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All about practice

AURAL:

Make sure that you devote at least one quarter of your study time to this part of the examination.

This is the easiest section of the exam to study on your own. All it takes is practice. However, it is still the worst-answered part of the French exam at higher and ordinary level.

According to the chief examiner's report of 2006, much "more emphasis needs to be placed on effective tape work". However, it must be said that there is no need to make this more traumatic than it need be. Remember that watching a film or listening to a French station on the internet counts as practise for this section of the examination.

ORAL:

Many schools do not require students to sit an oral examination for the mocks.

The importance of preparing for this section of the examination cannot be overemphasised. It is easy at this time of the year to regard the oral examination as a distant prospect. More than any other area of the examination the oral requires time to effect serious change. Later on in this study guide, you will find some useful tips for approaching the oral examination.



The French rules

While many students fret over the French oral, this exam really holds very few surprises in store. Concentrate on preparing lots of material about yourself and your family to get you through

More than any other section of the examination, the oral causes most stress for students. In my opinion, the oral is an easy examination that is hard to prepare for. This may seem like a contradictory statement. However, if you are in some way well prepared, this examination will hold little by way of surprise.

It is extremely important that you accept that it is not possible to cram for the oral examination. Your preparation must be steady and measured. You should concentrate on preparing as much material about yourself and your family as possible.

As you prepare each question you should try to anticipate any supplementary questions that could arise from what you will say. This is the key to preparing for the oral. By doing this, you can wrestle the initiative away from the corrector and take control of the examination.

If you have not already done so, you should give very serious consideration to preparing a document. This can be a photo, an illustration, or a text. You should avoid bringing in a solid object. The document is not assessed separately, but your competency in discussing it will be taken into account in the final mark. Normally only about half of all candidates avail of this option.

Examiners have repeatedly stressed the value of using a well-prepared document. According to the chief examiner's report of 2006, "Examiners who see the difference that a well-prepared document can make are very much in favour of this option and many suggested that it should be a compulsory part of the oral test."

During the course of the next 10 weeks you should prepare the following 45 questions. Remember, it is vital that you prepare each question fully and that you anticipate those inevitable supplementary questions.

1. Comment vous appelez-vous?
2. Quel âge avez-vous?
3. Quelle est la date de votre anniversaire?
4. Quel est votre signe astrologique?
5. Vous êtes de quel caractère?
6. Où habitez-vous?
7. Décrivez votre maison et votre quartier.
8. Décrivez votre famille.
9. Que font vos parents dans la vie?
10. Est-ce-que vous vous entendez bien avec vos parents et vos frères et soeurs?



11. Décrivez une journée typique à l'école.
12. Quelles sont les principales installations?
13. Expliquez les règlements du lycée?
14. Aimez-vous votre école? Pourquoi?
15. Quelles sont vos matières préférées? Pourquoi?
16. Quelles sont vos matières détestées? Pourquoi?
17. Quels sont vos passe-temps favoris?
18. Est-ce-que vous faites du sport? Si oui, lesquels?
19. Qu'est-ce-que vous faites le weekend?
20. Est-ce-que vous sortez beaucoup? Où allez-vous?
21. Est-ce-que vous avez un petit boulot?
22. Est-ce-que vos parents vous donnent de l'argent de poche?
23. Est-ce-que vous jouez d'un instrument de musique? Si oui, lesquels?
24. Quel est votre chanteur/chanteuse préféré(e)?
25. Quel est votre groupe préféré?
26. Vous écoutez quel genre de musique?
27. Est-ce-que vous aimez voyager?
28. Dans quels pays êtes-vous déjà allé?
29. Dans quels pays aimeriez-vous aller?
30. Est-ce-que vous êtes déjà allé(e) en France?
31. Vous vous êtes amusé(e) bien en France?
32. Quelle est, à votre avis, la plus grande différence entre les Français et les Irlandais ou bien entre la France et l'Irlande?
33. Aimerez-vous aller en France? Où exactement?
34. Qu'est-ce-que vous avez fait l'année dernière pendant les vacances?
35. Où allez-vous en vacances d'habitude?
36. Où voulez-vous partir cet été?
37. Est-ce-que vous avez fait l'année de transition? Qu'en pensez-vous?
38. Regardez-vous la télé? Quelle est votre émission préférée?
39. Que pensez-vous du système de point du Bac?