

Effective revision



To be effective, revision must be:

- **Active** - always work with a pen and paper, note down key vocabulary and test yourself. Never just sit down and read the textbook for a set period. Focus on tasks, not time. If you just read notes you'll only retain about 10% of the information.
- **Organised** - always ask yourself at the start of a study session "What do I want to have completed in this session?" Have a plan for what you want to cover by the end of the week. Try and organise your French/Spanish revision into the topic areas following the Modules in your Textbook Studio **AQA** or **Viva AQA**:

Getting started

Where?

Find a fixed place to study (a particular desk/room at home, a spot in the

library, etc.) that becomes firmly associated in your mind with productive work. All the equipment and materials you need should be within reach, and the room should be well lit and ventilated, but not too comfortable! Turn your room into a positive learning environment. Keep books and notes on the desk to a minimum and decorate your walls with colourful notes and key vocab. Music is fine as long as it helps you to study and blocks out distracting noises. The very best sound to study to is thought to be that of Baroque composers or Mozart. Experiments show that brains are positively stimulated and IQs boosted by such music.

When?

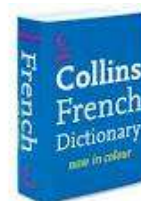
It's impossible to 'cram' for a Languages exam! 'Little and often' is the best policy when it comes to French / Spanish revision. You will work out a system that suits you, but many people find that three 30-40-minute sessions of French or Spanish revision per day is more effective than doing 2-3 hours at a time. For example, you could start off by learning some vocabulary in the morning, do some listening before lunch and a few reading exercises in the afternoon. However, the most important thing is that you're concentrating and working hard!





What and how?

Remember that it's all about being active and *focused on tasks, not time!* Know at the start of a session what you want to have completed by the end of the period. Make the tasks specific and realistic, not vague and large.

- **Vocabulary:**
 - Aim to learn 10 words per day. Use the vocab pages at the end of each module and choose 10 words from each section.
 - It's best to spend 10-20 minutes in the morning revising them, then get a friend or family member to test you on them at lunchtime or the end of the day.
 - Make a list of all the words you find most difficult to remember and return to every couple of days.
 - Write the words out and colour-code them (masculine nouns, feminine nouns, plural nouns, verbs, adjectives, other words). Write them on Post-It notes (French or Spanish on one side, English on the other) and stick them around the house.
 - Remember to revise how the words **sounds**, not just how it looks. Use the Online Audio Dictionary (see below) or create a voki (**voki.com**) and type in each word. (You don't need to save the voki each time.) Repeat it several times and try and write it phonetically.
 - If you're a visual learner, try making a mind-map for each topic area or sub-topic. Do this without your book/dictionary first, and then allow yourself 2 minutes to look at your book before adding to it.



- **Listening:**
 - Build up your listening stamina! Start with one listening exercise, then build up to three or four per revision session (see lists below for Look at the question. What's the topic? Which words can you expect to come up? How could the examiner try and catch you out? 
 - Numbers can be tricky. Listen out for ages, dates, times and prices and note them down.
 - Always listen to a passage at least twice before committing to an answer. Try and repeat sentences to yourself more slowly so the words sink in.

- **Reading:**
 - Look at the question first. What's the topic? Which words can you expect to come up? How could the examiner try and catch you out?
 - Read the passage carefully. Identify key words, then look for those tricky little words that can change the meaning of a sentence 
 - Find the verbs. What tense are they in? Is the writer talking about the present, past, future ?

Useful Resources

- Textbook
- Knowledge organisers
- Mind Maps
- Revision guides
- Language Assistants can help you with speaking practice -make an appointment
- Ask your teacher for extra resources and/or Past papers

Useful sites

- **Active Learn**
- **Online Audio Dictionary** <http://french.about.com/od/vocabulary/a/audiodictionary.htm> - look up individual words for pronunciation guidance and meaning.
- <http://www.zut.org.uk/intermediate/year10.html> - This site is available for free apart from weekdays from 10am – 4pm. Listening and Reading exercises divided into topic areas.
- **BBC Bitesize** - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/french/> - GCSE-style Listening and Reading questions that you can mark online. Do the Foundation as well as the Higher activities. The Grammar section is useful for those annoying little words (try *Pronouns* and *When, where and how much*)
- <http://www.frenchrevision.co.uk/> - The Intermediate section contains core GCSE vocabulary and some sample exercises
- <https://promova.com/blog/conjugations-in-french>
- www.frenchrevision.co.uk
- www.revisioncentre.co.uk/gcse/french
- www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/french
- <http://languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/Index.htm>
- www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse/french
- <http://zut.languageskills.co.uk/index.html>
- <http://frenchcafejukebox.blogspot.co.uk/> (French music & activities)
- <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8658/assessment-resources> (Exam board)
- <https://www.francetvinfo.fr/> (TV)
- <https://quizlet.com>
- <http://www.memrise.com>
- <https://www.duolingo.com/>
- www.spanishrevision.co.uk
- www.revisioncentre.co.uk/gcse/spanish
- www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/spanish