MATURA WRITING TASKS

BIOGRAPHY

Level B2

Your goal at B2: Write an engaging biography with a strong opening, varied past tenses and time linkers, and vivid detail. Bring out turning points and convey the person's significance.

B2 · PHASE 1 – UPGRADE THE OPENING

A flat opening loses the reader. Rewrite each dull first line as an engaging opening.

1 This biography is about a famous scientist.
2 I am going to write about a singer.
3 There was a woman called Marie who was clever.
4 This person did many things in their life.
5 He was a person who played football.
6 She was born and then she became famous.

B2 · PHASE 2 – PRECISE VOCABULARY

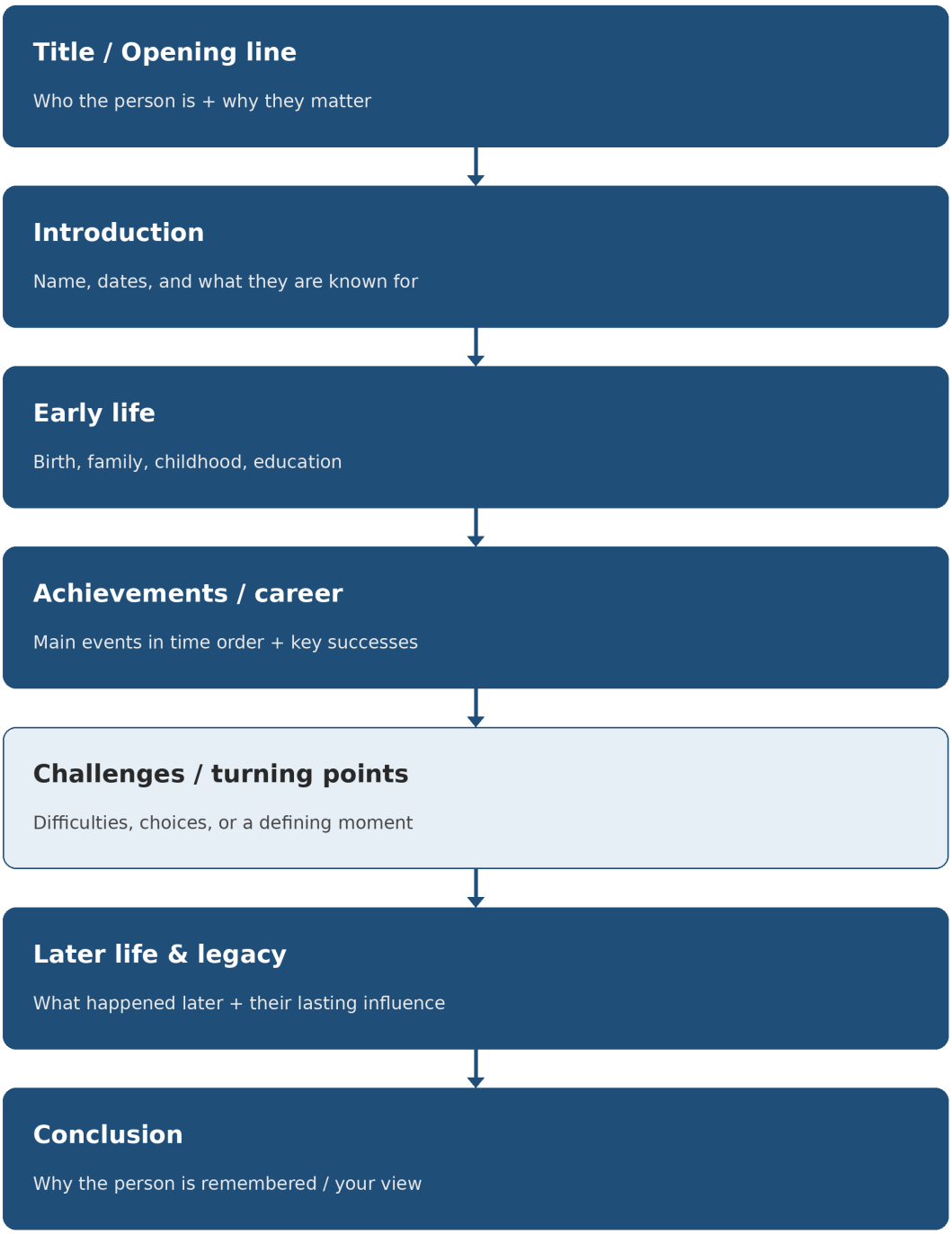
Replace the underlined word with a stronger, more precise alternative.

Weak	Stronger (your ideas)
She was very <u>clever</u>.	gifted / brilliant / …
He <u>did</u> many great things.	achieved / accomplished / …
It was a <u>big</u> success.	remarkable / landmark / …
She <u>got</u> a prize.	was awarded / received / …
He was <u>famous</u>.	renowned / celebrated / …

B2 · THE STRUCTURE YOU ARE BUILDING TOWARDS

Study this plan before you start. A biography tells the story of a real person's life in time order, using past tenses and time linkers, and shows why the person matters. Every task in this booklet helps you build one part of it.

A BIOGRAPHY — STRUCTURE



B2 · PHASE 3 – NARRATIVE TENSES

Biographies mix tenses to show sequence. Complete each sentence using the tense in brackets.

1. By the time she was twenty, she _____ (already achieve – past perfect) national fame.
2. While he _____ (study – past continuous) abroad, he met his future partner.
3. She _____ (work – past simple) as a nurse before she became a writer.
4. He _____ (be – present perfect) an inspiration to millions ever since.
5. After she _____ (leave – past perfect) home, her career took off.

B2 · PHASE 4 – TURNING POINTS

Every good biography has a turning point. For each note, write 2–3 sentences showing the moment and its effect.

1. An injury that ended one career but began another
2. A chance meeting that changed everything
3. A bold decision to move to another country
4. A failure that led to later success

Model frame: Everything changed when … . From that moment on, … .

B2 · PHASE 5 – TIME LINKERS & COHESION

Combine each pair into one smooth sentence using a time linker (after / while / by the time / once / as soon as).

1 She finished school. She moved to the capital.
2 He was training hard. He was also studying.
3 She turned thirty. She had already written three novels.
4 He recovered from illness. He returned to the stage.
5 The war ended. She began her most important work.

B2 · PHASE 6 – SHOWING SIGNIFICANCE

Rewrite each plain fact so it also shows why it mattered.

1 She published a book in 1960.
2 He won a medal.
3 She founded a school.
4 He invented a machine.
5 She spoke out about an issue.

B2 · PHASE 7 – GRAMMAR RANGE

Write one sentence of each type for a biography.

- a past perfect sentence (By 1990, she had…)
- a relative clause (…, who later became…)
- a participle clause (Having graduated, he…)
- a passive (She was awarded… / He was elected…)
- a sentence beginning with a time linker: After / While / Once

B2 · PHASE 8 – DRAFT OPENING & CLOSING

Opening: introduce the person, their dates and what they are known for, in an engaging way (2–3 sentences).

Closing: sum up their legacy and why they are remembered (2–3 sentences).

B2 · FINAL WRITING TASK

BIOGRAPHY FOR A MAGAZINE FEATURE

A magazine is publishing a feature called **“Lives That Inspired Us”** and has invited readers to contribute a biography of someone who has inspired them – a public figure, a historical person, or someone they know.

Write a **biography of 170–180 words** in which you:

- open with an engaging introduction to the person
- describe their background and early life
- trace their main achievements and a turning point, in time order
- conclude with their legacy and why they inspired you.

Use varied past tenses and time linkers, and keep the reader engaged.