



Rewarding Learning

FRENCH STUDENT STUDY CARD 10

READING - STEPS TO SUCCESS

Introduction

The Reading Comprehension element (Section B) of the AS Unit 2 exam consists of one written passage on which you answer questions in French.

The Reading Comprehension element (Section B) of the A2 Unit 2 exam consists of two sets of questions and one summary exercise as follows:

- Gap-filling exercise.
- Questions in French on passage to be answered in French.
- Summary exercise in English of approximately 100 words.

Assessment

At AS and A2 level the Reading comprehension exercise is assessed according to the following criterion:

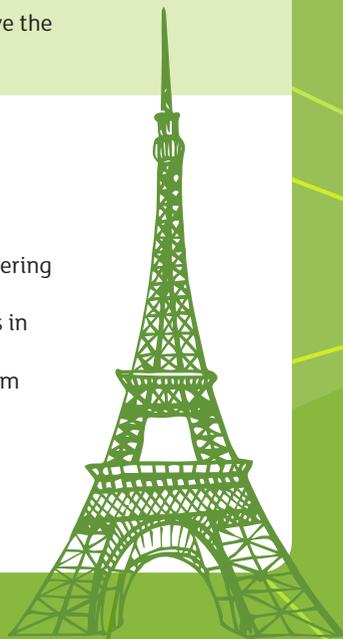
- A02: Understanding of the written language.

Look at the mark scheme to familiarise yourself with the requirements of the criterion and guidance on how to achieve the top bands.

Assessment Objectives

You should be able to:

- understand, infer meaning and draw conclusions from a variety of written texts (including authentic sources) covering different contexts, registers, styles and genres;
- express information, facts and ideas and justify opinions in written French; and
- understand and apply accurately the grammatical system and a range of structures.





Skills

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

Preparation

- To improve your performance read French passages regularly and as extensively as possible, such as the French press online, French magazines, short stories, adverts.
- Build up and learn a bank of reporting phrases, e.g. Contre toute raison, Je suis d'avis que, De façon que, En premier lieu, Il est question de.
- Build up and learn a bank of link words and impressive phrases to use in your answers, e.g. néanmoins, par conséquent, cependant, d'autre part.

On the day of the examination

- Although the comprehension exercise is assessed according to the A02 criterion only, your answers in French have to be expressed clearly. Weak use of French may lead to an incomprehensible answer which cannot be rewarded.
- It is a test of comprehension, not translation. You need to express yourself clearly in your own words and include all the relevant information.
- The questions in French must be answered in French.
- Read the text all the way through once or even twice and identify the main theme as well as the key points.
- Read the questions carefully, paying attention to the question word used.
- There is no need to repeat the question at the start of your answer.
- Full sentences may not be necessary as long as all the elements of the answer are present.
- Do not waste time on unfamiliar vocabulary which may not be needed for the answer.
- There is no need to rephrase every sentence.
- Check the number of marks allocated to each question as this will indicate the amount of information you need to give in your answer.