



Rewarding Learning

# FRENCH STUDENT STUDY CARD 8

## LISTENING - STEPS TO SUCCESS

### Introduction

The listening element (Section A) of the AS Unit 2 exam lasts approximately 40 minutes and in the A2 Unit 2 exam lasts approximately 45 minutes in total.

### Assessment

For both AS and A2, the listening element of the exam consists of **two** discrete audio passages.

- Recording 1: You respond in French to questions in French.
- Recording 2: You respond in English to questions in English.

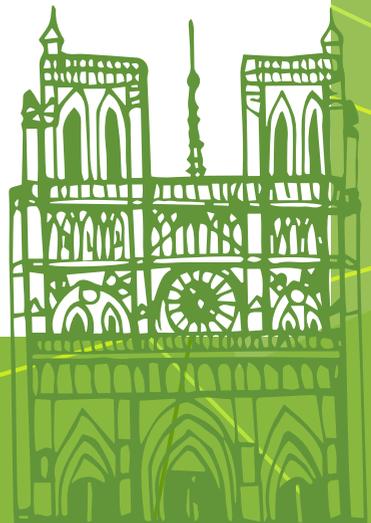
### Assessment Objectives

You will be assessed according to the following criterion:

- AO1: Understand and respond to spoken language.  
Look at the mark scheme to familiarise yourself with the requirements of the criterion and guidance on how to achieve the top bands.

You should be able to:

- understand, infer meaning and draw conclusions from a variety of spoken sources covering different contexts, registers, styles and genres.





## Skills

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

### Preparation

- Listen to authentic French sources. You can listen to the French radio online at [www.franceinter.fr](http://www.franceinter.fr) and [www.europe1.fr](http://www.europe1.fr)
- Listen to French songs. (YouTube offers free music videos in French)
- French TV and radio stations often offer streamed audio and video podcasts.
- Listen to passages from past exam papers. (note the format and speed of passages)
- Watch French films (you can put your DVDs into French with English subtitles).

### On the day of the examination

- Read the questions carefully before the recording starts to get a general idea of what the passage is about.
- Always answer in the language of the question.
- Although the listening exercises are assessed according to the AO1 criterion only, your answers in French have to be expressed clearly. Weak use of French may lead to an incomprehensible answer which cannot be rewarded.
- Read the question carefully.
- Listen out for key words.
- Pay particular attention to the question word used.
- Pay attention to the subject in the question. It will be different in the recorded passage. For instance, you may need to change 'je' to 'il' or 'elle' in your answer. You may also need to make other changes, such as 'mon' to 'son', etc.
- Full sentences are not always needed. There is no need to give superfluous information.
- Check the number of marks allocated to each question.
- Responses may need a qualifier such as 'less than/over' to gain the mark.
- Remember that unfamiliar vocabulary may not be needed for the answer.
- Be careful when transcribing what you hear and pay attention to your spelling as it may affect the meaning. You may rephrase as long as the meaning is clear.
- Do not offer alternative answers.
- Try not to leave blanks. Note down some details if possible.
- When the passage is repeated, check your answer.
- Keep an eye on the clock so that you don't run out of time.