



Rewarding Learning

# FRENCH STUDENT STUDY CARD 7

## GUIDANCE FOR CONVERSATION AT A2

### Introduction

The conversation element is based on the themes studied at A2. AS topics may be incorporated as appropriate.

### Assessment

An external visiting examiner carries out the speaking test and it is recorded.

### Assessment Objectives

You will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- A01: Understand and respond to spoken language.
- A03: Manipulate the language accurately and appropriately.

Familiarise yourself with the requirements of each criterion and guidance on how to achieve the top bands.

A01 assesses:

- your degree of comprehension
- the fluency of your responses
- your initiative to develop answers and your ability to argue points of views
- your pronunciation and intonation

A03 assesses:

- your command of idiom and vocabulary
- your knowledge and application of grammar





## Skills

Here are some suggestions to help you prepare for this skills area.

### Preparation

- Start by revising your notes for AS. The AS topics may be incorporated, as appropriate. Then cover the A2 themes and topics.
- Don't forget to revise popular topics such as your family, your studies, your hobbies and interests, your holidays.
- Prepare new topics of conversation based on what you did in the past year. These could include:
  - your work experience
  - your part-time job
  - your career plans and your choice of university.
- Develop your answers at length. You will be expected to be more confident and to give longer responses than at AS.
- Revise your strategies for buying yourself time to think with useful filler phrases.
- Prepare strategies for introducing your favourite topics into the conversation.

### On the day of the examination

- Listen to the question carefully and always answer the question.
- Ask the examiner to repeat if you are not sure you have understood the question. Do not attempt to guess. A very good degree of comprehension is needed for the higher bands.
- Check whether the examiner expects you to talk about yourself (using 'vous' in the question) or about the topic at a general level (using 'on' in the question).
- Develop your answers as much as you can and do not off a prepared answer at an unnatural pace. Clear pronunciation and good intonation are important.
- Remember to lead the conversation by introducing your favourite themes/topics whenever possible. Take every opportunity to do so.
- Don't forget to give opinions and to justify them. Don't be afraid to interact with the examiner and take the initiative to lead and develop the conversation.
- Relax and smile.