

FACTFILE: GCSE FRENCH



Speaking 5

CONTEXT 2: LOCAL, NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL AND GLOBAL AREAS OF INTEREST



My local area and the wider environment



Introduction

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

Learning Outcomes

You should be able to:

- communicate and interact effectively in speech for a variety of purposes;
- take part in short conversations, asking and answering questions, exchanging opinions and producing extended sequences of speech;
- speak spontaneously, responding to questions, points of view or situations and sustaining communication, as appropriate;
- express information and narrate events coherently and confidently, using and adapting language for new purposes;
- make appropriate and accurate use of a variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures;
- make creative use of the language, as appropriate, to express and justify their own thoughts and points of view; and

- use accurate pronunciation and intonation that would be understood by a native speaker.

These lists are neither prescriptive nor exhaustive.

Skills

- Preparation is key – manage your time effectively – don't leave it till the last minute.
- Managing the information you gather on this subject is essential to success.
- Spend adequate amount of time to fully prepare this topic.
- Learn the key vocabulary for your chosen topic.
- Make sure you have enough vocabulary and grammatical structures learnt to fully- develop your answers.
- Practise what you are going to say – record yourself and play it back.
- Try to initiate conversations and anticipate the examiner's questions.
- Avoid relying too heavily on pre-learnt material.
- Always express, develop, and justify your opinions on the chosen topic.
- In the introduction include the main points that you wish to discuss.
- Use a variety of resources to gather information on the topic.
- Where possible select resources that have different styles and registers.
- Develop your language speaking skills through regular practise reading aloud at home and in class to gain confidence and fluency.
- The first stage in acquiring confident speaking skills involves good listening.
- Further develop your listening skills using authentic French material to improve intonation and pronunciation.

- Interact in role playing with classmates in pairs or small groups in a loud voice to gain confidence.
- Record yourself on a regular basis and track your progress.

Preparation

- Choose an aspect of this topic that you have a particular interest in. For example, 'the use of social media by young people today'.
- Brainstorm some of the ideas or areas you are thinking of developing.
- Use spidergrams to help you develop some particularly interesting aspects of this topic.
- Read and find out as much as you can about your topic using a variety of sources, class resources, books and websites.
- This topic lends itself well to making comparisons.
- Try to enhance and develop your research by making comparisons.
- Add an interesting or unusual fact to create curiosity.
- Check with your teacher that your approach/ideas are suitable.
- Avoid using Wikipedia and free online translation apps/sites.
- Write notes to summarise the information you have gathered and selected and keep safely in organised folders.
- Organise your resources, findings and material and break them down into points.
- Ensure that your prepared material gives you the opportunity to be awarded a higher level grade.

Practice

- Speaking is a skill which you should practise regularly in class and at home.
- Use every opportunity in class to improve your speaking skills by engaging in free conversation with your classmates and teachers.
- Participate actively in oral exercises, discussion activities and spontaneous question and answer classroom opportunities.
- Take the opportunity to speak to the French Language Assistant in small class groups to become more confident when speaking aloud.
- Learn the vocabulary for this topic thoroughly and regularly.
- Don't be tempted to leave practice to the last minute.
- Check your memory by covering one part and remembering the other.

- You should try to volunteer additional information when responding to a question.
- Aim to always give two to three responses to a question to produce extended sequences of speech.
- Always express your opinions and justify your answers.
- Pay attention to the tense used in the question and try to respond accordingly.
- Speak clearly, fluently and with confidence.
- Show enthusiasm when practising the discussion of this topic.
- Engage with the examiner and keep him or her interested.

Revision

- Time yourself and respect the time limit recommendation when revising for your speaking tests.
- Record yourself when revising your speaking test
- Try writing out a list of relevant vocabulary then reading the words out aloud.
- Repeat your presentations/discussions/projects in a loud voice.
- Use every opportunity in class to improve your speaking skills by engaging in free conversation with your classmates and teachers.
- Organise your prepared work into easily learnt paragraphs and break them down into points.
- Try and make sure that when you hesitate to answer you use French equivalent to 'hmm' for example 'Alors'.
- Always prepare at least three different ways to introduce an opinion for example 'Je pense que', 'À mon avis' or 'Selon'.
- Practise makes perfect, revise your speaking by using past paper role plays.
- When practising try to engage with your teacher or French Language Assistant.
- Have a selection of key answers prepared according to possible questions asked for example, Vous avez?, 'je voudrais', Tu aimes?
- Use family and friends to help you revise in class and at home.
- Try out the websites and language games sites to help you revise for this topic.
- Always remember you will be assessed on your verbal communication and linguistic competence.

