



REVISION TECHNIQUES TO ENSURE SUCCESS IN MY FRENCH / SPANISH GCSE



Useful Revision Techniques

The following are strategies for learning that I can use to help me revise for assessments / GCSE exams in French or Spanish:



- Look, cover, write, check.
- Revise little and often.
- Spot the ones that are similar to English and do those first.
- Split up our revision into building blocks so that it is easier for us to learn.
- Say it out loud to ourselves over and over again. / Say it in the mirror. / Act it out.
- Write it out over and over again. / Use pictures to help you.
- Identify the hard parts and practise those the most.
- Know what the test involves, e.g. a written memory task and make sure revision mirrors this.
- Use different coloured pens when revising.
- Stick it somewhere at home where we can see it! / Use post it notes to stick the difficult words where we can see them.
- Ask a parent / guardian to help us.
- Take a break – do something else – then go back to it, to test if you can still remember.

If we remember to use more than one of the above techniques, this will help us to ensure we are successful in our Assessments.

VOCAB / PHRASE / SENTENCE / PARAGRAPH / EXAM REVISION

Tick each method when you have shown evidence of using it.



Memory Techniques

Method 1:

Using a piece of card, write a paragraph out in French / Spanish on one side and in English on the other side. Now take turns seeing if you can translate the French / Spanish into English without looking and the English into French without looking.

Rate your success out of 10 for each attempt.

French to English: /10

English to French: /10

Method completed:



Method 2:

Write out a paragraph in your blue book but only using the first letter of each word.

Eg **J M S = Je m'appelle Sam / M L S = Me llamo Sam**

Use this code to remind you of the words in the paragraph. Keep revising your paragraph until you can say it/write it using only the code to help you.

Method completed:

M	F	S	P	I	A	T	A	E	I	A	L	Y	B
M	H	S	P	T	T	A	Y	T	L	O	A		

Method 3:

Write out your paragraph in your blue book and replace as many words as possible for small pictures. Practise using the new paragraph and see if you can replace the pictures for the original French / Spanish words.

Method completed:

Dans ma famille, il		5	personnes.
En mi familia, hay		5	peronsas.

Method 4:

Look/cover/write / say/check – a classic method. Take each sentence in one paragraph at a time – look at the sentence, then cover up that sentence and try and write it from memory. Then check your sentence and keep repeating the process until you have written it perfectly.

Method completed:



Look at it



Cover it



Say it



Write it



Check it

Remember :

When revising for your speaking exam...

Pronunciation:

Before you start practising it, make sure you know how to say all of the words correctly

Things NOT to do:

- leave it to the last minute / the night before as:
 - your brain will over heat!
 - you'll only remember the first bit, and will underachieve massively because you WON'T remember the second half.
- panic!
- not practise at all because you think you're rubbish so there's no point!
- not say it out loud at all!
- stare at a page of writing for hours, hoping it will magically transfer itself to your mouth for the assessment!

Things that could help you

Firstly, make sure you understand what **ALL OF IT** means in English. Otherwise, it may as well be written in Swahili, Dutch or a completely new, made up language!!

1. Sentence builder

- Say one sentence.
- Then say it again, and add a second one.
- Then do the first, second and then a third...
- Then the first, second, third and fourth....



2. Get someone to test you

- Practise a short section and get someone to test you as if you were learning a script for a play.
- They don't need to understand what it means, they just have to listen to what you say and see if the sound matches the words on the page. They can prompt you if you forget.
- This is a good way to get family members to help you, even if they don't speak any French.



3. Sing it

- Fit the words to a rhythm or tune
- Sing it / rap it / put it to music.
- Use a tune you like or make one up.



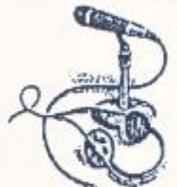
4. Act it out

- Pretend the assessment is part of a play you are in and that your draft is your script.
- Think of gestures/actions to help you remember the key words/phrases.
- Put tone and emphasis into your voice.



5. Record yourself

- Record yourself reading it out (make sure you know the correct pronunciation first).
- Play it back again and again and speak along with it, or keep pausing it and see if you can remember what to say next.
- Play it on the bus, while walking the dog, while sleeping, while playing a computer game, while eating chocolate....



Thirteen Methods for Learning Vocabulary

Method 1 The traditional method... Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check

Method 2 Fold a piece of A4 paper into six columns. Write 7 words in the first column and the English meanings in the second column. Use your book to check you get it right. Fold over the 1st column so that only the English meanings are visible. Write the Target Language words as best you can from memory in column 3. Open it up and check your answers. Now fold over columns 1 and 2 to practise the English meanings in column 4. Check your answers. And so on. If you haven't got them all right in the sixth column, just start another sheet. The sheet is proof that you have done your learning homework

Method 3 The pyramid method. Write the word out at the top of a piece of paper. Underneath write the word out adding a letter each time until the word is complete again... Then test yourself!

Method 4 Buy lots of highlighter pens... Traffic light your vocab list... RED = No idea what it means or how to spell it. YELLOW = Sort of know it but can't spell it. GREEN = Can spell 100% accurately and know the meaning.

Method 5 Use highlighter pens to colour code into: *masculine, feminine, neuter, plural*, or any other way.

Method 6 Get your vocab list... *le chien / el perro* etc. On a new piece of paper get rid of the vowels. *l_ ch_ _ n / _ l p_ rr_*. Fill in the gaps. Check your work or get a friend to.... Re -do the dodgy ones.

Method 7 Take it further... Get your vocab list... *le chien / el perro* etc On a new piece of paper get rid of everything but the first letter. *l_ c_ _ _ / e_ p_ _ _* etc. Fill in the gaps. Check your work or get a friend to.... Re -do the dodgy ones.

Method 8 Colour coded post it notes... ... stuck around your room, ... on your cereal packet, ... in the loo! Double them up and put the English underneath. Flip to check your answer.

Method 9 Make a shape you can remember with them on the back of your door...

Method 10 Record yourself saying groups of 7 or 14 words (you learn best in 7's apparently!)

Step 1. Say the word, Spell the word, Say the English, Repeat until first group of 7 complete

Step 2. Say the word, Spell the word, Pause for 3 secs , Repeat until first group of 7 complete

Step 3. Say the word, Pause for 6 secs , Repeat until first group of 7 complete

Step 4. Say the English word, Pause for 6 secs , Repeat until first group of 7 complete

Step 5. Playback: 1st set – give the English meaning, 2nd set – spell the word and give the meaning, 3rd set – give the Spanish / French meaning and spell the word. Repeat until confident!

Method 11 Visual Learner? Make flashcards or a memory game. If you write the word on the bottom you can fold it over to test yourself.

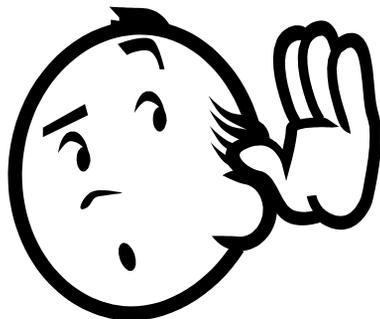
Method 12 Using your flashcards, group types of words and stick them around your room. Visualise your room and the words. i.e opinions stuck to wardrobe

Method 13 Get a good visual image.... like Marge for example....Write all the words on one topic in blue for example, past participles. Opinions words could be in orange... ..and reasons could be in green . Now when you think of Marge you should be able to visualise your word groups... .. and it should all come flooding back!



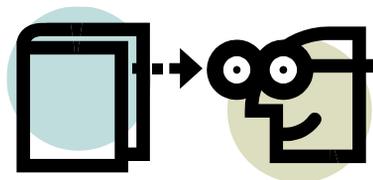
Good Listening Exam Technique

- 1) What type of text is it: conversation, advert, news programme?
- 2) What is the topic: try to get the gist /main message?
- 3) Predict – what is likely/unlikely given the topic?
- 4) Listen to the tone of the speakers' voices for clues.
- 5) Pick out cognates – words that look like English words.
- 6) Identify phrases which are unfamiliar (if you can try to repeat them back to yourself over again).
- 7) Hold the unfamiliar sounds in your head, say them over and over.
- 8) Break down the stream of words into individual sounds.
- 9) Try to write the sounds down and relate them to written words previously seen/learned.
- 10) Listen out for the clues of tense/ word order.
- 11) ANSWER EVERY QUESTION; NEVER LEAVE AN ANSWER BLANK!
- 12) Ensure I answer questions in the correct language!



Good Reading Exam Technique

- 1) What type of text: newspaper article, brochure, e-mail?
- 2) Examine pictures/title for clues?
- 3) Go for the gist – skip out words that aren't essential.
- 4) Say the text out loud (perhaps not ideal in exam).
- 5) Identify how a sentence breaks down and which are the separate parts of it (nouns/verbs).
- 6) Make sensible guesses.
- 7) Pick out cognates (words which look like English)
- 8) Substitute English words e.g. Elle lit un livre = She *somethings* a book.
- 9) Analyse unknown words – break the word down/have you seen them anywhere before?
- 10) Work out the grammar behind the words/phrases – is there past tense/future tense?
- 11) Look at punctuation for clues/question marks/capital letters.
- 12) ANSWER EVERY QUESTION; NEVER LEAVE AN ANSWER BLANK!
- 13) Answer questions in the correct language.



Top Tips for Listening & Reading

Read the question (including the introduction to the question which gives you the context and sets the scene).

Expect unfamiliar language - be ready to 'de-code' - don't give up!

Use the pauses in the recording to 're-play' in your mind the language you have just heard, slowing it down as you do so.

Use sound-spelling patterns to help you 'visualise' the spelling of an unfamiliar word. It will often reveal itself as a cognate.

Look out for synonyms, cognates and near-cognates..

Look out for the number of marks for each question - this tells you how many details you need to give.

Be aware of negative structures used to test you!

Make sure you give enough details in the written answers. It is fine to directly lift from the text but make sure what you have said makes sense.

Read the instructions carefully so you know whether to answer in English or **French / Spanish**