

FACTFILE: GCSE FRENCH



Speaking 7

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



Social and global issues



Introduction

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

Learning Outcomes

You should be able to:

- communicate and interact effectively in speech for a variety of purposes;
- take part in short conversations, asking and answering questions, exchanging opinions and producing extended sequences of speech;
- speak spontaneously, responding to questions, points of view or situations and sustaining communication, as appropriate;
- express information and narrate events coherently and confidently, using and adapting language for new purposes;
- make appropriate and accurate use of a variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures;
- make creative use of the language, as appropriate, to express and justify their own thoughts and points of view; and

- use accurate pronunciation and intonation that would be understood by a native speaker.

These lists are neither prescriptive nor exhaustive.

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.
- Practise what you are going to say – record yourself and play it back.
- Try to initiate conversations and anticipate the examiner's questions.
- Avoid relying too heavily on pre-learnt material.
- Always express, develop, and justify your opinions on the chosen topic.
- In the introduction include the main points that you wish to discuss.
- Use a variety of resources to gather information on the topic.
- Where possible select resources that have different styles and registers.
- Develop your language speaking skills through regular practise reading aloud at home and in class to gain confidence and fluency.
- The first stage in acquiring confident speaking skills involves good listening.
- Further develop your listening skills using authentic French material to improve intonation and pronunciation.

- Interact in role playing with classmates in pairs or small groups in a loud voice to gain confidence.
- Record yourself on a regular basis and track your progress.

Preparation

- Choose an aspect of this topic that you have a particular interest in. For example, 'the use of social media by young people today'.
- Brainstorm some of the ideas or areas you are thinking of developing.
- Use spidergrams to help you develop some particularly interesting aspects of this topic.
- 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.
- Try to enhance and develop your research by making comparisons.
- Add an interesting or unusual fact to create curiosity.
- Check with your teacher that your approach/ideas are suitable.
- Avoid using Wikipedia and free online translation apps/sites.
- Write notes to summarise the information you have gathered and selected and keep safely in organised folders.
- Organise your resources, findings and material and break them down into points.
- Ensure that your prepared material gives you the opportunity to be awarded a higher level grade.

Practice

- Speaking is a skill which you should practise regularly in class and at home.
- Use every opportunity in class to improve your speaking skills by engaging in free conversation with your classmates and teachers.
- Participate actively in oral exercises, discussion activities and spontaneous question and answer classroom opportunities.
- Take the opportunity to speak to the French Language Assistant in small class groups to become more confident when speaking aloud.
- Learn the vocabulary for this topic thoroughly and regularly.
- Don't be tempted to leave practice to the last minute.
- Check your memory by covering one part and remembering the other.

- You should try to volunteer additional information when responding to a question.
- Aim to always give two to three responses to a question to produce extended sequences of speech.
- Always express your opinions and justify your answers.
- Pay attention to the tense used in the question and try to respond accordingly.
- Speak clearly, fluently and with confidence.
- Show enthusiasm when practising the discussion of this topic.
- Engage with the examiner and keep him or her interested.

Revision

- Time yourself and respect the time limit recommendation when revising for your speaking tests.
- Record yourself when revising your speaking test.
- Try writing out a list of relevant vocabulary then reading the words out aloud.
- Repeat your presentations/discussions/projects in a loud voice.
- Use every opportunity in class to improve your speaking skills by engaging in free conversation with your classmates and teachers.
- Organise your prepared work into easily learnt paragraphs and break them down into points.
- Try and make sure that when you hesitate to answer you use French equivalent to 'hmm' for example 'Alors'.
- Always prepare at least three different ways to introduce an opinion for example 'Je pense que', 'À mon avis' or 'Selon'.
- Practise makes perfect, revise your speaking by using past paper role plays.
- When practising try to engage with your teacher or French Language Assistant.
- Have a selection of key answers prepared according to possible questions asked for example, Vous avez?, 'je voudrais', Tu aimes?
- Use family and friends to help you revise in class and at home.
- Try out the websites and language games sites to help you revise for this topic.
- Always remember you will be assessed on your verbal communication and linguistic competence.

