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FRENCH (Foundation)

EXAM BOARD: **EDEXCEL**

COURSE CODE: **600/4786/0**

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Name:

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FRENCH (Foundation) SP – TOPIC 1

Regular Present Tense

INTRODUCTION

You can use the present tense to talk about what is happening now (e.g. I am eating) or something that normally happens (e.g. normally, I eat dinner at 6pm).

Regular verbs always have the same endings in the present tense (see key facts) but you need to learn **Irregular** verbs separately (see TOPIC 2).

KEY WORDS

Je	I
Tu	You (informal or for one person)
Il / elle / on	He / she / we
nous	we
vous	You (formal or a group of people)
Ils	They (group of boys, or mixed group)
Elles	They (group of girls only)

FURTHER LINKS

There are some great websites that quiz you on verb endings, including:
www.conjugemos.com
and also 'The Language Gym'.

EXAM TIPS:

"One Present Tense! There's only one Present Tense!" So whether you want to say "I eat" or "I am eating", there can only be one verb: "je mange". NEVER try to use "je suis" (= I am) to form the Present Tense.

- All the exam writing questions include at least one bullet point to be developed in the present tense, so if you have not included a present, DO NOT MOVE ON!
- Speaking exam is also going to test your ability to use the present tense, so do not forget it and try to make clear you know your verb endings.
- If you spot any of these words in a sentence, the Present Tense is probably being used/ needed:
 - Normalement (normally)
 - D'habitude (usually)
 - Chaque jour/soir (every day/evening)

KEY FACTS TO MEMORISE

- 1. ER verb endings:** je (e), tu (es), il/elle/on (e), nous (ons), vous (ez), ils/ells (ent)
- 2. RE verb endings:** je (s), tu (s), il/elle/on (), nous (ons), vous (ez), ils/ells (ent)
- 3. IR verb endings:** je (is), tu (is), il/elle/on (it), nous (issons), vous (issez), ils/ells (issent)

EXAM QUESTIONS

1. votre opinion de votre uniforme scolaire
2. une description de votre journée typique au collège
3. pourquoi vous aimez votre ville, ou non
4. votre personnalité et vos passe-temps
5. si vous utilisez les réseaux sociaux et pourquoi/pourquoi pas

STRETCH

Use Reflexive Verbs when the action is done to oneself (e.g. je m'appelle = I call myself). Reflexive verbs follow the same present tense pattern, however you need to remember to add a 'reflexive pronoun' that agrees with the subject of the verb:

Je *me* lave = I wash myself
Tu *te* laves
Il/elle/on *se* lave
Nous *nous* lavons
Vous *vous* lavez
Ils/elles *se* lavent

Irregular Present Tense

INTRODUCTION

There are some **irregular verbs** that don't follow the regular verb pattern, **so you have to learn these off by heart**. In the key words table below are the most common irregular verbs with their irregular conjugation in brackets.

KEY WORDS

to do	faire	to go	Aller
to see	voir	to have	Avoir
to know	savoir	to be	Être
to come	venir	to keep	Tenir
to drink	boire	to open	Ouvrir
to be able to	pouvoir	to receive	Recevoir
to have to	devoir	to take	Prendre
to want to	savoir	to laugh	Rire

FURTHER LINKS

www.conjuguemos.com

Purple revision book

FluentU – search for irregular verbs

See the centre section of the French dictionaries in school – they have models for irregular verbs.

EXAM TIPS:

- Memorise a few irregular verbs to use in your answers to show the examiner that you know them, e.g. je fais = I do, je vais = I am going, nous avons = we have, nous sommes = we are
- These Irregular verbs often appear on the reading paper so make sure you recognize their meaning:

1. Je peux = I can
2. Je veux = I want
3. Je dois = I must
4. Il faut = it is necessary to

KEY FACTS TO MEMORISE

1. être (to be): je suis = I am, tu es = you are, il/elle/on est – he/she/one is, nous sommes = we are, vous êtes = you are, ils/elles sont = they are
2. avoir (to have): j'ai = I have, tu as = you have, il/elle/on a = he/she/one has, nous avons = we have, vous avez = you have, ils/elles ont = they have
3. aller (to go): je vais = I go, tu vas = you go, il/elle/on va = he/she/one goes, nous allons = we go, vous allez = you go, ils/elles vont = they go

EXAM QUESTIONS

1. Ce que vous faites normalement le soir?
2. Quel travail font tes parents?
3. Est-ce que vous allez souvent en vacances?
4. Quelles choses devez-vous faire au collège?
5. Qu'est-ce que vous prenez avec vous en vacances ?

STRETCH

To achieve a higher mark in your writing, try to use a variety of verbs and tenses. You can include Irregular verbs by learning certain individual conjugations (je fais = I do) and just using those ones.

Although Irregular verbs seem to follow random patterns, they can be grouped to help you to remember how they change:

Modal verbs = vouloir and pouvoir (je peux/ je veux – similar changes). Savoir and devoir (je sais/ je dois)

Rire, dire, écrire and lire are conjugated in a similar way.

Être, avoir, aller = JUST LEARN THEM! At least in the present tense. They are really important because you use être and avoir to make the past tense, and aller to make the near future.

Imperfect Tense

INTRODUCTION

The Imperfect Tense describes something that *used to* happen in the past and can be used to narrate past events.

KEY WORDS

Person / pronoun	Ending
Je	-ais
tu	-ais
Il /elle/ on	-ait
nous	-ions
vous	-iez
Ils/ elles	-aient

FURTHER LINKS

There are some great websites that quiz you on verb endings, including:
www.conjugemos.com
 and also 'The Language Gym'.
 Ask about the purple Edexcel revision book.

EXAM TIPS:

- You cannot translate "I used to" word by word, you must use **ONLY ONE VERB** with the endings in the key words part.
- This tense is very useful especially for higher candidates; you will encounter this in ALL 4 skills and should use it in both your writing and speaking.
- Use this tense with time expressions like
 - Quand j'étais petit** (when I was younger)
 - Quand j'étais enfant** (when I was a child)
 - avant** (before)
 - dans mon enfance** (in my childhood)
 - à l'époque** (back in the day)
 - autrefois** (previously/ in the past)

KEY FACTS TO MEMORISE

- You have** to take off the **ending of the infinitive** (always ending with -er, -ir or -re) and replace that with the **verb endings** you have in the **key words table**.
- There are some **irregular verbs**, which **you have to learn by heart**. Ask your teacher for a verb table, look at the links mentioned in the "**further links**" session or simply search online for "common French irregular verbs".

EXAM QUESTIONS

- qu'est-ce que vous aimiez faire quand vous étiez petit?
- quels passe-temps aviez-vous comme enfant?
- comment était votre école primaire?
- quel métier vouliez-vous quand vous étiez enfant?
- TRANSLATE:** In the 60s, people did not used to recycle anything.
- TRANSLATE:** When I was there his brother was very annoying.

STRETCH

Look at some texts in French and underline the imperfect tenses that you can find, then write a list of infinitives and the imperfect tense conjugation. You can start with the following taken from a mock exam:

Le mois dernier j'ai travaillé pendant trois semaines dans un grand magasin, Carrefour. C'était une expérience assez positive mais j'ai voulu travailler dans un restaurant.

Mes collègues étaient tous sympa, sauf la patronne qui était toujours de mauvaise humeur.

Je travaillais à la caisse au rayon des vêtements, ce qui était ennuyeux. Quelquefois je servais les clients dans le café, et c'était plus intéressant car dans le futur, je voudrais avoir mon propre restaurant. Je voudrais faire un apprentissage comme chef de cuisine mais on doit travailler le soir, ce que je n'aime pas faire.

FRENCH (Foundation) SP – TOPIC 4

Perfect Tense

INTRODUCTION

The perfect tense is used to describe events that happened in the past. You should have a flow chart in your French book to help you to form it.

KEY WORDS

Person / pronoun	auxiliaries	past participle
Je (I)	ai suis	mangé allé(e/s)
Tu (you)	as es	mangé allé(e/s)
Il/ elle/ on (he/ she/ we)	a est	mangé allé(e/s)
Nous (we)	avons sommes	mangé allé(e/s)
vous (you formal)	avez êtes	mangé allé(e/s)
Ils/elles (they)	ont sont	mangé allé(e/s)

FURTHER LINKS

There are some great websites that quiz you on verb endings, including:

www.conjugemos.com

and also 'The Language Gym'.

Ask about the purple Edexcel revision book.

Ask your teacher for a past tense flow chart.

EXAM TIPS:

- Do not try to think in English and translate into French, this will confuse you and you are more likely to make mistakes.
- Remember the perfect tense in French is formed in two parts, not only one as in English (I **went** to the shops = je **suis allé** aux magasins)
- Check that your sentences include both the auxiliary and the past participle, **DO NOT FORGET** the auxiliary!!!
- Past tense is required only in questions 3 and 4 for foundation writing and in **ALL** writing questions for higher papers.
- Look for key words such as *l'année dernière, le weekend dernier, hier soir,*

KEY FACTS TO MEMORISE

1. The perfect tense is made of two parts, the auxiliary (usually *avoir*, but for MRS VANDERTRAMP verbs use *être*).

Here are the MRS VANDERTRAMP verbs:

Monter	Aller
Rentrer	Mourir
Sortir	Partir
Venir	
Arriver	
Naître	
Descendre	
Entrer	
Retourner	
Tomber	
Rester	

2. To form the regular past participle:

- a) remove ER and add é
- b) remove IR and add i
- c) remove RE and add u

EXAM QUESTIONS

1. Qu'est-ce que tu as fait le weekend dernier?
2. Qu'est-ce que tu as joué sur ton portable hier soir?
3. Qu'est-ce que tu as fait en ville hier?
4. **TRANSLATE:** I went to the cinema with my friends.
5. **TRANSLATE:** I was born in 2008.
6. **TRANSLATE:** my sister went out last night.

STRETCH

Reflexive verbs use *être* in the perfect past tense:

Je me suis lavé(e) = I washed

Tu t'es lavé(e)

Il/elle on s'est lavé(e)(s)

Nous nous sommes lavé(e)s

Vous vous êtes lavé(e)(s)

Ils/elles se sont lavés.

Remember: only verbs using *être* in the past tense (MRS V verbs and reflexive) add an ending for plural or gender. So 'elle a mangé' doesn't change because it is 'elle', but 'elle est allée' has an extra 'e' because it is MRS V.

FRENCH (Foundation) SP – TOPIC 5

Future Tense

INTRODUCTION

There are two types of future tense that you can use in French: le futur simple and le futur proche or 'near future' (aller + infinitive). This page shows you how to form both, so make sure you use at least one version of the future in your writing!

KEY WORDS

Le futur proche or 'near future' (aller + infinitive) :

Person / pronoun	auxiliary "aller"	infinitive of verb
Je (I)	vais	jouer
Tu (you)	vas	jouer
Il/ elle/ on (he/ she/ we)	va	jouer
Nous (we)	allons	jouer
vous (you formal)	allez	jouer
Ils/elles (they)	ont	jouer

FURTHER LINKS

There are some great websites that quiz you on verb endings, including:
[www.conjuguemos.com](http://www.conjugueмос.com)
and also 'The Language Gym'.
Ask about the purple Edexcel revision book.

EXAM TIPS:

- Avoid thinking in English and translating into French.
- Common irregular verbs in the future:
Être – je serai avoir – j'aurai
Faire – je ferai aller – j'irai
Venir – je viendrai voir – je verrai
Savoir – je saurai vouloir – je voudrai
Recevoir – je recevrai devoir – je devrai
Pouvoir – je pourrai
- Future tense is required only in questions 3 and 4 for foundation writing and in ALL writing questions for higher papers.
- Look for key words such as *l'année prochaine, la semaine prochaine, demain, à l'avenir, un jour*

KEY FACTS TO MEMORISE

1. The near future tense is made of two parts, the auxiliary *ALLER* and the infinitive: je vais manger = I am going to eat.
2. To form the futur simple, add the correct endings to the infinitive of the verb (ends in ER, IR or RE). Le futur simple endings are:

Je – ai (je mangerai = I will eat)
Tu – as (tu mangeras = you will eat)
Il/elle/ on – a (il mangera = he will eat)
Nous – ons (nous mangerons = we will eat)
Vous – ez (vous mangerez = you will eat)
Ils/elles – ont (ils mangeront = they will eat)

Try to use both forms of the future in your writing and speaking exam. You could use the near future to describe something that you are going to do soon, for instance this evening. You could use le futur simple to describe something that you will do in the future, for instance the job that you will do one day.

EXAM QUESTIONS

1. Quels sont tes projets pour les vacances ?
2. Qu'est-ce que tu vas faire le weekend prochain?
3. Qu'est-ce que vous allez faire demain matin ?
4. Qu'est-ce que vous allez faire en ville ?
5. Où vas-tu travailler un jour?
6. **TRANSLATE:** Next weekend I will go to the gym, to lift some weights.

STRETCH

You can use future tense phrases to make sure you offer the variety of creative language the examiners are looking for.

When you use *si* (if) with the present tense, you can use the futur simple in the second part of the sentence:

S'il pleut, on restera chez nous = if it rains, we will stay at ours.

However, when using 'quand' (when) to talk about the future, every verb in the sentence needs to use the future:

Quand je serai adulte, j'habiterai en France = when I'm an adult, I will live in France.

FRENCH (Foundation) SP – TOPIC 6

Conditional Tense

INTRODUCTION

The conditional tense describes something that would happen if certain conditions were met e.g. I would buy a sports car if I was rich.

KEY WORDS

Forming the Conditional is very similar to forming the near future and the endings are the same

Person / pronoun	auxiliary "vouloir"	infinitive of verb
je	Voudrais	Jouer
Tu	voudrais	Jouer
Il/elle/on	Voudrait	Jouer
Nous	Voudrions	Jouer
Vous	Voudriez	Jouer
Ils/elles	Voudraient	Jouer

as the Imperfect ones:

FURTHER LINKS

There are some great websites that quiz you on verb endings, including: www.conjugemos.com and also 'The Language Gym'. Ask about the purple Edexcel revision book.

EXAM TIPS:

- Avoid thinking in English and translating into French.
- If you are talking about what things would be like if something was different, use the imperfect tense after if (si) and the conditional tense in the second part of the sentence:

e.g. si j'étais riche, j'achèterais un château = if I was rich, I would buy a castle

si j'étais grande, je serais mannequin = if I was tall, I would be a model

KEY FACTS TO MEMORISE

1. The conditional tense is made of two parts, the **auxiliary vouloir** (conjugated like in the Key Words table) and the **infinitive** – je **voudrais manger**
2. The verbs être (to be), avoir (to have), faire (to do), are some of the most common verbs with an irregular conditional tense form:
être – je serais, tu serais, il/elle/on serait, nous serions, vous seriez, ils/elles seraient
avoir – j'aurais, tu aurais, il/elle/on aurait, nous aurions, vous auriez, ils/elles auraient
Faire – je ferais, tu ferais, il/elle/ on ferait, nous ferions, vous feriez, ils/elles feraient

EXAM QUESTIONS

1. Quels sont tes rêves pour l'avenir?
2. Qu'est-ce que vous voudriez faire après les examens?
3. Décrivez votre ville idéale.
4. qu'est-ce que tu voudrais faire pendant les grandes vacances?
5. TRANSLATE: If I was rich, I would buy a big house with a swimming pool

STRETCH

Although you can use je voudrais + infinitive, there is a more advanced way to form the conditional:

Take the future stem of the verb (usually the **infinitive**) + the correct ending : Je **mangerais** = I would eat

Common Irregulars do their own thing as usual:

Être = to be Future stem = ser

Je serais nous serions
Tu serais vous seriez
Il/elle/on serait ils/elles seraient

FRENCH (Foundation) SP – TOPIC 7

Opinions and conjunctions

INTRODUCTION

Always add opinions in your writing and speaking and give interesting reasons to justify them. Try to make your opinion relevant to the topic (e.g. you can't say that a town is "amusant" = funny). Give convincing justifications.

KEY WORDS

Très	very
particulièrement	particularly
Totalement	completely
Assez	quite
Pas du tout	absolutely not
Par exemple	for example
Parce que / car	because

FURTHER LINKS

BBC Bitesize website – opinions and justifications
Ask about the purple revision book.

EXAM TIPS:

Always make your opinions relevant and specific to the topic. When you are talking about people, it is best to use adjectives that describe character traits rather than general adjectives such as *bon*, *super*, *sensass*. Try to use a range of adjectives rather than repeating the same ones.

- In your answer to the 80-90-word writing task, make sure you give convincing reasons to justify your opinions. Do this by using conjunctions such as *parce que*, *alors*, *donc*. You can also use qualifiers such as *très* or *assez*.
- You can add details by:
 - Using conjunctions such as *et*, *ou*, *mais* to introduce more information;
 - Using a negative phrase with *ne...pas*;
 - Giving an example or an explanation-use phrases such as *par exemple* (for example)

KEY FACTS TO MEMORISE

Use a different phrase every time you express an opinion:

Je trouve que = I find that
Je crois que = I believe that
Je pense que = I think that
À mon avis = in my opinion
Selon moi = according to me
Selon ma mère = according to my mum
D'après moi = in my opinion
Personnellement = personally

EXAM QUESTIONS

1. Exprimez votre opinion sur ... (any topic)
2. Pourquoi recycler est important ou non
3. Ce que les jeunes aiment faire chez vous
4. Si les réseaux sociaux sont importants ou non
5. Si tu aimes ta ville, ou non
6. Les avantages et les inconvénients de l'uniforme scolaire

STRETCH

If you are writing an article (Q3) or a formal letter (Q2) use high level phrases such as:

Je suis fermement opposé à = I am strongly against...

Je suis du même avis = I am of the same opinion

Try to include other opinions:

Par contre = on the other hand

En revanche = on the other hand

D'un autre côté = on the other hand

Au contraire = on the contrary

Pourtant = however

Cependant = however

Toutefois = however

More interesting adjectives:

Affreux = awful

désagréable = unpleasant

Barbant = boring

embêtant = annoying

Formidable = terrific

moche = ugly (or bad)

Rigolo = funny

chouette = great

FRENCH (Foundation) SP – TOPIC 8

Writing an 80-90 answer

INTRODUCTION

For your Foundation Writing paper, you need to...

Be able to write an 80-90 word **informal** response.

This is question 3 in the writing paper and is worth 20 marks

You will need to respond to 4 bullet points

You will have to write using the PRESENT, PAST and FUTURE tenses.

KEY WORDS

Question words – they will be at the start of the bullet points:

pourquoi = why **comment** = how

combien = how many

quoi = what **quand** = when **avec qui** = with whom

où = where **quel genre** = what type

quelle durée = how long

qui = who

Other key words in the bullet points:

L'année prochaine = next year

L'année dernière = last year

A l'avenir = in the future

FURTHER LINKS

Make sure you use the SP grammar pages to read up on how to form the past, present and future. If in doubt, stick to regular (easy!) verbs because you MUST show the examiner that you can use 3 tenses:

Conjugemos and The Language Gym are excellent websites for practising verb conjugation. Ask your teacher for a revision book on Level 5 writing.

EXAM TIPS:

Before you start – write down PA/PR/F code at the top of the page (j'ai mangé/ je mange/ je vais manger)

1. You will need to write in an informal style
2. Add in at least one of the key phrases below
3. You must learn the question words to understand the bullet points.
4. Remember you are using 3 tenses (present, past and future) Q3 = 3 tenses
5. Write 3-4 sentences per bullet point
6. Read the instructions to understand the context
7. Write the tense next to each bullet point – look for clues for the tense (past participles / 'vas' / time phrases – dernier/prochain)
8. If you don't understand the bullet points, highlight the key words and write around the topic in 3 tenses.
9. Incorporate any time frame given in the bullet points in your answer – eg: l'été prochain
10. REMEMBER to justify any opinions with a reason why

NEVER LEAVE THIS QUESTION BLANK – IT IS WORTH THE MOST MARKS!!!!!!!

KEY FACTS TO MEMORISE

Key phrases:

N'est pas? = isn't that correct? / don't you agree?

Quel dommage! = what a pity!

Beurk!!!! = yuck!! - use after an opinion about food

Ça va? = how are you

Je vais bien = I'm well

À bientôt = see you soon

Bisous à toute ta famille = greetings to your family

Réponds-moi vite = write soon (informal)

C'est vraiment le top = it's really great!

C'était = it was

Ce n'était pas = it wasn't

Ce n'est pas mon truc = it's not my cup of tea

EXAM QUESTIONS

Le collège

Ton amie Angélique veut savoir ton opinion sur ton collège.

Tu dois faire référence aux points suivants:

- Une description de ton collège
- Ton opinion sur l'uniforme scolaire
- Une activité que tu as fait la semaine dernière au collège
- Tes projets pour après les examens

Ton Anniversaire

Ton ami Maxime t'a envoyé une carte pour ton anniversaire.

Écris une réponse à Maxime.

Tu dois faire référence aux points suivants:

- Comment tu as fêté ton anniversaire
- Ton opinion sur les fêtes
- Si fêter les anniversaires est important ou non
- Comment Maxime peut fêter son prochain anniversaire

Les vacances

Ton amie Angèle veut savoir comment tu as passé les dernières vacances.

Écris une réponse à Angèle.

Tu dois faire référence aux points suivants:

- Une activité que tu as fait
- Pourquoi les vacances sont importantes ou non
- Tes vacances idéales
- Ce que tu voudrais faire pendant les grandes vacances

STRETCH

Ask for the Higher Level Phrases worksheet and learn a couple that can be used in any situation. Look up a few 'weird' words that you know other pupils won't use – it sounds much more impressive if you write about eating seafood (j'adore manger les fruits de mer) rather than chocolate (j'adore le chocolat).

FRENCH (Foundation) SP – TOPIC 9

Writing a 40 word answer

INTRODUCTION

For your Foundation Writing paper, you need to...

Be able to write a 40 word formal answer.

This is question 2 in the writing paper and is worth 16 marks.

You will need to respond to 4 bullet points.

You will have to write using the PRESENT and FUTURE tense.

KEY WORDS

Question words – they will be at the start of the bullet points:

pourquoi = why **Comment** = how **combien** = how many

quoi = what **quand** = when **avec qui** = with whom

où = where **quel genre** = what type

quelle durée = how long

qui = who

Other key words in the bullet points:

J'écris = I am writing

Pour vous dire que je suis étudiant(e).. = to say that I am a student

je voudrais = I would like to

je veux = I want to

FURTHER LINKS

Make sure you use the SP grammar pages to read up on how to form the present and future. If in doubt, stick to regular (easy!) verbs (manger, jouer, regarder)

Conjuguemos and The Language Gym are excellent websites for practising verb conjugation.

EXAM TIPS:

1. You will need to write in a formal style using Vous (you) and not tu (you)
2. Add in at least one of the key phrases
3. You must learn the question words to understand the bullet points.
4. Remember you are using 2 tenses (present and future) Q2 = 2 tenses
5. Read the instructions to understand the context
6. If you don't understand the bullet points, highlight the key words and write around the topic in 2 tenses.
7. The verbs at the end of the sentence will indicate the tense and may help you understand the bullet point
8. Incorporate any time frame given in the bullet points in your answer – eg: l'été prochain
9. DON'T TRANSLATE THE **am** OR **ing** in a present tense sentence – I am eating – cross out the **am** and **ing** and use the correct ending = je mange, **NOT** je suis manger

KEY FACTS TO MEMORISE

Key phrases to use:

Je vous écris pour envoyer des renseignements = I'm writing to send some information

Je voudrais me présenter = I would like to introduce myself

Pourriez-vous, s'il vous plaît, m'envoyer des renseignements sur... = Please send me information about....

Dans l'attente d'une réponse, je vous prie d'agréer, Madame, Monsieur, l'expression de mes salutations distinguées... = I'm looking forward to your reply, yours sincerely...

EXAM QUESTIONS

Un stage en France

Vous voudriez faire un stage en France.

Écrivez une lettre avec les informations suivantes:

- Quelle date allez-vous arriver en France?
- Pourquoi voulez-vous travailler en France?
- Décrivez vos passe-temps
- Qu'est-ce que vous voulez faire en France?

Une visite au Canada

Vous voudriez passer une semaine au Canada.

Écrivez une lettre avec les informations suivantes:

- La date d'arrivée
- type de chambre
- Combien de personnes
- Ce que vous voulez faire au Canada

Votre ville

Vous travaillez à l'office de tourisme dans votre ville.

La famille Marignier vous a écrit pour vous poser quelques questions sur la ville et la région.

Écrivez une lettre avec les informations suivantes:

- Une description de votre région
- Ce que les jeunes aiment faire dans la ville
- Quelque chose qu'on peut faire le weekend
- Les activités pour l'été prochain

STRETCH

Prepare and learn 5 or 6 future and present tense phrases in the je and nous form. Try to learn at least one sentence starter that uses an irregular verb e.g. je veux = I want.

FRENCH (Foundation) SP – TOPIC 10

Translating into French

INTRODUCTION:

Be able to translate 5 sentences from English into French.

This is question 4 in the foundation writing paper and is worth 12 marks

The main tense used is the present tense, but you are often asked to use the past as well.

KEY WORDS

Expressing an opinion:

J'aime = I like + a noun (a thing) eg:

J'aime le foot / la musique / le chocolat

You can also add an infinitive (a verb that ends in ER, IR, or RE) after the opinion eg:

J'aime jouer au foot = I like playing football

FURTHER LINKS

Look at topics 1-7 to help with sentence and tense formation.

There are many translation exercises in the purple revision books (ask your teacher).

EXAM TIPS:

1. Before you start – write down tense tips at the top of the page (PA/PR/F) (j'ai mangé/ je mange/ je vais manger)
2. Always translate up to a full stop, comma or connective
3. Identify the tense
4. You can always work out the sentences in rough first
5. The examiner will be testing a certain tense or grammar point – can you identify it?
6. Don't panic if you don't know a word. Try to think of an alternative. Learn synonyms at home before the exam.
7. If you get very stuck, write down key words, you may get some marks
8. The first 3 sentences are usually testing the present tense and are worth 2 marks each.
9. The last 2 sentences will be longer and are worth 3 marks each.
10. Imagine you have been given the job of marking the translation. Does it make sense when you translate it back into English?
11. Each translation is linked to one of the five themes

KEY FACTS TO MEMORISE

Always remember to put "c'est" after "parce que" (because) or "car" (because)

Present tense endings:

Je _____ e = I

Il/ elle / on _____ e = he / she / we

Ils / elles _____ ent = they

Don't translate the "ing" in any present tense or the I am / He is / they are

When talking about jobs, use "je suis prof", not "je suis un prof"

You cannot use an apostrophe in French (my sister's cat), you have to say "the cat of my sister" (le chat de ma soeur)

Remember – je voudrais = I would like

EXAM QUESTIONS

Translate the following into FRENCH:

1. The weather in France is good.
2. It often snows in winter
3. There is usually a lot of snow in the mountains
4. I do not like cycling in bad weather
5. Yesterday I had to take the bus because it was raining.

Translate the following into FRENCH:

1. Our school is fair
2. There are not many school rules
3. I would like to use my mobile phone sometimes
4. I think it is good that smoking is forbidden
5. Last week the teacher was angry because we had chewing gum in class.

Translate the following into FRENCH:

1. My father is a doctor
2. He works 5 days a week
3. In his job he can earn a lot of money
4. Last year he got a job in a hospital
5. When I'm older, I want to be a dentist

STRETCH

Work through the translations in the purple revision workbook – the answers are in the back. Ask your teacher if you need a grammar point explaining.

FRENCH (Foundation) SP – TOPIC 11

Writing a 20-30 word description of a photo

INTRODUCTION

Be able to write a 20-30 word description of a photo, using the present tense and an opinion. This is question 1 of the foundation writing paper and is worth 12 marks.

KEY WORDS

A mon avis = in my opinion
Je pense que = I think that
Écris une description de la photo = write a description of the photo
Exprime ton opinion = write an opinion

Remember to link your sentences with the following connectives:

et = and
mais = but
ou = or
parce que/car = because
cependant = however
en revanche = on the other hand

FURTHER LINKS

Look at topics 1 and 2 to practise your formation of the present tense and topic 7 for giving opinions and using connectives.

EXAM TIPS:

1. Before you start – write down present tense tips at the top of the page:
 - a. Je _____e
 - b. Il/elle _____e
 - c. Ils/ elles _____ent
 - d. They are wearing – don't translate the are / in
2. You will have to describe a photo. There may or may not be people in the photo
3. You will have to give an opinion. You must always give a reason why. Circle the word in the instructions that you need to give an opinion about
4. You will get more marks for writing correct present tenses and by linking your sentences.

KEY FACTS TO MEMORISE

Always start off with –

Dans la photo il y a... = in the photo there is

Say how many people there are

.... Six gens / six personnes = 6 people

.... Trois enfants = 3 children

.... Un homme / une femme = a man / a woman

There may be no people

Voici une image de... = here is an image of...

Les montagnes = mountains les maisons = houses

Les bâtiments = buildings une ville = a town

Describe the location

Ils/elles sont = they are

Au collège = at school dans le jardin = in the garden

Au bureau = in the office à la maison = at home

au parc = in the park en ville = in town

Describe the action

Ils/elles portent = they are wearing

ils/elles fêtent = they are celebrating

ils/elles mangent = they are eating

ils/elles travaillent = they are working

ils/elles font du vélo = they are cycling

ils/elles jouent = they are playing

Describe the weather

Il fait chaud/ froid/ beau. Il pleut. Il neige.

Give an opinion

J'aime = I like / Je déteste = I hate

Car c'est amusant = because it is fun

Parce que c'est barbant = because it is boring

Car c'est bon pour la santé = because it's healthy

EXAM QUESTIONS

Tu postes cette photo sur des medias sociaux pour tes amis. Écris une description de la photo et exprime ton opinion sur le sport.



Tu postes cette photo sur des medias sociaux pour tes amis. Écris une description de la photo et exprime ton opinion sur le fastfood.



Tu postes cette photo sur des medias sociaux pour tes amis. Écris une description de la photo et exprime ton opinion sur les sports d'hiver.



STRETCH

Print off a series of photos and practise describing each photo and expressing an opinion
Topics to consider: Lessons in School / school dinners / working in an office / family celebrations / a town / shopping / holiday scene / seaside scene / countryside

FRENCH (Foundation) SP – TOPIC 12

Role Plays

INTRODUCTION

The first part of the speaking exam will be a role play
You will have part of the 12 minutes preparation time on the day to prepare this.

There are 5 bullet points each worth 2 marks
The third bullet point is an unprepared question (!)
The last bullet point is always a question to ask

KEY WORDS

Here are some VITAL role play phrases to memorise:

Je voudrais = I would like

Avez-vous/ as-tu? = do you have

Le/la... ça coûte combien? = how much does ... Cost?

Es-ce que je peux/ je peux? = can I / may I?

Je cherche = I'm looking for ...

J'ai besoin de... = I need

Il y a....? = is there / are there?

FURTHER LINKS

Look at topic 13 – Asking questions – the exam questions give you an opportunity to understand role play prompts

Search for French GCSE role plays on Youtube

EXAM TIPS:

- You will need to exchange information
- Read the instructions carefully. The context will be in English and repeated in the French instructions
- What role are you playing and which role is your teacher playing?
- Are you going to use Vous or tu to address your teacher?
- Use the preparation time to understand what you have to say and make notes
- Try to answer in a sentence but above all GET THE MESSAGE ACROSS
- The first 4 prompts will be statements
- The 3rd bullet point is a ! – you will have to answer an unprepared question – listen for the question word
- The 5th prompt means you have to ask a question
- DO NOT just repeat the words in the task

KEY FACTS TO MEMORISE

Each prompt has a key word to give you a clue as to what to say. Learn the meanings of these key prompts

raison = reason

trajet/ voyage= journey

Visite/ excursion = visit

opinion = opinion

chambre = room

heure = time

genre/sorte/ type = type

durée/ duration = length / how long

Prix = price

Une description = description

Quel/quelle/ lequel/ laquelle – which

**IF YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND SAY –
désolé/ pardon? -
(pardon!)**

EXAM QUESTIONS

Vous téléphonez à un restaurant pour réserver une table pour une occasion spéciale:

1. Reservation - quand
2. Table - où
3. !
4. Raison de la visite – occasion spéciale
5. ? Menus

Vous êtes dans un magasin en France et vous voudriez acheter des vêtements:

1. Vêtements – quel type
2. Vêtements - description
3. !
4. Porter - raison
5. ? cabines d'essayage

Vous allez étudier dans un collège en Suisse. Vous parlez à la directrice:

1. Matières désirées
2. Étudier en Suisse - raison
3. !
4. personnalité
5. ? rester en ville

STRETCH

Try to form a question for each of these prompt words

- ? nourriture végétarienne
- ? soirée - duration
- ? entraîneur - prénom
- ? transport
- ? trajet – durée
- ? Film – Prix
- ? Hôtels – Information
- ? salaire

Asking Questions

INTRODUCTION

Asking Questions is a key part of the speaking exam

You need to keep the conversation going by asking your teacher some questions

You will have to ask a question in the role play. This will be the last bullet point

KEY WORDS

Question words – they will be at the start of the bullet points:

pourquoi = why **Comment** = how **combien** = how many

quoi = what **quand** = when **avec qui** = with whom

où = where **quel genre** = what type

quelle durée = how long

qui = who

Some common question starters:

Est-ce qu'il y a.....? = is there / are there?

Avez-vous....? = Do you have (formal)

As-tu....? = Do you have (informal)

Que pensez-vous de.....? = what do you think of... (formal)

Que penses-tu de.....? = what do you think of... (informal)

Il coûte combien? = how much does it cost?

FURTHER LINKS

Look at topic 12 – role plays

EXAM TIPS:

You never translate questions word for word from English to French – DO NOT translate **Do you** using the verb 'faire'!

In the conversation, you can ask a question by just saying:

Et toi? = and you?

N'est pas? = isn't that correct! / don't you agree?

Remember to address someone older than you or you don't know as Vous and a friend as tu

KEY FACTS TO MEMORISE

There are 3 ways to ask a question in French:

1. Use a **question word** – put the **verb** next

Où vas-tu? = where are you going? (informal)

Vous allez où? = where are you going? (formal)

Que fais tu aujourd'hui? (present)

Qu'est-ce que tu as fait pendant les vacances?

(past)

Tu **voudrais** aller avec qui? (future)

2. Swap the **verb** and the **subject pronoun** in a statement:

Tu vas en France = you are going to France

Allez-vous en France? = Are you going to France?

Vous allez en France = you are going to France

Allez-vous en France? = Are you going to France?

3. Make a statement, but raise your voice at the end:

Tu vas en France?

EXAM QUESTIONS

The following are similar to the prompts you will find on the role play – can you form a question in both the tu and vous form?

? nourriture végétarienne

? fête - durée

? prof de sport - prénom

? transport

? trajet - durée

? Film – Prix

? Hôtels – Information

? salaire

? sortie - quand

STRETCH

Translate the following questions using both Vous and tu:

1. When are you going to France?
2. How are you going to France?
3. What will you do in France?
4. Are you coming on Tuesday?
5. When are you arriving?

FRENCH (Foundation) SP – TOPIC 14

Speaking about and discussing a photo

INTRODUCTION

This is the second part of the speaking exam. You will need to describe a photo on one of the 5 themes and then discuss the photo by answering a further 4 questions. You will be able to make notes and prepare the photo in the 12 minutes preparation time just before the oral exam. You will not be allowed to use a dictionary. You may take the notes into the exam.

KEY WORDS

Think:

Location – say how many people and where

Action – what is happening

Weather – what is it like

Negative – what isn't there

Mood – what is their mood

Opinion – express a simple opinion about the topic

Physical Description – describe their appearance

You could start a sentence off with

Je pense que / je crois que..... = I think that,.....

J'imagine que = I imagine that...

Ils semblent... = they seem...

You could say where in the photo things are:

À l'arrière plan, on peut voir..... = in the background we can see....

Il y a.... au premier plan de l'image = there is... in the foreground of the image

On voit ... au centre de la photo = we see... in the middle of the photo

À droite il y a .. = on the right there is...

À gauche il y a ... = on the left there is...

FURTHER LINKS

Look at topics 1-5 to practise your formation of the different tense and topic 7 for giving opinions and using connectives. Topic 11 gives you some other ideas about describing a photo but won't help you with the other 4 bullet points.

EXAM TIPS:

You may take your preparation notes into the exam. Try not to just read them out. It is supposed to sound like a conversation. Write tense prompts on your preparation sheet rather than trying to answer each point in turn – YOU WILL RUN OUT OF PREPARATION TIME.

There are 5 bullet points. You should fully describe the photo but don't neglect the other questions. Aim to say at least 3 sentences for each one and use the correct tense.

Bullet point 1 – description of the photo

Bullet point 2 – give an opinion (present tense)

Bullet point 3 – past tense answer

Bullet point 4 – future tense answer

Bullet point 5 – Another opinion

If you don't understand the bullet points, say something about the topic in general in the correct tense

KEY FACTS TO MEMORISE

Always start off with –

Dans l'image il y a... = in the photo there is

Say how many people there are

.... Six gens/personnes = 6 people /

Il n'y a personne = there are no people

.... Trois enfants = 3 children / beaucoup d'ados = lots of teenagers

.... Un homme / une femme = a man / a woman

There may be no people

Voici une image de... = here is an image of...

Les montagnes = mountains

les maisons = houses

Les bâtiments = buildings

une ville = a town

Location – ils/elles sont au parc / en vacances / à la maison / au collège / dehors / au bureau / en ville

Action – ils/elles jouent au golf / ils/elles mangent / ils/elles font du vélo / ils/elles bavardent / ils/elles regardent la télé / ils/elles portent

Weather – il fait chaud/ il fait froid/ il fait beau/ il pleut/ il neige

Negative – ce n'est pas... / il n'y a pas....

Mood – je pense qu'ils sont: contents, tristes, nerveux, fatigué

Opinion – à mon avis, la photo est.... / je la trouve...

Physical description – ils/elles portent, ils/elles sont, ils/elles portent

EXAM QUESTIONS

STIMULUS FP10

Topic: Daily life



(Source: © Syda Productions / Shutterstock)

Regarde la photo et prépare des réponses sur les points suivants :

- la description de la photo
- ton opinion sur les portables
- comment tu as utilisé les ordinateurs au collège récemment
- comment tu vas utiliser la technologie à l'avenir
- ton opinion sur les réseaux sociaux

STRETCH

Print off a series of photos. Describe each one and then say an opinion about the general theme and 2-3 sentences in the past and 2-3 sentences in the future.

Topics to consider: Lessons in School / school dinners / working in an office / family celebrations / a town / shopping / holiday scene / seaside scene / countryside / social media

Y11 GCSE Exam Dates

Y11 Mock(s):

Y11 PPE(s):

Final GCSE(s):

Success Programme Sessions:

Revision Guide (if applicable):

Notes
