

GCSE MFL – Exam Skills

(by the AQA examiners)

Housekeeping tips

- ❖ Write in black ink (it's clearer when it's being marked, which is done electronically for some parts).
- ❖ Write as neatly as you can.
- ❖ Cross out clearly so the examiner doesn't mark any rough work by accident!
- ❖ Start as far as possible to the left to ensure that all your answer can fit on the line.
- ❖ If you change your answer, cross it out completely. If it's unclear, it will be marked wrong.
- ❖ If the question asks for one piece of information, give just one. If it asks for two, give two, and so on. Lists and **alternatives** are not accepted and will just be marked wrong.
- ❖ Always check your answers – have you really got 100% in the exam?!

If you don't know ... ALWAYS GUESS!

Tips for the reading section

- ❖ Don't jump to conclusions – just because you see a word doesn't mean you should latch onto it!
- ❖ You must answer with as much information as necessary. Don't generalise or invent answers – they should be based on the exact information given in the text.
- ❖ Cognates which give you an answer will appear in the Foundation Tier paper, not Higher.
- ❖ If you see a cognate in the Higher Tier paper, it will most probably be there to mislead you, so be very careful!
- ❖ 'Skim and scan' the text first, get an idea of the gist and then look for detail.
- ❖ If you think you find the answer via a key word, read around it to confirm it is indeed correct, as it may well not be!
- ❖ If the word 'exactly' appears in the question, it needs a long answer (i.e. more than one word).
- ❖ Lots of misinformation is often given to confuse you (e.g. the question is 'how long is ...?' and the text will include several time phrases).
- ❖ Do not assume answers, e.g. working with kids is not the same thing as babysitting!

Tips for the listening section

- ❖ Make notes while the recording is playing – in whichever language you prefer, in case you forget something.
- ❖ There is likely to be a lot of distracters so try not to be misguided by them.
- ❖ Pre-empt the answers – are you listening out for a number / name / item of clothing and so on.
- ❖ Write down difficult numbers (i.e. dates / years / large quantities) in words if you need to, so you can look over them carefully when you have a bit more time.

Things to try ...

Listening:

*Make a note of words you may expect to hear which will confirm the right answer → word families!

Reading:

*Highlight all the adjectives in the text – are they positive or negative and which noun do they relate to?

*Highlight the section of text you **think** gives you the answer and go back to double check it.

*Use your grammar knowledge for gap fills – do you need a verb / noun / adjective / infinitive / past participle?

Both: Learn small words – ne... pas, jamais, aucun(e) – they really can make all the difference.

NEVER LEAVE ANY BLANK ANSWERS!

Bonne Chance 😊