

FACTFILE: GCSE FRENCH

Reading 9

CONTEXT 3: SCHOOL LIFE, STUDIES AND THE WORLD OF WORK



My studies and school life



- Demonstrate understanding, by being able to scan for particular information, organise and present relevant details, draw conclusions in context and recognise implicit meaning where appropriate;
- Translate sentences into English.

Skills

Can you:

- Understand descriptions about school facilities?
- Understand information about subject pathways?
- Understand information about the logistics of school life and routine?
- Understand information about uniform, rules and regulations?
- Understand current issues which may be facing pupils in schools?

Introduction

Here are some key points to help you study this topic.

Learning Outcomes

You should be able to:

- Understand and respond to different types of written language;
- Understand details within texts using high frequency familiar language;
- Identify the overall message, key points, details and opinions in a variety of written passages;
- Deduce meanings from a variety of written texts (from a range of specified contexts including short narratives, authentic material and unfamiliar material);
- Recognise and respond to key information, important themes and ideas in extended written text and authentic sources;

Preparation

Preparing for Reading about 'My Studies and School Life' can be made very easy by following a few simple steps:

- Compile a list of useful vocabulary that is not common in other subject areas and make sure you can identify what each word means.
- Prepare some important subject specific verbs (to study, to learn, to write, to read, to calculate, to repeat a year, to drop a subject, to succeed) in a number of tenses and learn them. Make sure you can identify them in a text.
- Think about vocabulary which is high frequency. For example opinion words, linking words, time phrases, connectives, qualifiers and quantifiers. Can you identify what they all mean?

Practice

Read the following short passages.

A

Les collèges en France sont très différents aux collèges en Irlande du Nord. Par exemple, en France la journée scolaire commence **plus tôt**, vers 8h00 du matin, alors il faut se lever très tôt le matin pour aller au collège. Nous avons une récré et on mange vers midi, soit à la maison ou au collège.

B

La bouffe scolaire **me rend fou**. Il n'y a pas grand choix à la cantine. Moi je préfère manger à la maison. Il n'y a que des frites et des sandwiches. A mon avis, les collèges ont une responsabilité pour nous donner un choix de plats variés et de promouvoir les plats plus sains.

C

Ce que j'adore c'est le français. C'est ma passion. En classe, on étudie la langue, la littérature et la bonne communication. **On écrit des rédactions** et on fait des présentations et évidemment on lit des romans, de la poésie et plein d'autres choses. D'ailleurs, notre prof est tout à fait agréable.

D

Les règles scolaires sont ridicules. On n'a pas le droit de porter nos propres vêtements et le chewing-gum c'est strictement interdit. **On insiste que** les devoirs sont obligatoires et il faut faire une épreuve chaque semaine. En plus, il ne faut pas parler en classe et les professeurs sont très sévères.

Write the correct letter beside the appropriate subheading.

Un collège super sévère	
Une journée typique	
Ma matière préférée	
La nourriture ? c'est nul!	

Hints

- Read the questions first. What do they tell you in terms of the content of the text?
- Look for clues in the text. Are there any words similar to the words of the questions?
- Are there any statements you don't understand? Look them up and see what they mean.
- Make a list of unknown words in your vocabulary book.

Revision

There are four phrases highlighted in bold in the text. Can you translate them into English?

- A _____
- B _____
- C _____
- D _____

