French Pre Mock and GCSE Exam Revision

OR

How to Get at least a Grade 4 in French
GCSE with the “Minimum” Effort

Listening:
Strategies or How to Get More Marks Than I Deserve
Pairs of words which mean the same, or groups which are linked

Speaking:
Tips or Ways of Cheating Legally
Simple, Basic Phrases which will save your skin

Reading:
Strategies or How to Get More Marks Than I Deserve
Pairs of words which mean the same, or groups which are linked

Writing:
The French Teacher’s Commandments
Starting Sentences in an Interesting but Not Terribly Difficult Way
Linking Sentences in an Interesting but Really Incredibly Easy Way
Stylish, but Simple, Alternatives to Boring Words

Vocabulary
All the French Words You Learned... But Forgot

Grammar
What You Never Really Understood, And It’s Too Late Now (Or is it?)

Speaking Exam (Oral)
Your exam will be recorded to be sent away and marked by an external examiner. It is therefore really important that you speak clearly and make every word count. You have 12 minutes to prepare for the role-play and photo questions. Ensure that you have enough material to speak for at least 2 minutes on the photo card (F+H) and 3-5 minutes (F) and 5-7 minutes (H) on the conversation. Speak at a good pace and with a good French accent. Practise your pronunciation! Use a variety of tenses, opinions and language. After the main questions on your photo, you will encounter some unseen questions. Be familiar with the types of questions asked for the unexpected element (see your lists).

**Listening Exam**

Your listening exam may last for around 35 minutes (Foundation) to 545 Minutes (Higher). You’ll be asked to listen to a CD in French and you will have to answer questions in English and French.

This is really important... In fact, let’s say that more loudly: This is really important: If the question is in English, answer in English and if the question is in French, you answer in French, otherwise you won’t get the mark. Did you get that? **You won’t get the mark.**
You will be allowed to study the questions for 5 minutes before the recording plays. You will hear each extract twice.

To answer some questions, you will be asked to:

- Answer multiple choice questions (a-d)
- Choose the correct picture (jobs, foods, subjects etc.)
- State whether an answer is true or false
- Say if a statement is negative, positive or both
- Say who has made a statement
- Write a letter or number to indicate the correct answer
- Write a word or phrase in English/French
- Complete a sentence in English/French (higher level)

You don’t have to answer in full sentences, but make sure that you include all the details you have been asked for. There will be a number by each question to show how many marks are available. Use this as a guide to how much to answer.

Now there are certain things to remember about a Listening exam, which may seem obvious, but which are ever so easy to forget.

1. It’s a **Listening** exam so it’s a good idea to **listen**. If you don’t, you’ll lose where you are and it will all go horribly wrong. It’s not easy to lose where you are because the recording is very clear, but if you start daydreaming about what you’re going to do with your mates at the weekend, it is possible.

2. When you have your chance to read through the paper, try and think what you might **expect to hear**. If you’re in a doctor’s surgery, for example, might it be about something wrong with someone? What treatment would they receive? How long might they have had this ailment? Logic can take you a long way.

3. **Don’t leave any gaps! At all! Ever!** Think about it. If you guess, you have a chance of getting it right. Especially if you’ve done 1. and 2. **A blank space never got a mark.**

**Linked Vocabulary** – **This is really important for the Listening and the Reading exam.**
In the text you have to listen to or read there will be words which you will be expected to know. They will not be the same words which crop up in the questions on the paper, but they will be linked in some way, either they will be synonyms or they will be related in meaning.

Once you’ve got the hang of this, you will find it very, very, VERY helpful.

École – collège – lycée

La natation – nager – piscine – maillot de bain

L’équitation – faire du cheval – le cheval

Le cyclisme – faire du vélo – le VTT

L’hiver – froid – décembre – geler – Noël

Intéressant – beaucoup à faire – passionnant

Discuter – conversation – communication – parler

Difficile – compliqué

Long – prend des heures

Le sport – take your pick !!!

Les ordinateurs – surfer l’internet – jeux – informatique

La lecture – lire – livres – magazines

Les amis – les copains – les copines – rencontrer

Se relaxer – se détendre

conducteur – chauffeur

Il pleut – pluvieux – il pleuvait

Il fait beau – il fait du soleil – le soleil brille – chaud

Petit déjeuner – matin – matinée
Déjeuner - midi - l’après-midi
Dîner - soir - la soirée
Manger - repas - plat
Boire - boisson
Bijouterie - bijoux - boucle d’oreille - collier - bague
Été - juillet - août - vacances
Plage - piscine - au bord de la mer
Télé - petit écran - émission
Cinéma - grand écran - film
Devoirs - travail - études
Difficile - pas facile (Beware of negatives+ opposite !)
Ennuyeux - pas intéressant (Beware of negatives+ opposite !)
Future tense: l’année prochaine - dans 2 ans/demain
past tense: l’année dernière - il y a 2 ans/hier

Reading Exam

Your reading exam may last for around 45 minutes (Foundation) 1 hour (Higher). In section A, you’ll be asked to read information in French and you have to answer questions in English. In section B you must answer in French. In section C you will have a translation from French to English.

And again - remember what we said about the Listening exam...
To answer some questions, you will be asked

- state whether an answer is true or false
- write a letter or number to indicate the correct answer
- write a word or phrase in English/French
- complete a sentence in English/French (higher)

You don’t have to answer in full sentences, but make sure that you include all the details you have been asked for. There will be a number by each question to show how many marks are available. Use this as a guide to how much to answer.

1. It’s a Reading exam so read the text carefully. For longer passages, read the questions first. You are not going to understand every word, but we hope that you’ll have learned in class to pick out important words. You might not need more than one or two words to be able to understand what you need to understand in order to get the marks. If you don’t get it the first time, read it again. The important stuff is there and you can find it. Do not leave any blanks!

Writing

Writing: The Ten Commandments

1. Thou shalt not write fewer than 10% of the allowed words, nor more than about 10% above (or at your own risk).
   a. Too few - you can’t get a 4.
   b. Too many - you have more room to make mistakes.

2. Thou shalt use a variety of tenses.
   a. Present - Ma matière préférée est...
   b. Past - Le weekend dernier je suis allé... J’ai regardé... C’était...
   c. Future - Après le collège je vais aller à l’université.
   d. Conditional - Je voudrais être médecin.
e. Imperfect – C'était super etc.

3. Thou shalt use conjunctions to LINK sentences. (Et, mais, parce que, car, ou, puis, ensuite...)

4. Thou shalt use subordinate clauses. (Don't panic – this just means clauses which can’t stand on their own.
   a. Je mange à la cantine, parce que les repas sont bons.
   b. Pendant la récré je joue au foot ou je lis des livres.

5. Thou shalt express opinions. Lots. All different.

6. Thou shalt use adverbs. (lentement, poliment, vite etc.)

7. Thou shalt use negatives.
   a. Je n’aime pas les chats/le français / les pommes de terre je ne regarde
   b. Je ne regarde jamais la télé.

8. Thou shalt use comparatives and superlatives.
   a. L’anglais est plus facile que la biologie.
   b. Le pire, c’est les devoirs.

9. Thou shalt make sure that thy adjectives agree with thy nouns.

10. THOU SHALT LEARN THY VERBS!! (especially the main ones in each of the important tenses).
• verb tenses. Look at the verb tables in your textbook, AND YOUR NOTES!
• spellings & accents – look at the vocab sections of each unit, and use your Studio vocab book.
• nouns & genders – when in doubt, check it out! LOOK IT UP!
• adjectives – order: before noun (petit, grand, joli, beau, bon) or after noun. Use BOTH. agreements: masculine/feminine/plural.

All the French Words You Learned... But Forgot

Questions
Qui... Who
Qu'est-ce que... What
Quand... When
Où... Where
Pourquoi... Why
Comment ... How
Combien... How much

Les jours de la semaine  Days of the Week
Lundi  Monday
Mardi  Tuesday
Mercredi  Wednesday
Jeudi  Thursday
Vendredi  Friday
Samedi  Saturday
Dimanche  Sunday
And...
La semaine dernière  Last week
Il y a quatre jours  Four days ago
Hier  Yesterday
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>French</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aujourd'hui</td>
<td>Today</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demain</td>
<td>Tomorrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>En quatre jours</td>
<td>In four days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>La semaine prochaine</td>
<td>Next week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Les mois de l’année</strong></td>
<td><strong>Months of the Year</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janvier</td>
<td>January</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Février</td>
<td>February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mars</td>
<td>March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avril</td>
<td>April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mai</td>
<td>May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juin</td>
<td>June</td>
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<td>Juillet</td>
<td>July</td>
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<td>Août</td>
<td>August</td>
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<td>Septembre</td>
<td>September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Octobre</td>
<td>October</td>
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<tr>
<td>Novembre</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Décembre</td>
<td>December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And…</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L’année dernière</td>
<td>Last year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L’année prochaine</td>
<td>Next year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Les Saisons</strong></td>
<td><strong>Seasons</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Le printemps</td>
<td>spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L’été</td>
<td>summer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L’automne</td>
<td>autumn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L’hiver</td>
<td>winter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Les Jours de Fête</strong></td>
<td><strong>Holidays</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nouvel An/ Nouvelle Année</td>
<td>New Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonne Année !</td>
<td>Happy New Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vendredi Saint</td>
<td>Good Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pâques</td>
<td>Easter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noël</td>
<td>Christmas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joyeux Noël</td>
<td>Merry Christmas!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Les grandes vacances</td>
<td>summer holidays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonnes Vacances!</td>
<td>Happy Holidays!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anniversaire</td>
<td>birthday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonne Anniversaire</td>
<td>Happy Birthday!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
L’heure  
Il est une heure  
à une heure  
Il est deux heures  
Il est onze heures  
Il est midi  
Il est dix-huit heures  
clock  
Il est minuit  

Time  
It’s one o’clock  
at one o’clock  
It’s two o’clock  
It’s eleven o’clock  
It’s midday  
It’s six in the evening (24 hour  
clock)  
It’s midnight  

Il est quatre heures et quart  
Il est trois heures et demie  
Il est vingt-deux heures moins le quart  
Il est treize heures trente  
Il est cinq heures vingt  
Il est six heures moins dix  
Il est sept heures moins vingt-cinq  

It’s quarter past four  
It’s half past three  
It’s quarter to ten in the  
evening  
It’s one thirty in the  
afternoon  
It’s five twenty  
It’s ten to six  
It’s twenty-five to seven  

In order to say ’at’ a particular time, write or say ’à’ instead of ’il est’.

Time Phrases  
aujourd’hui  
demain  
après-demain  
hier  
avant-hier  
récemment  
bientôt  
après un peu de temps  
en (deux semaines)  
il y a (deux semaines)  
pour un jour/une semaine  
puis  
ensuite  
enfin  
today  
tomorrow  
the day after tomorrow  
yesterday  
the day before yesterday  
recently  
soon  
after a while  
in (two weeks) time  
(two weeks) ago  
for one day/week  
then  
then  
finally
Opinions – very, very, very, very important!! Use loads, and all different!!

J’aime/adoire/ I like/love
Jen’aime pas/déteste I don’t like/hate
Je trouve que... I think that...
Je pense que... I think that...
Il me semblerait que It would seem to me that (conditional.
USE!!)
A mon avis... In my opinion
Selon moi... In my opinion
Par contre On the other hand
C’est possible que It’s possible that...
Cela dépend That depends
Peut-être Perhaps

Masculine and feminine

You may need to change the spelling of adjectives depending on whether the thing that you're describing is masculine or feminine. These changed endings are known as agreements.

Feminine words usually need an -e added:
e.g. il est grand - he is tall
or elle est grande - she is tall

Plural words usually need an -s added Eg: ils sont grands - they are tall

Sometimes you need to add an -x - ils sont beaux. Do not add an -e if the word already ends with one:
e.g. jaune - yellow, mince - slim.

All the words for colours can be used as adjectives.

Conjunctions

et and
mais  but
si   if
ou   or
puis then
donc so/therefore
et... et... both... and...
parce que because
car because
ne...ni...ni... neither... nor
ensuite next
ou bien or else
puis then
comme as
quand when
que that

Prepositions
à to, at, in
à côté de next to, beside
après after
au sujet de about, on the subject of
avant before
avec with
chez at the home/office of, among
contre against
dans in
d’après according to
de from, of, about
depuis since, for
derrière in back of, behind
devant  in front of
en      in, on, to
en dehors de  outside of
en face de  facing, across from
entre   between
envers  toward
environ approximately
hors de  outside of
jusque  until, up to, even
loin de  far from
malgré  despite
par     by, through
parmi   among
pendant during
pour    for
près de  near
quant à as for, regarding
sans    without
selon   according to
sous    under
sur     on
vers    toward