



Rewarding Learning

FRENCH STUDENT STUDY CARD 6

RESEARCHING TOPICS FOR A2 1

INTRODUCTION AND DISCUSSION

Introduction

You will deliver an introduction to your individual research project (1 minute), followed by a discussion on this topic (5 minutes). These should be based on an aspect of a French-speaking country/community from **one** of the following three options:

- Culture, such as the Arts, music, sport, folklore, festivals or traditions;
- or** a historical period from the twentieth century;
- or** a region.

Assessment

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

Assessment Objectives

A03: Accurate and appropriate use of French.

A04: Knowledge and understanding of the chosen topic relating to a French-speaking country/community.

A03 assesses:

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

A04 assesses:

- your ability to speak knowledgeably about the topic you have researched for your presentation
- your understanding of the chosen topic
- your initiative to argue points of view clearly, logically and confidently
- your originality and ability to form mature opinions on aspects of the topic

At A2 you will also be expected to understand, infer meaning and draw conclusions.





Skills

Here are some guidelines to help you prepare for this skills area.

Preparation

- Early in the year, make sure you have a broad overview of the aspect you have chosen so that you have an understanding of key points.
- As you research, start thinking early about a specific topic which interests you so that you enjoy it.
- Select a topic which lends itself to particular interesting examples, such as diary entries for a historical topic, or your own experience of culture or region.
- Avoid lists of facts or dates; focus on interacting with the material by developing your opinions and ideas.
- Ensure that your language is appropriate to the level; you need to go beyond “je pense que..”.
- Prepare a one minute introduction setting the context. This is an opportunity to convey your interest and enthusiasm for your topic and you may include a brief reason why you chose it.
- Prepare information and ideas based on five bullet points which you will put on the proforma; these should be concise, and lend themselves to analysis, not simply to description. For example, « *L'importance des événements à Oradour* », rather than simply “Oradour” for a historical period.
- Practise delivering your introduction within time; speak confidently and clearly and work on developing authentic pronunciation and intonation.

On the day of the examination

Introduction:

- Do not speak too quickly - it is better to have less information and deliver it in an engaging way rather than rush to include everything within one minute.
- Discussion:
 - Be prepared to answer the examiner’s questions rather than deliver 5 mini presentations
 - Develop your answers as much as possible
 - Take initiative to include interesting information and insights
 - Use fillers and phrases to give a natural feel, but avoid overusing these.