

How to prepare for your GCSE Languages speaking exam

DON'T PANIC! There is still time to prepare.

Remember this is your SPEAKING exam so you need to practice speaking not just reading and writing.

Here are some ideas you can try to help you with your revision

- 1) Prepare the role play cards and picture cards in your speaking revision booklet, try and stick to the prep times for the exam – 3.5 minutes for the role play and 8.5 minutes for the picture card
- 2) Make cue cards for each theme, include key vocab and sentences starters in past, present and future tenses
 - Who am I? Family and friends.
 - Leisure activities
 - Festivals and food!
 - Local area
 - Holidays
 - School
 - Work and future plans
 - International and global dimension
- 3) Make question cards and pull them out of a hat at random then answer the question
- 4) Make a quote wall with key phrases, opinions and sentence starters. Use post it notes and move each item as you learn them.
- 5) Set aside one hour per day when you only speak the foreign language 😊 (Tuesday and Thursday that can be your French lesson!)
- 6) Make a list of filler phrases and sounds and practice them. They can give you thinking time in the exam. Some examples for French – 'beh' 'je pense que ..' 'eh bien moi, je...' 'donc' 'alors'
- 7) Don't worry about pauses, there is a natural processing delay between hearing something and understanding it. We don't notice this in English (although it is there) but worry about it in a second language! If you don't understand a question, take a breath, slow down and say 'Pardon?/ Wie Bitte? / ¿perdón?' then when the question is repeated you will pick out the key word you need.
- 8) Learn some key answers for each topic – you WILL be asked a variant of 'what did you do last weekend/ last holidays/ yesterday lunch time, so you can learn a past tense answer you can adapt for the question you are asked.
- 9) Little and often. Set aside a period of time every day for language revision (30 mins per day) or try the pomodoro method 😊

Learning your presentation:

- 1) Ask your teacher to record the text for you and listen to it every day until you know it by heart including the stresses and pronunciation.
- 2) A nap after memorising can help move information into your memory so learn your presentation the last half hour of your day, spend half an hour winding down then go to sleep!
- 3) Draw a picture for each sentence / segment of your presentation and try and remember it using just the pictures.
- 4) Sing it!
- 5) Give a written version to a friend / family member, recite it and get them to highlight the parts you don't know so you can focus on learning those parts.