

HIGHER LANGUAGE EASTER REVISION

I have put together this booklet to help you revise over the Easter break.

- ❖ Draw up a timetable for studying all of your subjects but try and spend at least a couple of hours every other day studying French.
- ❖ Only ever concentrate on one skill at a time
- ❖ You should be preparing for Directed writing, Listening, Reading and translation.
- ❖ Try to complete this work at it will help. Do not leave it all until the night before school starts.

In this pack you will find:

- ✓ Reading Tips
- ✓ Listening tips
- ✓ Instructions for preparing directed writings
- ✓ Previous direct writing essay questions
- ✓ Link works and phrases

Higher Reading Tips:

- You do not have to understand all of the text thoroughly: you have to get the gist of the text, and then identify carefully where the answers are, taking more time with these areas of the text.
- You are not expected to give every detail, or translate word for word what is in the French text.
- You must show that you have understood the text and your answers must be in good English.
- If the answers do not make sense then you must presume they will be wrong.
- You do not have to answer in sentences, but be careful not to give too short answers.

There is a plan you should follow:

- Read the information in English about the text at the start: this gives you a clue as to what the answers are going to be about.
- Look quickly at the questions: these give you a clue as to what the passage is about
- Next you look at the text: skim through it to get an idea of what it is about, without using a dictionary.
- Now go back to the questions, and start looking for where the answers are in the passage. The questions follow the same order as the questions
- There will be line references at the start of each question to help you know where to look.
- Use a highlighter/pen to underline the chunks you think are relevant
- Check how many marks each question is worth, as a clue to how much you put in your answer.
- Now start to use your dictionary: it is easy to look up too many words, you will run out of time. Get into a pattern when trying to understand a piece of text.

a) Identify the verbs in the sentence, and look these words up. Watch out for irregular endings!

b) Identify the subjects of the verbs: these might be pronouns, so check who they are referring back to, or nouns, in which case make sure you know what these mean.

c) Once you have the subjects and verbs, the sentences should make more sense and it is easier to work out what else you need to know.

Listening Tips

Before the exam

- Build up your personal vocabulary by learning a small number of new words every day.
- Listen to as much French as you can - Radio MW/LW, internet, French speaking channels on Satellite TV.
- Listen to longer passages. Practice your note taking.

At the exam

- You must come to the exam with a clear idea of strategies
- Have a close look at the question.
- Be clear as to what is wanted.
- You should be listening for precise pieces of information
- As you read try to predict the sort of information that may be in the passage. It will help focus your mind.
- Do not panic when the CD begins.
- You are not expected to understand every word.
- If the passage is long/fast there may a lot of redundant language.
- Be positive. Concentrate on what you do understand.
- The passage may be difficult but the questions may be easy.
- Use your knowledge of grammar
- It may be important to know if the person is talking about the past or the future.
- Don't just listen to the words. The tone of someone's voice may also be helpful in showing their mood.
- Intonation will indicate whether they are asking a question or making a statement.
- If you are not sure of an answer, GUESS

Preparation for Directed Writing

Prepare well developed opening scenarios for each of the following situations:

- You go to work in France
- You go to stay with your pen friend's family
- You take part in a school exchange organised by your school
- Your French pen friend comes to Scotland
- You spend some time in France studying at a school
- You go to France to take part in a conference
- You go to a surprise birthday party for your French pen friend

Prepare well developed bullet points for:

- A good journey
- A bad journey

Prepare well developed bullet points for:

- Where you stayed and what you thought of the accommodation.
- Staying in a hotel
- Staying at your pen friend's house
- Good accommodation
- Bad accommodation

Prepare well developed bullet points for:

- What you did in free time - day and evening -
- Information about your job and duties
- Information about the school and town
- What you thought of the people - colleagues, teachers or pupils
- What you liked/disliked the most
- What you thought of the food

Prepare well developed bullet points for

- Whether you would repeat the experience
- Whether you would recommend the experience
- What you are going to do to keep in touch
- You must also put in opinions.

Remember to learn some SPARKLE phrases.

Look over your verb sheet.

Verbs must be perfect.

Follow these instructions and you should be okay.

Remember you can use the web for extra practice. BBC learning zone broadband clips for listening. Go to Secondary school French.

There is also material on BBC learning zone site. EURO NEWS is also good for reading.