



Rewarding Learning

STUDENT STUDY CARD 1

FRENCH SPEAKING

Introduction

The conversation element of your speaking test lasts eight minutes at AS and nine minutes at A2.

Assessment

An external visiting examiner carries out the speaking test and it is recorded.

Assessment Objectives

You will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- A01: Understand and respond to spoken language.
- A03: Manipulate the language accurately and appropriately.

Familiarise yourself with the requirements of each criterion and guidance on how to achieve the top bands.

A01 assesses:

- your degree of comprehension
- the fluency of your responses
- your initiative to develop answers and your ability to argue points of views
- your pronunciation and intonation

A03 assesses:

- your command of idiom and vocabulary
- your knowledge and application of grammar





Skills

Here are some suggestions to help you prepare for this test.

Preparation

You will be expected to talk in a general way about AS themes and areas of particular interest. At A2, the conversation will also incorporate AS themes where appropriate.

- Immerse yourself in the language by watching French films, French TV, listening to French radio stations and songs.
- Listening to authentic French sources will help your accent and your fluency.
- Prepare the themes at a general level as well as the personal level.
- Make sure you prepare the topics, using a variety of vocabulary and structures.
- Develop your answers on your favourite themes and topics.
- Think of all the questions you could be asked on a particular topic.
- Try to think in French and include idiomatic phrases.
- Include opinions and justify them.

Practice

- The best way to improve your oral skills is by practising your answers aloud.
- Make the most of your conversation classes with your teacher and/or French assistant.
- Work in pairs with a friend and do mock oral conversations.
- You may find it useful to practise speaking in front of a mirror.
- Record your answers and listen to them as many times as possible.
- Evaluate your fluency, pronunciation and intonation.