



Preparing for GCSEs – French/German





What will I be tested on?

- 4 papers – listening, speaking, reading, writing
- Each paper is worth 25% of the qualification
- The content covers three broad themes as follows:
- People and Lifestyle (includes identity and relationships, healthy living and lifestyle, education and work)
- Popular Culture (includes free time, celebrations and traditions, celebrity culture)
- Communication and the World Around Us (includes travel and tourism, media and technology, the environment and where people live)





Key Dates

- Tuesday 16th June – French Listening and Reading Exams
- Thursday 25th June – German Listening and Reading Exams
- Writing Exams will take place during class time at a time when you don't have other exams – this will be communicated by your class teacher





What about speaking exams?

- Speaking exams take place on a 1-1 basis, with each student having 15 minutes preparation time followed by a 9-to-12-minute exam.
- Your first opportunity to practise this in formal conditions will be in the Autumn term of year 11 – there is no end of year 10 speaking exam





Listening Exam

- 5 minutes reading time is given at the start of the test, so you can familiarise yourself with the questions. 2 minutes checking time is given at the end of the test.
- You will hear everything twice, so there is no need to worry if you didn't quite catch something on the first lesson (except for the dictation)
- All questions are written in English, you will write your answers in English (except for the dictation).
- Some questions are multiple choice (A, B, C etc)
- Some questions require an answer in words
- There is a dictation section, where you write down exactly what you hear, IN FRENCH/GERMAN. Here, your spelling is being tested.
- You hear the dictation section three times – this is really useful!





Reading Exam

- All questions will be written in English and you will write your answers in English.
- Some questions are multiple choice (A, B, C etc), while some require an answer in words.
- At the end of the reading exam, there is a translation question, where you have to translate from French/German into English.





Writing Exam

- There is a variety of task types on this exam including:
- Grammar gap fill (fill in the missing word)
- Translation of sentences from English into French/German
- Produce an extended piece of writing on a topic covered in class (90 words – foundation, 150 words - higher)





Revision Strategy 1: Vocabulary Learning

- The more vocabulary you know, the easier you will find the exams.
- Use Memrise/Quizlet to learn vocabulary
- Make mini flashcards – English word on one side, French/German word on the other
- Get someone to test you
- Go to www.aqa.org/subjects/gcse/french-8652/teaching-resources
- Or www.aqa.org.subjects/gcse/german-8662/teaching-resources
- Here you will find the full list of vocabulary that examiners use when writing the exam papers. This is a very useful revision resource!





Revision Strategy 2: Verb Practice

- To help you become more secure with verb forms, which will help in the writing exam, try www.conjuguemos.com
- You can use this without setting up an account
- Make sure you select the correct language, then select the tense you want to practise





Revision Strategy 3: Exam Practice

- Revision Guides, e.g. CGP have practice papers for you to have a go at.
- The AQA website has some sample papers for each skill for you to have a go at.
- The textbooks used in class have practice exam-style questions at the end of each chapter – ask your teacher if you can take a photo and have a go at home





- Nous avons regardé la télévision hier
- Demain je vais promener le chien
- Le vendredi, on a des cours de musique
- Moi je joue tous les jours sur mon ordi
- Aujourd'hui il fait beau et je suis content
- Si j'étais riche, j'habiterais dans une grande maison

