

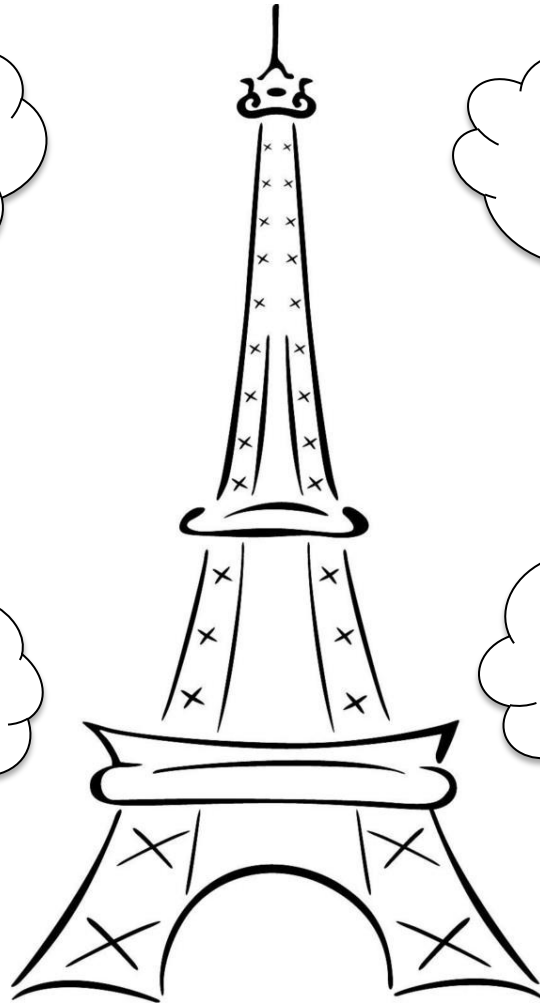
GCSE French Revision Booklet

Revision techniques for Passive skills!

Language gyms!

Analyse past papers.

Past papers 2010-2015



Name: _____

Form: _____

How do I revise? :



- **Effective revision:**
- To be effective, revision must be:
- **Active** - always work with a pen and paper, note down key vocabulary and test yourself. Never just sit down and read the textbook for a set period. Focus on tasks, not time. If you just read notes you'll only retain about 10% of the information.
- **Organised** - always ask yourself at the start of a study session "What do I want to have completed in this session?" Have a plan for what you want to cover by the end of the week. Try and organise your French revision into the following topic areas:

Topic	Subjects included	Modules in textbook
Personal information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name, age, birthdays • Describing people (looks and personality) • Family • Where you live 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 1 • Module 3 – town vocab
Media and culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music, film, reading • Fashion, celebrities, religion • Blogs, internet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 2 – Free time
Sport and leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hobbies and interests • Sporting events • Lifestyle choices (healthy eating) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 1 – p10, 18-22 • Module 8 – Healthy lifestyles
Travel and tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holidays • Accommodation • Eating, food and drink 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 4 • Module 7 • Module 8 p148
Education and employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School subjects • Daily routine • Work experience/part-time jobs • Future careers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module 5 • Module 6 • Module 1 p14 – job revision

Getting started

Where?

Find a fixed place to study (a particular desk/room at home, a spot in the library, etc.) that becomes firmly associated in your mind with productive work. All the equipment and materials you need should be within reach, and the room should be well lit and ventilated, but not too comfortable! Turn your room into a positive learning environment. Keep books and notes on the desk to a minimum and decorate your walls with colourful notes and key vocab. Music is fine as long as it helps you to study and blocks out distracting noises. The very best sound to study to is thought to be that of Baroque composers or Mozart. Experiments show that brains are positively stimulated and IQs boosted by such music.

When?

It's impossible to 'cram' for a Languages exam! 'Little and often' is the best policy when it comes to French revision. You will work out a system that suits you, but many people find that three 30-40 minute sessions of French revision per day is more effective than doing 2-3 hours at a time. For example, you could start off by learning some vocabulary in the morning, do some listening before lunch and a few reading exercises in the afternoon. However, the most important thing is that you're concentrating and working hard!

What and how?

Remember that it's all about being active and *focused on tasks, not time!* Know at the start of a session what you want to have completed by the end of the period. Make the tasks specific and realistic, not vague and large.

Vocabulary: (use your vocab express account!)

- Aim to learn 10 words per day. Use the vocab pages at the end of each module and choose 10 words from each section.
- It's best to spend 10-20 minutes in the morning revising them, then get a friend or family member to test you on them at lunchtime or the end of the day.
- Make a list of all the words you find most difficult to remember and return to these every couple of days.
- Write the words out and colour-code them (masculine nouns, feminine nouns, plural nouns, verbs, adjectives, other words). Write them on Post-It notes (French on one side, English on the other) and stick them around the house.
- Remember to revise how the words **sounds**, not just how it looks. Use the Online Audio Dictionary (see below) or create a voki (voki.com) and type in each word. (You don't need to save the voki each time.) Repeat it several times and try and write it phonetically.
- If you're a visual learner, try making a mind-map for each topic area or sub-topic. Do this without your book/dictionary first, and then allow yourself 2 minutes to look at your book before adding to it.



Listening Exam:



Listening:

- Build up your listening stamina! Start with one listening exercise, then build up to three or four per revision session (see lists below for useful listening sites).
- Look at the question. What's the topic? Which words can you expect to come up? How could the examiner try and catch you out?
- Numbers can be tricky. Listen out for ages, dates, times and prices and note them down.
- Always listen to a passage at least twice before committing to an answer. Try and repeat sentences to yourself more slowly so the words sink in.
- Look at the transcript (if available) and write down any vocabulary you didn't recognise.
- Try listening to French radio for 5 minutes (increasing this with time) and make notes in English. Do this with a friend and compare what you've written! (See below for useful sites).



Reading Exam:



Reading:

- Look at the question first. What's the topic? Which words can you expect to come up? How could the examiner try and catch you out?
- Read the passage carefully. Identify key words, then look for those tricky little words that can change the meaning of a sentence (see below for a few examples!)
- Find the verbs. What tense are they in? Is the writer talking about the present (**je mange**), past (**je mangeais, j'ai mangé**), future (**je mangerai, je vais manger,**) or a possibility (**je mangerais, je voudrais manger**)?
- If you're reading a series of statements by several people, and the question asks you to write the name of one of the people, try writing a brief summary of what each person has said in English.
- Check your work thoroughly and write down any vocabulary you didn't recognise.

Useful websites:

- **Online Audio Dictionary**
<http://french.about.com/od/vocabulary/a/audiodictionary.htm> - look up individual words for pronunciation guidance and meaning.
- **MYLO** www.hellomylo.com - Use the 'I need the basics' activities to revise key topic areas (and build your confidence!). The 'I'd like a challenge' activities are GCSE Level. The listening activities all have transcripts, but try doing them without reading these first.
- **Zut!** <http://www.zut.org.uk/intermediate/year10.html> - This site is available for free apart from weekdays from 10am - 4pm. Listening and Reading exercises divided into topic areas.
- **Really Useful French** <http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/haberg/index.htm> - Site is broken down into individual topic areas (scroll down to access these).
- **BBC Bitesize** - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/french/> - GCSE-style Listening and Reading questions that you can mark online. Do the Foundation as well as the Higher activities. The Grammar section is useful for those annoying little words (try *Pronouns* and *When, where and how much*)
- **French Revision** <http://www.frenchrevision.co.uk/> - The Intermediate section contains core GCSE vocabulary and some sample exercises from EdExcel.
- **Languages Online** <http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/> - A variety of exercises. Try the ones under 'Tricolore 4' for a challenge!
- **French Radio:**
- **NRJ** www.nrj.fr - Pop and chart music with some talking - possibly best to have on in the background
- **Le Mouv** <http://www.lemouv.fr/> - French equivalent of Radio 1. Podcasts also available at <http://www.lemouv.fr/podcasts>
- **Radio France** <http://www.radiofrance.fr/> - a variety of stations a bit like the BBC. Try **France Info** for news (don't expect to understand everything though!)
- <http://www.listenlive.eu/france.html> - a list of all French radio stations streaming online.