

FACTFILE: GCSE FRENCH



Reading 5

CONTEXT 2: LOCAL, NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL AND GLOBAL AREAS OF INTEREST



My local area and the wider environment



Introduction

Here are some key points to help you study this topic.

Learning Outcomes

You should be able to:

- demonstrate understanding of different types of written language;
- follow and understand French texts and written instructions;
- identify the overall message, key points, details and opinions in a variety of written passages;
- deduce meaning from a variety of written texts; and
- recognise and respond to key information, important themes and ideas in extended written text (including authentic sources, which may be adapted as appropriate) by being able to answer questions, extract information, evaluate and draw conclusions.

These lists are neither prescriptive nor exhaustive.

Skills

Here are some suggestions to help you prepare for these skills:

- Preparation is key – manage your time effectively – don't leave it till the last minute.
- Managing the information you gather on this subject is essential to success.
- Spend adequate amount of time to fully prepare this topic.
- Learn the key vocabulary for your chosen topic.
- Make sure you have enough vocabulary and grammatical structures learnt to fully – develop your answers.
- Try to grasp the meaning of the whole text before you try to understand it.
- Look out for proper names or places with capital letters. These might help you get a better understanding of the text.
- Pay particular attention to the tenses and time trigger words for example: hier, demain, la semaine dernière/prochaine.
- Try not to get fixated on a word. If it doesn't come to you straight away, move on and return later.
- Watch out for trigger words such as mais, par contre, or etc.
- Revise and practise from authentic texts and past papers.
- Use a variety of resources to gather information on the topic.
- Where possible select resources that have different styles and registers.
- Develop your language reading skills through regular practise reading to gain confidence.
- Further develop your reading skills using authentic French material to familiarise yourself with commonly used idiomatic expressions.
- Track your progress.

Preparation

- Read and find out as much as you can about your topic using a variety of sources, class resources, books and websites.
- This topic lends itself well to making comparisons; look out for words and expressions which introduce comparisons, le plus, le moins, le pire, le meilleur etc.

Practice

- Reading and understanding text is a skill which you should practise regularly in class and at home.
- Use every opportunity in class to improve your reading skills by reading regularly; authentic resources or classroom instructions/discussions with your classmates and teachers.
- Participate actively in practice reading exercises from authentic materials and resources, such as text books, advertisements and past papers.
- Learn the vocabulary for this topic thoroughly and regularly.
- Don't be tempted to leave practice and revision to the last minute.
- Pay particular attention to the tense used in the text and the question posed and try to answer accordingly.
- Always read instructions and questions set carefully ensuring before answering.

Revision

- Use every opportunity in class to improve your reading skills by engaging in all reading activities and exercises.
- Organise your prepared and revision work.
- Do not rely on the obvious answers but always look out for the key expressions or trigger words, for example the use of negatives and expressions which compare and contrast.
- Practise makes perfect, revise your reading skills by regularly using past papers.
- Try out the websites and language games sites to help you revise for this topic.
- Always remember you will be assessed on your reading skills and linguistic competence.

