

# FACTFILE: GCSE FRENCH



## Speaking 9

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



#### My studies and school life



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

#### Skills

- Can you describe your school, giving details about its facilities and your opinions of them?
- Can you accurately list the subjects you study?
- Can you offer opinions and justifications about your favourite and least favourite subjects?
- Can you describe your teachers using a range of adjectives?
- Can you talk about what you are going to study in school next year?

#### 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;

#### Preparation

Preparing for Speaking 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 pronounce them.
- 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. You could use your phone to record yourself saying them.
- Think about vocabulary you could recycle. For example make a list of opinion words, both positive and negative and relate them to your subjects, school facilities and teachers.

## Practice

Can you communicate simple information clearly and concisely using a full sentence? Try this out.

### Quelle est ta matière préférée et pourquoi?

Say your favourite subject is French because it is interesting.

### Qui est ton professeur préféré?

Say your favourite teacher is Mrs Smith because she is kind and not strict.

### Que penses-tu de la cantine?

Say you think the food is quite nice and very cheap.

### Qu'est-ce que as fait hier au collège?

Say you arrived at school at 9.00, studied biology and played rugby.

Record yourself saying the answers above and ask your French Assistant/Teacher to give you feedback on your pronunciation, intonation and accent.

## Revision

Look at the sample answers to the questions below.

### Qu'est-ce que tu aimerais changer à ton collège?

En ce moment, je pense que mon collège est trop strict. Hier matin par exemple, j'ai dû écrire des lignes parce que ma chemise n'était pas rentrée dans mon pantalon. Je trouve ça ridicule. Plus tard, je voudrais être préfet. J'aimerais proposer l'idée d'une journée par semaine sans uniforme et je vais convaincre le proviseur d'acheter de nouveaux ordinateurs pour la bibliothèque. Je trouve que ça serait super.

### Que penses-tu des uniformes scolaires?

A mon avis, les uniformes scolaires sont une idée peu moderne et dépassée. Nous, par exemple devons porter une veste affreuse en verte, une chemise blanche et une jupe horrible en verte aussi. Je pense que ce n'est pas de tout confortable et beaucoup trop cher. Toutefois, je dois admettre que ça rend les choses très faciles le matin parce que nous ne devrions pas se tarder en habillant.

## Helpful Hints

For question 1:

- Can you spot the accurate use of several tenses time phrases? Highlight them.
- In a different colour, can you highlight three different tenses?
- In a third colour, can you spot any opinions?

For question 2:

- Can you spot different synonyms for the saying 'I think that'.
- Can you spot a variation of adjectives being used?
- Can you spot any justifications?

As you prepare your own oral answers, use the above 'tick lists' to help you consider what makes a good answer.

