

Modern Foreign Languages Exam Top Tips



7 points for listening exam success



Prepare for the exam by remembering these helpful tips



- 1 Maximise your 5 minutes' reading time by:**
 - underlining or highlighting key words
 - reading instructions carefully
 - paying attention to questions that have two parts to be answered from the same extract.
- 2 Listen carefully to the whole extract -**
don't base your answer on the first thing you hear.
- 3 Answer Section B in the language you've studied -**
not English.
- 4 Try to answer every question -**
it's better to attempt questions than leave a gap, especially multiple choice questions.
- 5 Look carefully at the specific information the question asks for -**
use any examples provided.
- 6 If the question asks for one reason or one detail -**
only give one.
- 7 Don't give up if you come across a difficult question -**
there are low, medium and high demand questions throughout the paper.



8 points for reading exam success



Prepare for the exam by remembering these helpful tips

- 1 Read the introduction to the question carefully.**
- 2 Try to answer every question -**
it's better to attempt questions than leave a gap, especially multiple choice questions.
- 3 Read the whole sentence to get all the relevant information -**
for example if you think the answer is 'P' (positive), read on to make sure that the correct answer is not in fact 'P and N' (positive and negative).
- 4 Don't copy whole chunks of text -**
you might include the wrong answer as well as the right answer.
- 5 If the question asks for one reason or one detail - only give one.**
- 6 Leave yourself enough time to complete the translation -**
manage your time across the different sections of the paper.
- 7 Don't give up on the translation if you come across something you find difficult -**
other parts will be easier.
- 8 Check your translation carefully to make sure you don't miss anything out.**



7 points for writing exam success



Prepare for the exam by remembering these helpful tips

1 Aim to write roughly the suggested number of words.

6 In some cases, the language of the bullet points can be used to help you write a successful response.

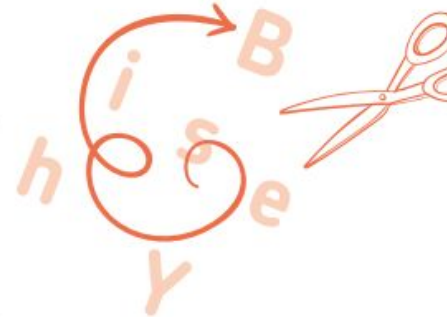
2 Plan your answer before starting to write.

7 Read what you've written carefully and check your verb formations are accurate.

3 Identify the bullet points that target past/present/future time frames.

4 Refer to all bullet points and tick them off once you've covered them.

5 Make sure you include opinions and justifications as required by the task.



4 points for speaking exam success



1 Role play

- Read the introduction carefully – it'll help you understand the scenario.
- Write down what you're going to say for each of the bullet points.
- If a bullet point asks for 'one detail', only prepare one.
- Listen carefully to the question for the unprepared task – there might be two parts.
- Make sure you know common question words such as 'when', 'what', 'how' and 'where'.

1

Practise asking for a question to be repeated in the language you've studied.

2

3 Photo card

- For each of the five questions on the card:
 - prepare at least three sentences
 - remember to use a verb in each one.
- One of the prepared questions at Foundation tier will need an answer in a time frame other than the present.
- At Higher tier, one question will need an answer which refers to a future event and another question will need an answer which refers to a past event.
- Listen carefully to unseen questions.
- Don't be put off if you are interrupted when answering – it's to make sure you have time for the two unprepared questions.
- Keep your language simple and clear – you're getting marks for communication, not complex language, in the photo card task.

3

4 Conversation

- Vary the language you use by:
 - expressing opinions in different ways
 - using different adjectives
 - using connectives such as 'and', 'but' and 'however' to make your sentences longer.
- Give and justify opinions without being prompted.
- Don't worry if you can't answer a question – your teacher will move on to something else.
- Practise your pronunciation.

4



Useful Link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dAgFO0W6WAM>