

# French Pre Mock and GCSE Exam Revision

OR

## How to Get at least a Grade 4 in French GCSE with the "Minimum" Effort

### Listening:

Strategies or How to Get **More Marks Than I Deserve**

Pairs of words which mean the same, or groups which are linked

### Speaking:

Tips or Ways of **Cheating Legally**

Simple, **Basic Phrases** which will save your skin

### Reading:

Strategies or How to Get **More Marks Than I Deserve**

**Pairs of words** which mean the same, or groups which are linked

### Writing:

The French Teacher's **Commandments**

**Starting Sentences** in an Interesting but Not Terribly Difficult  
Way

**Linking Sentences** in an Interesting but Really Incredibly Easy  
Way

Stylish, but Simple, **Alternatives to Boring Words**

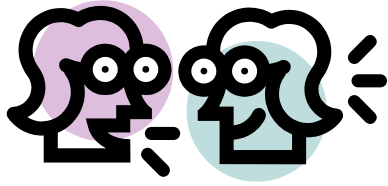
### Vocabulary

All the **French Words** You Learned... But Forgot

### Grammar

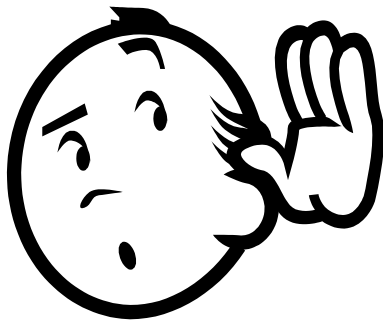
What You Never Really Understood, And It's Too Late Now (**Or is it?**)

## Speaking Exam (Oral)



Your exam will be recorded to be sent away and marked by an external examiner. It is therefore really important that you **speak clearly** and make every word count. You have 12 minutes to prepare for the role-play and photo questions. Ensure that you have enough material to speak for at least 2 minutes on the photo card (F+H) and 3 -5 minutes (F) and 5-7 minutes (H) on the conversation. Speak at a good pace and with a good French accent. Practise your pronunciation! Use a variety of tenses, opinions and language. After the main questions on your photo, you will encounter some **unseen questions**. Be familiar with the types of questions asked for the unexpected element (see your lists).

## Listening Exam



Your listening exam may last for around **35 minutes (Foundation)** to **545 Minutes (Higher)**. You'll be asked to *listen* to a CD in French and you will have to answer questions in *English and French*.

This is really important... In fact, let's say that more loudly: **This is really important: If the question is in English, answer in English and if the question is in French, you answer in French, otherwise you won't get the mark. Did you get that? You won't get the mark.**

You will be allowed to study the questions for 5 minutes *before* the recording plays. You will hear each extract twice.

To answer some questions, you will be asked to:

- Answer multiple choice questions (a-d)
- Choose the correct picture (jobs, foods, subjects etc.)
- State whether an answer is true or false
- Say if a statement is negative, positive or both
- Say who has made a statement
- Write a letter or number to indicate the correct answer
- Write a word or phrase in English/French
- Complete a sentence in English/French (higher level)

You don't have to answer in full sentences, but make sure that you include all the details you have been asked for. There will be a number by each question to show how many marks are available. Use this as a guide to how much to answer.

Now there are certain things to remember about a Listening exam, which may seem obvious, but which are ever so easy to forget.

1. It's a **Listening** exam so it's a good idea to **listen**. If you don't, you'll lose where you are and it will all go horribly wrong. It's not easy to lose where you are because the recording is very clear, but if you start daydreaming about what you're going to do with your mates at the weekend, it *IS* possible.
2. When you have your chance to read through the paper, try and think what you might **expect to hear**. If you're in a doctor's surgery, for example, might it be about something wrong with someone? What treatment would they receive? How long might they have had this ailment? Logic can take you a long way.
3. **Don't leave any gaps! At all! Ever!** Think about it. If you guess, you have a chance of getting it right. Especially if you've done 1. and 2. **A blank space never got a mark.**

**Linked Vocabulary - This is really important for the Listening and the Reading exam.**

In the text you have to listen to or read there will be words which you will be **expected to know**. They will not be the same words which crop up in the questions on the paper, but they will be linked in some way, either they will be **synonyms** or they will be **related in meaning**.

Once you've got the hang of this, you will find it very, very, VERY helpful.

École - collège - lycée

La natation - nager - piscine - maillot de bain

L'équitation - faire du cheval - le cheval

Le cyclisme - faire du vélo - le VTT

L'hiver - froid - décembre - geler - Noël

Intéressant - beaucoup à faire - passionnant

Discuter - conversation - communication - parler

Difficile - compliqué

Long - prend des heures

Le sport - take your pick !!!

Les ordinateurs - surfer l'internet - jeux - informatique

La lecture - lire - livres - magazines

Les amis - les copains - les copines - rencontrer

Se relaxer - se détendre

Conduire - rouler - la voiture - l'auto - l'automobiliste -  
conducteur - chauffeur

Il pleut - pluvieux - il pleuvait

Il fait beau - il fait du soleil - le soleil brille - chaud

Petit déjeuner - matin - matinée

Déjeuner - midi - l'après-midi

Dîner - soir - la soirée

Manger - repas - plat

Boire - boisson

Bijouterie - bijoux - boucle d'oreille - collier - bague

Été - juillet - août - vacances

Plage - piscine - au bord de la mer

Télé - petit écran - émission

Cinéma - grand écran - film

Devoirs - travail - études

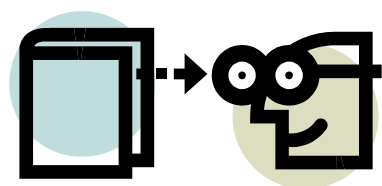
Difficile - pas facile (Beware of negatives+ opposite !)

Ennuyeux - pas intéressant (Beware of negatives+ opposite !)

Future tense: l'année prochaine - dans 2 ans/demain

past tense: l'année dernière - il y a 2 ans/hier

## Reading Exam



Your reading exam may last for around **45 minutes** (Foundation) **1 hour** (Higher). In section A, you'll be asked to *read* information in French and you have to answer questions in *English*. In section B you must answer in French. In section C you will have a translation from French to English.

And again - remember what we said about the Listening exam...

To answer some questions, you will be asked

- state whether an answer is true or false
- write a letter or number to indicate the correct answer
- write a word or phrase in English/French
- complete a sentence in English/French (higher)

You don't have to answer in full sentences, but make sure that you include all the details you have been asked for. There will be a number by each question to show how many marks are available. Use this as a guide to how much to answer.

1. It's a **Reading** exam so **read** the text carefully. For longer passages, read the questions first. You are not going to understand every word, but we hope that you'll have learned in class to **pick out important words**. You might not need more than one or two words to be able to understand what you need to understand in order to get the marks. If you don't get it the first time, read it again. The important stuff is there and you **can** find it. Do not leave any blanks!

## Writing

### Writing: The Ten Commandments

1. **Thou shalt not write fewer than 10% of the allowed words, nor more than about 10% above (or at your own risk).**
  - a. Too few - you can't get a 4.
  - b. Too many - you have more room to make mistakes.
2. **Thou shalt use a variety of tenses.**
  - a. Present - *Ma matière préférée est...*
  - b. Past - *Le weekend dernier je suis allé... J'ai regardé... C'était...*
  - c. Future - *Après le collège je vais aller à l'université.*
  - d. Conditional - *Je voudrais être médecin.*

- e. Imperfect - C'était super etc.
3. **Thou shalt use conjunctions to LINK sentences.**  
(Et, mais, parce que, car, ou, puis, ensuite...)
  4. **Thou shalt use subordinate clauses. (Don't panic - this just means clauses which can't stand on their own.)**
    - a. Je mange à la cantine, *parce que* les repas sont bons.
    - b. Pendant la récré je joue au foot *ou* je lis des livres.
  5. **Thou shalt express opinions. Lots. All different.**
  6. **Thou shalt use adverbs.**  
(lentement, poliment, vite etc.)
  7. **Thou shalt use negatives.**
    - a. Je n'aime *pas* les chats/le français / les pommes de terre je ne regarde
    - b. Je *ne* regarde *jamais* la télé.
  8. **Thou shalt use comparatives and superlatives.**
    - a. L'anglais est *plus facile que* la biologie.
    - b. *Le pire*, c'est les devoirs.
  9. **Thou shalt make sure that thy adjectives agree with thy nouns.**
  10. **THOU SHALT LEARN THY VERBS!! (especially the main ones in each of the important tenses).**

**Grammar**

- **verb tenses.** Look at the verb tables in your textbook, **AND YOUR NOTES!**
- **spellings & accents** - look at the vocab sections of each unit, and use your Studio vocab book.
- **nouns & genders** - when in doubt, check it out! **LOOK IT UP!**
- **adjectives** - *order:* before noun (petit, grand, joli, beau, bon) or after noun. Use **BOTH**. *agreements:* masculine/feminine/plural.

## All the French Words You Learned... But Forgot

### Questions

Qui...	Who
Qu'est-ce que...	What
Quand...	When
Où...	Where
Pourquoi...	Why
Comment ...	How
Combien...	How much

### Les jours de la semaine    Days of the Week

Lundi	Monday
Mardi	Tuesday
Mercredi	Wednesday
Jeudi	Thursday
Vendredi	Friday
Samedi	Saturday
Dimanche	Sunday
And...	
La semaine dernière	Last week
Il y a quatre jours	Four days ago
Hier	Yesterday



Aujourd'hui  
Demain  
En quatre jours  
La semaine prochaine

Today  
Tomorrow  
In four days  
Next week

### Les mois de l'année

### Months of the Year

Janvier  
Février  
Mars  
Avril  
Mai  
Juin  
Juillet  
Août  
Septembre  
Octobre  
Novembre  
Décembre  
And...  
L'année dernière  
L'année prochaine

January  
February  
March  
April  
May  
June  
July  
August  
September  
October  
November  
December  
Last year  
Next year

### Les Saisons

### Seasons

Le printemps  
L'été  
L'automne  
L'hiver

spring  
summer  
autumn  
winter

### Les Jours de Fête

### Holidays

Nouvel An/ Nouvelle Année  
Bonne Année !  
Vendredi Saint  
Pâques  
Noël  
Joyeux Noël  
Les grandes vacances  
Bonnes Vacances!  
Anniversaire  
Bonne Anniversaire

New Year  
Happy New Year  
Good Friday  
Easter  
Christmas  
Merry Christmas!  
summer holidays  
Happy Holidays!  
birthday  
Happy Birthday !

## L'heure

Il est une heure

à une heure

Il est deux heures

Il est onze heures

Il est midi

Il est dix-huit heures  
clock)

Il est minuit

Il est quatre heures **et quart**

Il est trois heures **et demie**

Il est vingt-deux heures **moins le quart**  
evening

Il est treize heures **trente**  
afternoon

Il est cinq heures **vingt**

Il est six heures **moins dix**

Il est sept heures **moins vingt-cinq**

## Time

It's one o'clock

at one o'clock

It's two o'clock

It's eleven o'clock

It's midday

It's six in the evening (24 hour

It's midnight

It's **quarter past** four

It's **half past** three

It's **quarter to** ten in the

It's one **thirty** in the

It's five **twenty**

It's **ten to** six

It's **twenty-five to** seven

In order to say 'at' a particular time, write or say '**à**' instead of '**il est**'.

## Time Phrases

aujourd'hui

today

demain

tomorrow

après-demain

the day after tomorrow

hier

yesterday

avant-hier

the day before yesterday

récemment

recently

bientôt

soon

après un peu de temps

after a while

en (deux semaines)

in (two weeks) time

il y a (deux semaines)

(two weeks) ago

pour un jour/une semaine

for one day/week

puis

then

ensuite

then

enfin

finally

## Opinions - *very, very, very, very important!! Use loads, and all different!!*

J'aime/adore/	I like/love
J'en'aime pas/déteste	I don't like/hate
Je trouve que...	I think that...
Je pense que...	I think that...
Il me semblerait que	It would seem to me that ( <b>conditional</b> .)
<b>USE!!)</b>	
A mon avis...	In my opinion
Selon moi...	In my opinion
Par contre	On the other hand
C'est possible que	It's possible that...
Cela dépend	That depends
Peut-être	Perhaps

## Masculine and feminine

You may need to change the *spelling* of adjectives depending on whether the thing that you're describing is *masculine* or *feminine*. These changed endings are known as *agreements*.

Feminine words usually need an -e added:

e.g. il est grand - *he is tall*

or elle est grande - *she is tall*

Plural words usually need an -s added Eg: ils sont grands - *they are tall*

Sometimes you need to add an -x - ils sont beaux. Do not add an -e if the word already ends with one:

e.g. jaune - *yellow*, mince - *slim*.

All the words for **colours** can be used as adjectives.

## Conjunctions

et

and

mais	but
si	if
ou	or
puis	then
donc	so/therefore
et... et...	both... and...
parce que	because
car	because
ne...ni...ni...	neither... nor
ensuite	next
ou bien	or else
puis	then
comme	as
quand	when
que	that

## **Prepositions**

à	to, at, in
à côté de	next to, beside
après	after
au sujet de	about, on the subject of
avant	before
avec	with
chez	at the home/office of, among
contre	against
dans	in
d'après	according to
de	from, of, about
depuis	since, for
derrière	in back of, behind

devant	in front of
en	in, on, to
en dehors de	outside of
en face de	facing, across from
entre	between
envers	toward
environ	approximately
hors de	outside of
jusque	until, up to, even
loin de	far from
malgré	despite
par	by, through
parmi	among
pendant	during
pour	for
près de	near
quant à	as for, regarding
sans	without
selon	according to
sous	under
sur	on
vers	toward

