

## HIGHER LANGUAGE EASTER REVISION

I have put together this booklet to help you revise over the Easter break.

- ❖ Draw up a timetable for studying all of your subjects but try and spend at least a couple of hours every other day studying French.
- ❖ Only ever concentrate on one skill at a time
- ❖ You should be preparing for Directed writing, Short writing, Listening, Reading and translation.
- ❖ Try to complete this work at it will help. Do not leave it all until the night before school starts.

### In this pack you will find:

- ✓ Reading Tips
- ✓ Listening tips
- ✓ Instructions for preparing directed writings
- ✓ Previous direct writing essay questions
- ✓ Instructions for preparing short essays
- ✓ Short essay topics to cover
- ✓ Previous short essay exam questions
- ✓ Link works and phrases

### Higher Reading Tips:

- You do not have to understand all of the text thoroughly: you have to get the gist of the text, and then identify carefully where the answers are, taking more time with these areas of the text.
- You are not expected to give every detail, or translate word for word what is in the French text.
- You must show that you have understood the text and your answers must be in good English.
- If the answers do not make sense then you must presume they will be wrong.
- You do not have to answer in sentences, but be careful not to give too short answers.

### There is a plan you should follow:

- Read the information in English about the text at the start: this gives you a clue as to what the answers are going to be about.
  - Look quickly at the questions: these give you a clue as to what the passage is about
  - Next you look at the text: skim through it to get an idea of what it is about, without using a dictionary.
  - Now go back to the questions, and start looking for where the answers are in the passage. The questions follow the same order as the questions
  - There will be line references at the start of each question to help you know where to look.
  - Use a highlighter/pen to underline the chunks you think are relevant
  - Check how many marks each question is worth, as a clue to how much you put in your answer.
  - Now start to use your dictionary: it is easy to look up too many words, you will run out of time. Get into a pattern when trying to understand a piece of text.
- a) Identify the verbs in the sentence, and look these words up. Watch out for irregular endings!
  - b) Identify the subjects of the verbs: these might be pronouns, so check who they are referring back to, or nouns, in which case make sure you know what these mean.
  - c) Once you have the subjects and verbs, the sentences should make more sense and it is easier to work out what else you need to know.

## Listening Tips

### Before the exam

- Build up your personal vocabulary by learning a small number of new words every day.
- Listen to as much French as you can - Radio MW/LW, internet, French speaking channels on Satellite TV.
- Listen to longer passages. Practice your note taking.

### At the exam

- You must come to the exam with a clear idea of strategies
- Have a close look at the question.
- Be clear as to what is wanted.
- You should be listening for precise pieces of information
- As you read try to predict the sort of information that may be in the passage. It will help focus your mind.
- Do not panic when the CD begins.
- You are not expected to understand every word.
- If the passage is long/fast there may a lot of redundant language.
- Be positive. Concentrate on what you do understand.
- The passage may be difficult but the questions may be easy.
- Use your knowledge of grammar
- It may be important to know if the person is talking about the past or the future.
- Don't just listen to the words. The tone of someone's voice may also be helpful in showing their mood.
- Intonation will indicate whether they are asking a question or making a statement.
- If you are not sure of an answer, GUESS

## Preparation for Directed Writing

Prepare well developed opening scenarios for each of the following situations:

- You go to work in France
- You go to stay with your pen friend's family
- You take part in a school exchange organised by your school
- Your French pen friend comes to Scotland
- You spend some time in France studying at a school
- You go to France to take part in a conference
- You go to a surprise birthday party for your French pen friend

Prepare well developed bullet points for:

- A good journey
- A bad journey

Prepare well developed bullet points for:

- Where you stayed and what you thought of the accommodation.
- Staying in a hotel
- Staying at your pen friend's house
- Good accommodation
- Bad accommodation

Prepare well developed bullet points for:

- What you did in free time - day and evening -
- Information about your job and duties
- Information about the school and town
- What you thought of the people - colleagues, teachers or pupils
- What you liked/disliked the most
- What you thought if the food

Prepare well developed bullet points for

- Whether you would repeat the experience
- Whether you would recommend the experience
- What you are going to do to keep in touch
- You must also put in opinions.

Remember to learn some SPARKLE phrases.

Look over your verb sheet.

Verbs must be perfect.

Follow these instructions and you should be okay.

Remember you can use the web for extra practice. BBC learning zone broadband clips for listening. Go to Secondary school French.

There is also material on BBC learning zone site. EURO NEWS is also good for reading.

## Preparation for Short writing

Go through all of your topics and choose 15-20 phrases for each topic

Make sure you chose a good range of general phrases, positive/negatives aspects, concluding phrases.

Learn good connectors/time indicators and opinion phrases.

You should consider the following areas:

### LIFESTYLES

#### FAMILY

- Size of family
- Brothers/sisters
- Position in the family - opinions
- Relationships
- Arguments - when and why?
- Parents
- Shared family interests
- Favourite time with family
- Marriage/own children
- Importance of family

#### FRIENDS

- Number of friends
- When and how you met
- School/family friends
- How you spend time with friends
- Arguments - why/when?
- Special friend - qualities
- Parents and friends
- Importance of friendship

#### HOME AREA

- Where you live and for how long
- Where used to live -compare
- House
- Description of area
- Activities/facilities
- What you would change
- Advantages/disadvantages of area
- Where you could not live
- Where you would like to live

## HEALTHY LIVING

- Importance of being healthy
- How healthy are you?
- What you eat - too much of/not enough of
- What exercise you do - how often/when/where
- Does school play a role
- Health in Scotland
- Opinions on drugs/smoking/alcohol
- Current situation
- What is being done
- What should be done

## EDUCATION AND WORK

- School
- Aspects of school positive & negative
- Building
- School day
- Location
- Number of pupils/staff
- Facilities
- Clubs
- Like/dislike school
- Choice of subjects & opinions
- Teachers - good/bad
- Uniform
- Future plans

## USE OF TECHNOLOGY

- Mobile phones
- Internet

## WIDER WORLD

- The importance of holidays
- Holidays with or without parents
- Scotland as a tourist destination
- Gap year
- Ideal holiday

## Short Writing questions 2006-2013

SQA 2014 ???

SQA 2013

Marie-Claire nous a parlé de ses vacances passées à la Martinique et de ce qu'il y a à faire pour les touristes et les jeunes qui y habitent. Où préférez-vous passer les vacances? Et pourquoi? Qu'est-ce qu'il y a chez vous pour les touristes et pour les jeunes qui y habitent?

SQA 2012

Annie nous a expliqué combien ses amis lui ont manqué quand elle était en Ecosse. Et vous, aimez-vous passer beaucoup de temps avec les copains, ou est-ce que vous préférez être seul(e) de temps en temps? A votre avis, quelles sont les qualités d'un(e) bon(ne) ami(e)?

SQA 2011

Anaïs nous a parlé de ses expériences au lycée et des problèmes des jeunes. Et vous, est-ce que vous êtes content(e) dans votre lycée/collège? A votre avis, quelles sont les inquiétudes typiques des jeunes personnes d'aujourd'hui?

SQA 2010

Annie nous parle des vacances. Quelles sont vos vacances idéales ? Avec ou sans parents ? Actives ou relaxantes ? Donnez vos raisons.

SQA 2009

Cécile a bien aimé son séjour en Ecosse. A votre avis quels sont les avantages/désavantages de vivre en Ecosse ? Vous pensez aussi qu'il est important de visiter d'autres pays ?

SQA 2008

Les jobs de Francine lui ont apporté de l'argent. Est-ce que vous avez assez d'argent pour vos besoins ? A votre avis, quels sont les avantages et les inconvénients d'avoir un emploi à temps partiel ?

SQA 2007

Aurélie nous parle de sa vie dans une grande ville.  
A votre avis, quels sont les avantages et les inconvénients d'habiter dans une grande ville ?  
Avez-vous l'intention de quitter votre ville pour suivre votre carrière ?

SQA 2006

Mme Fourniret nous parle de son collègue.  
A votre avis, quels sont les aspects importants d'un bon collègue ?  
Voulez-vous continuer vos études après le collège ou entrer directement dans le monde du travail ?

## Useful Phrases for writing

### Beginnings

Je vais vous parler de mes opinions sur opinions on = I am going to speak to you about my opinions on  
Je vais vous parler des avantages et des inconvénients de + infinitive = I am going to speak to you about some advantages and disadvantages of.....

Je vais vous expliquer pourquoi je préfère = I am going to explain why i prefer.....  
Selon moi il y a beaucoup d'avantages et des inconvénients de + infinitive = According to me there are lots of advantages and

disadvantages of.....

### Paragraph starters

En ce qui concerne la/le/les = regarding  
De nos jours = nowadays  
Il est important/nécessaire de considérer le fait que = it is important/necessary to consider the fact that  
En plus / en outre = furthermore  
Cependant / pourtant = however

### Linking words/phrases

D'un côté.....de l'autre = from one side... from the other  
D'un point de vue.....de l'autre point de vue = from one point of view  
Donc = therefore  
Par conséquent = consequently  
A mon avis  
D'après moi  
Selon moi  
En ce qui me concerne  
Quant à moi  
Je suis de l'opinion que

In my opinion

Je pense que  
Je crois que  
with

I think that

Je suis d'accord avec  
Je ne suis pas d'accord avec

I agree/don't agree

Malheureusement  
Mais  
De temps en temps

= unfortunately  
= but  
= from time to time

### Endings

Tout considérée = all things considered  
En bref = in brief  
Pour conclure/en conclusion = to conclude