MATURA WRITING TASKS
BIOGRAPHY

Level C1

Your goal at C1: Craft a sophisticated, cohesive biography with a distinctive voice. Weave narrative and analysis, handle chronology with subtlety, and evaluate the person's significance.

C1 · PHASE 1 – PRECISION & COLLOCATION

Replace each phrase with a precise, high-level collocation, then use it in a sentence.

1 became famous → _____
2 worked very hard → _____
3 had a big effect on → _____
4 faced difficult times → _____
5 is still remembered → _____
6 changed the way people think → _____

TASK: Add five advanced collocations of your own relevant to life-writing.

C1 · PHASE 2 – AN ARRESTING OPENING

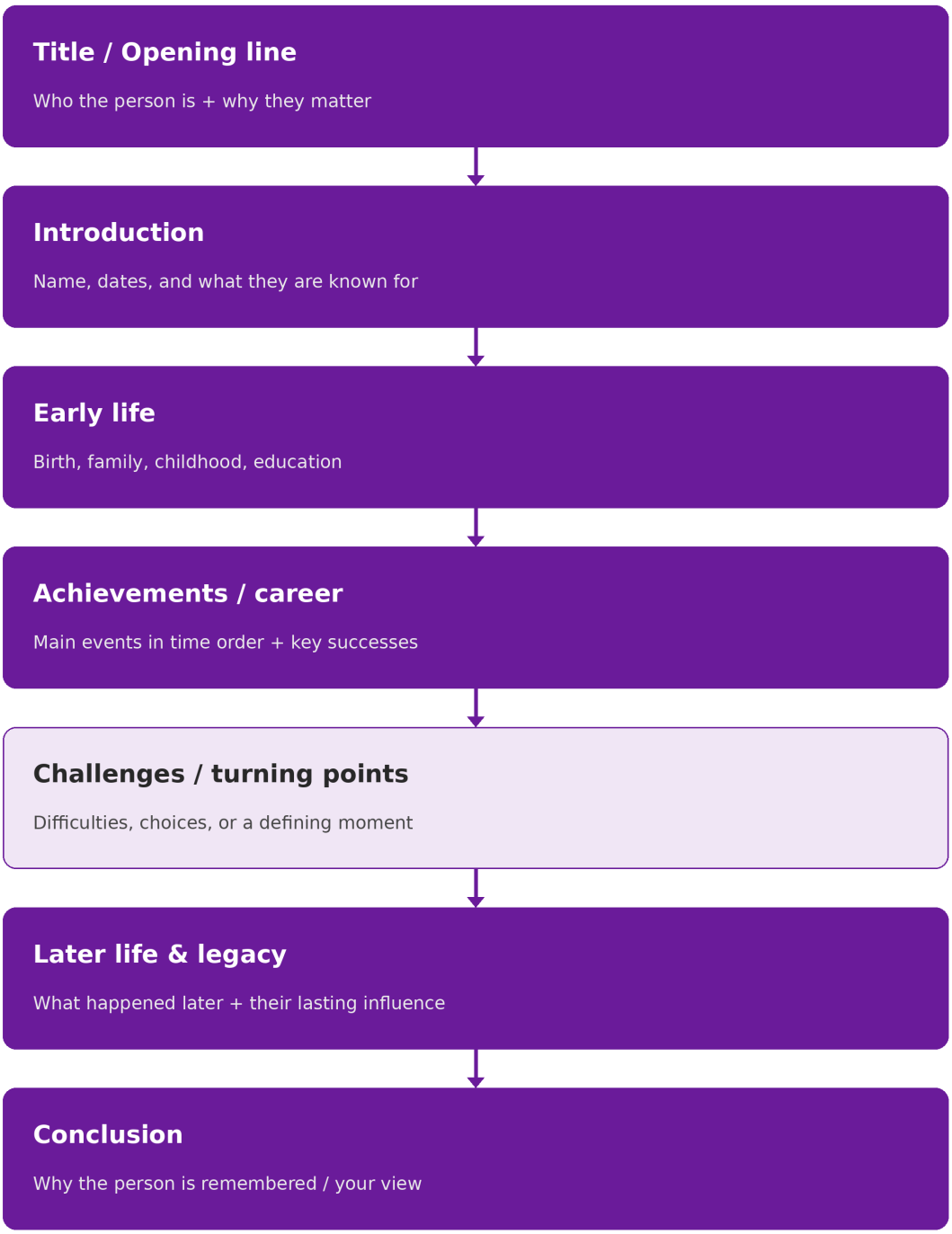
Biographies can open with more than a birth date. Rewrite each flat opening as an arresting one (a defining moment, a paradox, a vivid image).

1 X was born in 1867 and became a scientist.
2 Y was a writer who wrote many famous books.
3 Z was a leader who did important things.
4 This person had a difficult but successful life.

C1 · 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



C1 · PHASE 3 – NARRATIVE MEETS ANALYSIS

A sophisticated biography does more than list events; it interprets them. Turn each stage into a developed passage using the chain below:

Element	What to include
Event	what happened, precisely
Context	the times or circumstances
Significance	why it mattered then
Interpretation	what it reveals about the person
Legacy link	how it shaped what came after

Write two developed passages, each running through the full chain, about a person of your choice.

C1 · PHASE 4 – ADVANCED STRUCTURES

Write one polished sentence of each, integrated naturally (not mechanical).

- a participle clause (Having overcome early hardship, she…)
- an inversion (Not until later did the world recognise…)
- a cleft sentence (What set him apart was…)
- a concessive clause (Although largely self-taught, she…)
- a nominalisation (Her defiance of convention transformed…)
- a non-defining relative clause (…, whose influence still endures,…)

C1 · PHASE 5 – EVALUATING SIGNIFICANCE

A C1 biography judges, not just narrates. Rewrite each plain statement as a measured evaluation.

1 She was a very important person.
2 He did a lot of good things.
3 Her work was popular.
4 He is famous even now.

C1 · PHASE 6 – COHESION & VOICE

Combine your strongest material into one cohesive 100-word passage. It must:

- move fluently through time with varied linkers and referencing
- blend narrative with interpretation, not merely list events
- sustain a consistent, distinctive authorial voice
- vary sentence length and rhythm for effect

C1 · PHASE 7 – ARRESTING OPENING & RESONANT CLOSE

Opening: draw the reader in with a defining moment or striking image, then place the person in context, in one confident paragraph.

Conclusion: deliver a resonant assessment of the person's legacy that echoes the opening and lingers.

C1 · FINAL WRITING TASK

BIOGRAPHICAL PROFILE FOR AN ANTHOLOGY

A literary anthology titled **“Lives That Shaped Our World”** has commissioned concise biographical profiles of influential figures. Contribute a profile of a person whose life and work you find significant – historical or contemporary.

Write a **biography of 180–200 words** in which you:

- open with an arresting introduction that places the person in context
- trace the key stages of their life, blending narrative with interpretation
- bring out defining moments and the significance of their work
- close with a resonant evaluation of their legacy.

Your biography should read as fluent, sophisticated and cohesive throughout, with a distinctive voice.