

FACTFILE: GCSE FRENCH



Writing 9

CONTEXT 3: SCHOOL LIFE, STUDIES AND THE WORLD OF WORK



My studies and school life



- make accurate use of a variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures;
- manipulate the language, using and adapting a variety of structures and vocabulary with accuracy and fluency for new purposes (including using appropriate style and register);
- make independent and creative use of the language to identify key points, express and justify their thoughts and points of view.

Skills

- Can you describe your school, giving details about its facilities and your opinions of them?
- Can you accurately list the subjects you study?
- Can you offer opinions and justifications about your favourite and least favourite subjects?
- Can you describe your teachers using a range of adjectives?
- Can you talk about what you are going to study in school next year?

Introduction

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

Learning Outcomes

You should be able to:

- communicate in writing for a variety of purposes;
- write short texts, using simple sentences and familiar language to convey meaning and exchange information;
- translate sentences from English to French to convey key messages accurately and to apply grammatical knowledge of language and structures in context;
- produce clear and coherent extended text to present fact and express ideas and opinions for different purposes and different settings;

Preparation

Preparing for Writing about 'My Studies and School Life' can be made very easy by following a few simple steps:

- Compile a list of useful vocabulary that is not common in other subject areas and do a look, cover and spell exercise.
- Prepare some important subject specific verbs (to study, to learn, to write, to read, to calculate, to repeat a year, to drop a subject, to succeed) in a number of tenses and learn them. You could use an online app to practise and test yourself.
- Think about vocabulary you could recycle. For example make a list of opinion words, both positive and negative and relate them to your subjects, school facilities and teachers.
- Familiarise yourself with one typically French custom in terms of education, for example, do French pupils wear uniforms? Is it different to the practice in Northern Ireland? What is your opinion? By engaging and giving opinions, development and justification, you will access higher mark bands.

Practice

Write about your school life. Read the bullet points and answer each point in full. When preparing this piece of writing, you should aim to write about 40–50 words per bullet point.

1. Comment est ton collègue?
2. Décris ta routine journalière au collège hier.
3. Qu'est-ce que tu portes au collège?
4. Qu'est-ce que tu étudies comme matières?
5. Qu'est-ce que tu vas étudier l'année prochaine et pourquoi?

Helpful Hints

- Give the name and location of your school. Tell the reader about how many pupils there are and how many teachers there are. Give a few examples of the facilities. **To expand and develop, consider adding a sentence in the conditional tense about what you would change at school.**
- Writing in the **past** explain what you did at school yesterday. **To expand and develop you could give information about when you got up, how you travelled and if you did any homework.**

- Talk about your school uniform. Be creative and use **plenty of adjectives** to describe the colour and style of the clothing and say whether **you like it or not**. To gain top marks, **you could talk about school uniform customs in France.**
- List what you study using linking words and opinions to break up your list. To expand and develop **offer opinions and justifications about your best and worst subjects and your teachers.**
- Giving your **personal opinion**, tell the reader what you will study using the **future tense**. **To expand and develop, include information about why you will study these subjects.**

Revision

Once you have prepared a piece of written work, here are three top tips for effective revision.

- Can you write all your subjects accurately? If not, this would be a good place to start.
- Look over personality adjectives and apply them to your teachers or friends.
- See if you can make four sentences relating to your best and worst subjects using the phrases **Je pense que, Je crois que, J'estime que** and **A mon avis**.



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