



Rewarding Learning

# FRENCH STUDENT STUDY CARD 13

## TRANSLATION FROM ENGLISH INTO FRENCH [A2]

### Introduction

In Unit A2 2, you will complete one translation from English into French.

### Assessment

The translation will be Question 4 in Section B of Unit AS 2. This will be a short passage in English (approximately 130 words) that should be translated into accurate French. The translation exercise will be drawn from a variety of resources such as magazines, newspapers, reports, books or other forms of extended writing related to the A level themes.

### Assessment Objectives

The translation from English into French is marked according to the following criterion:

A03: manipulate the language accurately and appropriately

You should be able to:

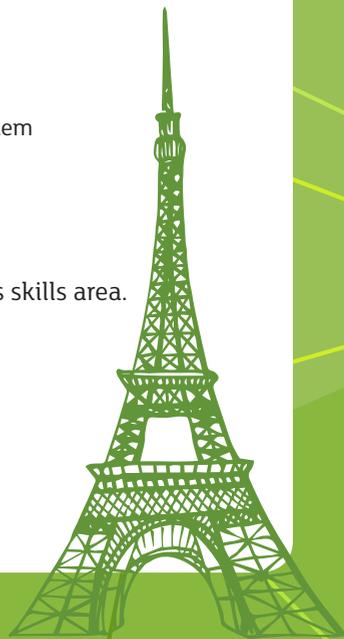
- Transfer meaning from English to French; and
- Understand and accurately apply the grammatical system and a range of structures.

### Skills

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

### Preparation

- use the A level specification Grammar and Structures section
- develop your own system for 1) recording new vocabulary from all sections of the A level French course and 2) compiling points of grammar





- develop your own list of conversational expressions, such as, “A quoi bon?”, « Ca ne vaut pas la peine ! », « Cela va sans dire »
- read widely in French and tune in to points of language you meet/use
- make a list of common structures
- identify and deal with any recurring errors within your own work
- as a minimum, ensure you are familiar with the following:
  - modal verbs: their meanings in English and French, and their tenses (vouloir, pouvoir, devoir)
  - conjugation of common verbs such as: avoir, être, faire, aller, voir, venir
  - the most common uses of the subjunctive
  - simple vocabulary is often required for this section , such as places in the town (eg la gare) or character descriptions (enthousiaste)
  - time expressions such as” il y a deux ans”, « le lundi », “ à l’époque »
    - « de nos jours », « au printemps »
  - inversion for direct speech « a-t-il dit »
  - develop your own checklist to use when you have finished each translation with questions such as: Verbs in past tense with correct auxiliaries; Verbs in correct tenses; Verbs singular/plural; Adjective agreements.

### On the day of the examination

The key to this section is 1) transferring the meaning of the original and 2) accurate grammar and structures. Therefore, in the exam you should ensure that you:

- read the whole passage before beginning to translate
- make notes of any structures required such as, depuis, venir de, dès que possible before translating
- identify verb tenses in advance, as well as which verbs to use
- identify any verb in the subjunctive before starting to translate
- identify modal verbs (devoir, pouvoir, vouloir)
- translate the words and phrases in front of you rather than rephrase and risk losing the original meaning
- as you start to translate, be aware of common errors
- when finished translating, check the passage for errors.