

Mrs Hatton - Subject Leader of French

In your GCSE exam you will be tested on all four skills (listening, reading, writing and speaking) with four different exams worth 25% each.

All three themes can come up in the different exams, so it is really important that you are continually reviewing vocabulary, grammar and language from previous years.

Theme	Topic
Identity and culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Me, my family and friends● Technology in everyday life● Free time activities● Customs and festivals
Local, international and global areas of interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Home, town and region● Social issues● Global issues● Travel and tourism
Current and future study and employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● My studies● Life at school● Education post 16● Jobs, careers choices and ambitions

Top tips

You cannot cram when you are learning a language so little and often is really key for you to succeed in your language GCSE.

Attend support sessions on Tuesday afterschool 3:10-4:10 - Skill based revision focus and Thursday lunchtime Speaking Exam focus – Improve speaking prep answers and speaking practice.

Listening and reading tips

Vocabulary learning is important for all 4 skills but the more vocabulary you can recognise in the listening and reading exams the easier you will find it. In the exam don't panic when you see and hear words you don't understand but try and use the context to work it out or focus on what you do know so you can understand the gist.

Here is some advice to help you learn as much vocabulary as possible to help prepare yourself:

- Use quizlet to help you learn vocabulary: spend at least an hour a week learning and reviewing vocabulary. All module vocab lists are on Google classroom in the class folder.
- Make mind-maps for each theme with key vocabulary
- Stick up posters around your house with key vocabulary on
- Make vocabulary flashcards and get your friends to test you on them
- Make sure you know vocabulary fields such as numbers, months and days, adverbs of time and frequency, negatives and verb patterns for spotting the past, present and future tenses.
- Watch films in French and note down all the phrases you hear as you listen
- Listen to music in French – French radio <https://www.francebleu.fr/107-1#>
- Watch YouTube videos in French
- Listen to the news in French for 5 minutes every day

Speaking and writing tips

Use your speaking folder to help you learn speaking answers (this will also help you in the writing exam). It is really important that you can produce language in the past, present and future so make sure that you can do that across all the different themes.

- Record yourself or ask your teacher to record themselves saying your answers on your phone, listen to this when you're out and about.
- Draw pictures to jog your memory with key phrases and practise saying your answers using the pictures and then gradually remove all of the pictures so you can say your answers with no prompts.
- After learning an answer see how much of it you can write or say without looking at your notes.
- Get someone at home to test you on how much you can remember
- Make mind maps or flashcards with key 'fancy phrases' that you want to use in your writing and speaking and spend time learning them
- Make flashcards with how to conjugate verbs in the past, present and future and test yourself
- Make posters with key verbs conjugated in the past, present and future and practise using them in full sentences
- Make flashcards with phrases that you will need across all themes (opinions and reasons, intensifiers, time phrases, connectives)

Finally, here are some websites that can help further support you in your learning.

- www.aqa.org.uk Past papers with mark schemes and audio files
- www.languagesonline.org.uk A good way to start, mostly for grammar, vocabulary and reading skills.
- www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zr8bmfr Mainly for GCSE exam practice (grammar practice, tips on exam skills and sample tasks).
- www.frenchrevision.co.uk Topic based. Good for vocabulary and grammar, with some listening and reading exam practice. Choose the GCSE level.
- <http://www.naturalreaders.com/> Text to speech program that converts written text into spoken words. Help with pronunciation both in French and Spanish.

Bonne chance! Come and speak to your language teacher if you want further guidance or support with your revision.