

FACTFILE: GCSE FRENCH



Writing 5

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



My local area and the wider environment



Introduction

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

Learning Outcomes

You should be able to:

- demonstrate understanding of different types of written language;
- follow and understand French texts and written instructions;
- identify the overall message, key points, details and opinions in a variety of written passages;
- deduce meaning from a variety of written texts;
- recognise and respond to key information, important themes and ideas in extended written text (including authentic sources, which may be adapted as appropriate) by being able to answer questions, extract information, evaluate and draw conclusions.

These lists are neither prescriptive nor exhaustive.

Skills

Here are some suggestions to help you prepare for these 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 written answers.
- Use a variety of resources to gather information on the topic.
- Plan your work carefully in bullet points with the ideas you want to include.
- Write a list of vocabulary related to the topic that you want to include.
- Organise your written work in separate paragraphs and avoid repetition.
- Pay attention to spellings, sentence structures and punctuation.
- Track your progress.

Preparation

- 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; look out for words and expressions which introduce comparisons, le plus, le moins, le pire, le meilleur etc.
- Always try to justify your opinions.
- Use a variety of expressions to formulate opinions.
- Use more than one tense with particular focus on the past and future tense.
- You will be expected to practise written exercises during the year in class and at home, so take into account any feedback given by your teacher when preparing your written exercises.
- Add some more complex grammatical structures including idiomatic expressions.

Practice

- Writing in the target language is a skill which you should practise regularly in class and at home.
- Use every opportunity in class to improve your writing skills by increasing the length of your answers from a few sentences to longer paragraphs.
- Make the most of authentic resources or text books to help you develop ideas.
- Learn the vocabulary for this topic thoroughly and regularly.
- Don't be tempted to leave practice and revision to the last minute.
- Always read instructions and questions set carefully ensuring before answering.

Revision

- Use every opportunity in class to improve your writing skills by engaging in all writing activities and exercises.
- Organise your prepared and revision work.
- Practise makes perfect, revise your writing skills by regularly revising a variety of tenses, developing sentences and adding more complex grammatical structures.
- Try to use some idiomatic expressions to enhance your written work.
- Try out the websites and language games sites to help you revise for this topic.
- Always remember you will be assessed on your writing skills and linguistic competence.

