que vous avez étudiée

Writing the essay-(edexcel) A2 French

It is really important to understand the way you are going to be assessed if you are going to score a high mark on the essay paper which carries about 35% of the marks in the paper for AQA.

Extract from Edexcel help with top mark from each set of criteria

Mark	A02 - Reading Research and Understanding
25 - 30	Very good to excellent understanding; clear evidence of extensive and in-depth reading and research.
Mark	A02 - Organisation and development
9	Very good organisation and development; material very effectively marshalled and developed within a carefully planned framework.
Mark	A03 - Quality of language
6	Very good communication; language almost always fluent, varied and appropriate; wide range of lexis and structures; high level of accuracy.

39 of the 45 marks go on “understanding and organisation” terms which cover the following:-

- Understanding and knowledge of the text
- Giving evidence of in-depth reading and research
- Having a well organised structure with ideas developed coherently

The **remaining 6 marks** go on three “Quality of language” sets of criteria-I give the top mark criteria only:-

- Wide range of vocabulary and structures(relevant, topic specific, variety)
- Complexity of language (wide range of complex structures used)
- Accuracy (highly accurate with only occasional errors)

An **absolutely crucial thing to bear in mind** is that your mark for these 3 Quality of Language categories **cannot be in a higher band than the content mark**. Therefore, if you rush into your essay, half answering the question and going off the subject, however good your language, you are going to score a pretty low mark overall! (See page 12 of the specification for the bands)

So how do you tackle the essay for which you have about an hour for planning and writing?

Point No 1 - The *word limit is 240-270 words*. It is tempting to write much more than this so it is important to learn how to get as many points in in as concise a manner as possible.

Point No 2 - Planning is vital- You will need to have

- *Introduction*-Say what you are going to say, briefly contextualising your answer and giving the name of the book you are talking about-the examiner will not necessarily have read it and cannot be expected to know relationships of characters etc.
- *3 or more distinct paragraphs* – Paragraphs should begin with a sentence which relates clearly to the title (explicitly or implicitly) , making an important point which is then evidenced in succeeding sentences.
- *Conclusion*-This should not add new points, simply summing up what you have already said. See the planning tool to get more detail on these points.

Point No 3-*Analysing the title.* It is most important that you answer the title set, rather than something vaguely similar you may have prepared in class or which you would like to write about. It is normal that you should consider the choice of titles carefully for some time before beginning your planning. If there are two aspects to the title you must include two or your content mark will drop considerably.

You will normally find the words *Evaluez* or *Analysez* in the title which means you must reason your point of view rather than just “telling the story”.

Point No 4 *Relevance.* To be relevant you are best constantly referring back to the key word or words in the title. This keeps your essay “anchored” to the title. If you find you can’t get the word or a close synonym in you are probably straying off the title!

Study the relevant sample essay to see how these points work in practice. If you have done an essay , check out each other’s version and see how it matches up and could be improved. Note that the key word(s) (and related words) from the title are highlighted in colour.

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En lisant *L'étranger* on est confronté à une **société diverse** où le sort de chacun peut dépendre de son milieu social et de la manière dont il est perçu par les autorités.



En tant que membre de **la classe ouvrière**, Meursault, le protagoniste du roman, a eu l'occasion de s'élever au rang de **la bourgeoisie** en poursuivant ses études. Pourtant, face d'ambition, il a abandonné ses études tertiaires pour travailler dans un bureau. Il rejette même l'offre de son patron qui lui proposait pourtant de représenter la compagnie à Paris. Meursault préfère rester dans son pays natal, ensoleillé, choisissant son entourage presque par hasard ce qui résulte en sa liaison malheureuse avec Raymond, son voisin, réputé pour être proxénète-**une couche de la société** criminelle.



La société algérienne de l'époque est traversée par **une classe de personnes** qui doivent leur éducation et leur religion à la France métropolitaine comme le directeur de l'asile qui affiche fièrement sa légion d'honneur. Les « arabes », c'est-à-dire les algériens de souche, ne valent presque rien dans une société où ils peuvent être assassinés plus ou moins impunément. En fait, après le meurtre de

l'arabe, on ne fait d'ailleurs presque plus allusion à la victime même au cours du procès où il s'agit plutôt du comportement de Meursault qui a refusé d'obéir aux conventions de **la classe dominante**.



Lors du procès tous les amis de Meursault **issus du quartier populaire** d'Alger sont traités avec condescendance ; le concierge et l'ami de la mère de Meursault qui servent de témoins font même rire la cour- **cette classe à part** qui détient le pouvoir de la vie ou la mort de ses citoyens.



La classe à laquelle on appartient dans l'Algérie des années trente a une importance primordiale.