



Rewarding Learning

# FRENCH STUDENT STUDY CARD 21

## USING TENSES

### Introduction

You are required to be familiar with the following tenses: present, perfect (*including agreement of past participles*), imperfect, future, conditional, pluperfect, future perfect, conditional perfect and past historic.

The present, perfect (*including agreement of past participles*), imperfect, future, conditional, pluperfect will be assessed across the 4 assessment objectives : A01, A02, A03 and A04. The *future perfect, conditional perfect and past historic* will be assessed according to the A02 criteria only at AS and A2 level.

You must use the correct tense /recognise the use of the correct tense to do the following:

- Understand and respond, in speech and writing to spoken language
- Understand and respond, in speech and writing, to written language
- Manipulate the language accurately and appropriately, in spoken and written form
- Show knowledge and understanding of and respond critically and analytically to different aspects of the culture and society of France and French-speaking countries and demonstrate critical analysis and evaluation of works created in French.

### Assessment

Your ability to use language (verbs and tenses) is assessed throughout the AS and A2 examinations.

### Assessment Objective/s

You will be assessed according to the following criterion:

- A03: manipulate the language accurately and appropriately using a range of lexis and structure.

You should be able to:

- Manipulate the language accurately and appropriately using a wide range of lexis:
- transfer meaning; and
- understand and accurately apply the grammatical system and range of structures.

These are considered as core skills. The key to success is final proof-reading.





## Skills

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

- ✓ By seeing and hearing the tenses used in a variety of contexts you should develop a better understanding of them and they should become much easier to learn and recognise.
- ✓ It will be extremely helpful for you to see and hear the tenses being used in “real life” situations so you should try to access the following to get a “feel” for the correct tense:
  - Music videos
  - Commercials
  - News programmes
  - Cartoons
  - French T.V. programmes and films
  - Online press
  - Newspapers and magazines
  - French blogs
- ✓ You can also practise your skills by taking online quizzes or doing online exercises which test your knowledge of all the required tenses.
- ✓ Keep a journal and try to use a variety of tenses e.g. what you did yesterday, what your plans are for the weekend etc.
- ✓ Remember that it is much easier to choose something that you enjoy and want to read, write and listen to. The more authentic French you are exposed to the better your skills will develop.