A Really useful guide to…

**CfE Higher French**



In this booklet you will find:

* Getting organised for class
* An overview of the Higher course
* Contexts and topics covered
* Details on unit assessments
* Details of the final exam
* Marking schemes
* Websites for independent study

**GETTING ORGANISED FOR CLASS**

**Books**

There is no prescribed textbook for Higher but you will receive a number of booklets and worksheets from your teacher- keeping things filed neatly and in the correct place will be very important!

You should also bring your dictionary to **every** lesson if you have one. Although there may be occasions when these are not used, it is better to get into the habit of bringing them. They are also excellent reference tools and the more familiar you become with them the more efficient and useful you will find them. Get to know them inside out!

**File**

**Well organised notes are key to success at Higher**- do not under-estimate this one! Make sure your notes are clear as well as easy to read over and to refer back to. Careful note-taking now will help you make the most of your notes in class and for prep, enhance your learning AND save on valuable revision time as exams approach. Make good use of different coloured pens and space to help this.

You should label the dividers in your folder as follows:

1. Course Information
2. Society
3. Learning
4. Employability
5. Culture
6. Assignment Writing
7. Directed Writing
8. Grammar
9. Performance (Talking)
10. Exam practice

**Vocabulary**

You should keep a piece of lined paper, with a dividing line down the middle, at the front of each of the four context sections 2, 3, 4, 5. These should be used for jotting down new vocabulary related to that section as you come across it.

You should keep a similar piece of paper at the front of your folder for noting any generic vocabulary.

You should make a habit of reading over these vocabulary notes once a week. It won’t take long, but it will hugely enhance your working knowledge of the language and therefore your overall performance. It will also save on revision time at the end of the year. You will also have a handy list of relevant words and phrases for writing essays on a topic.

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

The content of your course will cover four main real-life contexts:

* Society
* Learning
* Employability
* Culture

You can find a list of these contexts, the topics that fall within them, and how these topics will be developed, in the next section of this booklet. *(NB: if progressing from National 5, you will notice the contexts remain the same, but please note that the way in which they are developed is in greater detail)*

The course is made up of two units , an assignment and an exam.

The units are:

* Understanding language (*reading and listening)*
* Using language *(writing and speaking)*

The assignment consists of a piece of writing, about 200 words long, on a topic of your choice. You must write the assignment in class with the help of a dictionary and grammar notes, the teacher will then apply a correction code, and you will re-write it for sending away to be externally marked. This is worth 20 points.

The exam consists of:

* 2 written papers
* A performance (talking)

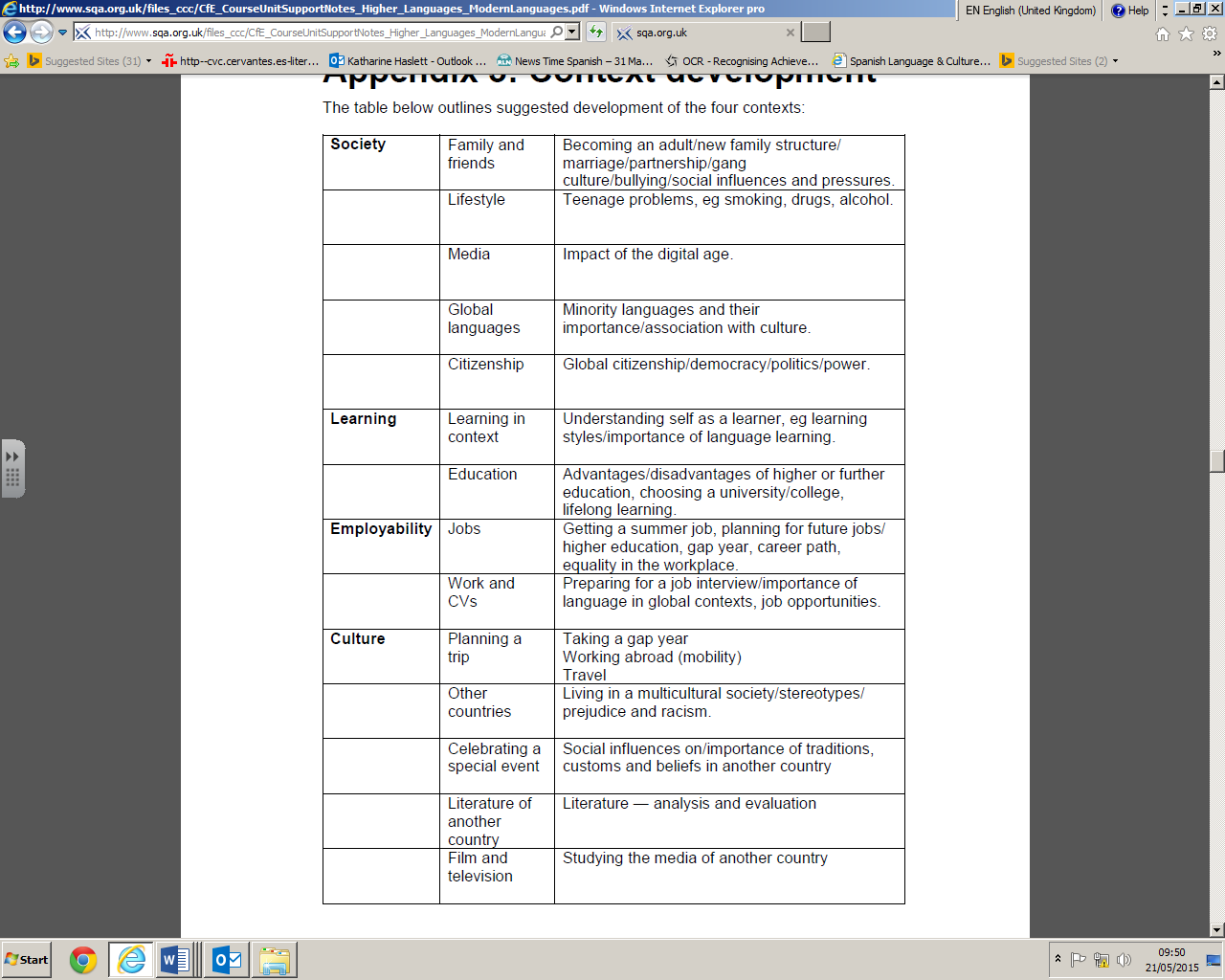
|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Paper 1 | 2 hours | Reading | 30 marks | 1 text of approx. 650 words.  Questions & answers in English (20 marks)  Translation (10 marks)  Dictionary allowed |
| Directed  Writing | 20 marks | Written account of a past experience based on a choice of two scenarios.  The contexts will be whichever isn’t covered in the reading and listening  4 bullet points must be addressed.  Dictionary allowed. |
| Paper 2 | 1 hour | Listening | 20 marks | Monologue (8 marks)  Conversation (12 marks)  Both recordings linked to same context (one not covered in reading or directed writing)  Dictionary NOT allowed |
|
| Performance | 10+ mins | Talking | 30 marks | Conversation covering at least 2 contexts |
| Assignment | In class | Writing | 20 marks | Piece of writing of 120-200 words submitted to SQA |

SCALING

Component Mark Scaled mark Duration

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Component 1: question paper 1 Reading** | **30** | **30 (25%)** | **2 hours** |
| **Component 2: question paper 1 Directed Writing** | 20 | 15 (12.5%) |
| **Component 3: question paper 2 Listening** | 20 | 30 (25%) | 30 minutes approximately |
| **Component 4: Assignment–writing** | 20 | 15 (12.5%) |  |
| **Component 5: Performance–talking** | 30 | 30 (25%) | 10 minutes approximately See course assessment section |

**CONTEXTS & TOPIC DEVELOPMENT**



**THE EXAM**

**Paper 1 – Reading & Directed Writing**

**Paper 2 – Listening**

**Assignment**

**Performance - talking**

**Paper 1 – Reading & Directed Writing**

* + 2 hours
  + 50 marks

Section A- Reading

* + Spend 45/50 minutes on it
  + One text of 550-650 words, questions & answers in English, based on a context
  + Dictionary allowed
  + Questions & answers – 20 marks
  + Overall purpose question
  + Translation from text – spend 15 minutes on it, for 10 marks
  + Reading + translation together worth 30 marks, so 25% of exam

Section B – Directed Writing

* Spend 1 hour on it
* Choice of two scenarios
* 6 bullet points must be addressed. If you do not address a bullet point you will be penalised.
* 150-180 words
* Dictionary allowed
* 20 marks (scaled to 15, so 12.5% of exam)

Tip: For each bullet point, make sure you include:

* at least one complex sentence with a sub clause
* a positive and a negative

In the final sentence, try to include both the conditional and future tenses

**Paper 2 – Listening**

* 30 minutes
* 20 marks

Section A – Listening

* 20 marks (scaled to 30, so 25% of exam)
* 1 monologue and 1 conversation (8 marks and 12 marks respectively)
* Questions and answers in English.
* Dictionary NOT allowed

**Assignment – Writing**

* Write 200 – 250 words on a topic of your choice, in class, with a dictionary and grammar notes if required.
* Writing corrected by teacher using a correction code.
* Writing re-written by you and sent away for external marking
* Worth 20 marks (scaled to 15, so 12.5% of exam)

**Performance – talking**

* 30 marks (so, 25% of the exam)
* 10+ minutes
* Conversation based on at least two contexts
* You may use a sheet of notes consisting of a maximum of 5 headings with no more than 8 words per heading
* Conducted in school with your teacher and recorded



**WEBSITES FOR INDEPENDENT STUDY**

<http://scholar.hw.ac.uk/>

Username:

Password:

(the above details will be provided by your teacher)

This is the most useful site for Higher. It contains loads of really useful exercises on reading, writing, translation, listening and grammar. It is specifically designed to prepare you for Higher.

USE IT AND COMPLETE IT!!!

Quizlet.com – as directed by your teacher, or search for French topics yourself.

Kahoot.com – there are games here as well for language acquisition.

[www.linguascope.com](http://www.linguascope.com)

This is more useful for National 5 and earlier, but if you feel you require a recap of the basics, they are a good place to go.

Linguascope Username: cumber

Linguascope Password: french (but check for up to date password)

[www.languagesonline.org.uk](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk)

This is a fantastic site for practising grammar to improve your Writing. It is based on a different textbook to ours but you can still find appropriate content by looking at what each chapter covers. Alternatively, use the grammar section.

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize)

Really useful practice for Listening and Reading. Based on GCSE; however exercises are still good practice for National 5 also.

Tip: look on the back of DVD cases (especially Simpsons, Pixar, Disney, Friends etc). Often you can change the language into French and put English subtitles on, helping you practise listening for fun!



Duolingo is one of the most popular and well-known tools for learning a language online and it is completely free! Learning with **Duolingo** is fun and addictive. Earn points for correct answers, race against the clock, and level up.