



Rewarding Learning

FRENCH STUDENT STUDY CARD 14

GAP-FILLING SKILLS

Introduction

At A2, the first task you will have to complete in the Reading section of your examination is a gap filling exercise. You will be given a text containing gaps, and a bank of words from which to select the correct answer for each gap.

Assessment

- The gap-filling exercise will be Question 1 of Section B in Unit A2 2.
- This task carries 10 marks.

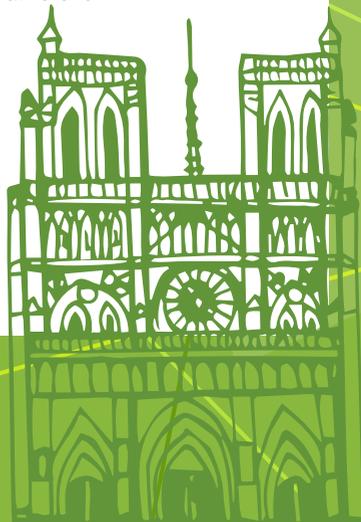
Assessment Objectives

In this task, you will be assessed according to Assessment Objective 2.

- AO2 requires you to understand and respond, (in speech and) in writing, to written language drawn from a variety of sources.

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; and
- understand and accurately apply the grammatical system and a range of structures.





Skills

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

Preparation

- Learn topic vocabulary thoroughly throughout your course.
- Revise key grammar on a regular basis. You should be confident in making the distinction between the nature of words (noun, verb, adjective etc.) and their function (subject, object, additional information such as references to time and manner).
- Frequently practise gap-filling tasks. You will find a lot of suitable material in your textbook and on language learning websites.
- Always approach this type of task on two levels: lexical (what the words mean) and grammatical (look at clues such as the ending of words supplied to check in which gaps they would fit or not fit).
- Get feedback on your mistakes.
- When reading in French, pay close attention to sentence structure.

On the day of the examination

- You should be well practiced, but remember to use a range of strategies.
- Study the words provided and sort them out in sets: conjugated verbs (according to person and tense), infinitives, adjectives (according to gender and number), adverbs, nouns (according to gender and number), prepositions, etc.
- Read the text right through once to identify the topic and familiarise yourself with the content of the text.
- Read it a second time. At this stage you should pause at each gap to determine the type of word which is missing; use a combination of lexical clues (vocabulary) and grammatical clues to select the most appropriate word from your bank of fifteen.
- If you come across an obstacle, move on, then come back to it later.
- Try not to leave any blank gaps.
- Check your work before moving on to the next task, and again at the end of the examination if you have time left.