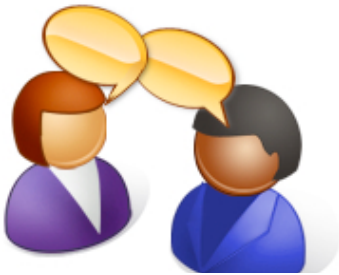


French Leaving Certificate Oral



Information and advice on the French Leaving Certificate oral examination.



Exam Structure

The oral exam is a conversation between the examiner and you. The examiner will use the **vous** form. It lasts for **12 minutes**. The examiner will meet all the students on the first day of the oral and s/he will explain the format of the test and will make you at ease. This is done through French and English.

When you enter the examination room, you will be asked to sign the roll opposite **your name and examination number**. You need to know your examination number in English. This is then read into the tape and the test begins. **All candidates are recorded.**

There are no sets of questions nor any order for questions to be asked. The examiner will tend to begin with easy enough questions to warm you up. **The examiner does not know what level you are taking** so both ordinary and higher level students are tested in the same way (as you can change your level the day of your written paper in

June).

You can be guaranteed questions using **present, past and future tenses**. You also have the option of choosing to bring in a document which can take the form of: a photograph, a project, or an article in French (if you have any doubt about what is acceptable, just drop us a line and we can advise you). You cannot bring in an object though. If you decide to bring a document you will be asked some questions about it usually about half way through the examination. Reports show that students who bring a document tend to do better than if they had not brought one in.

Your grade is calculated under four headings:

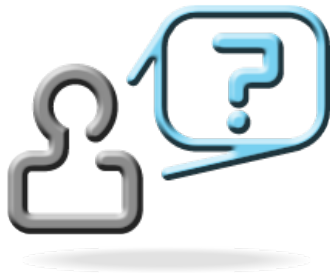
- Pronunciation (20%)
- Vocabulary (20%)
- Structure (30%)
- Communication (30%)

Exam Tips

As we said the oral exam is a conversation between the examiner and you therefore you will not be able to recite any learned of

paragraphs. This does not mean you do not need to prepare. Here are a few tips to help you prepare:

- Remember to be polite and engaging. The examiner can only give you marks if you speak.
- Avoid short answers such as oui/non. Try to develop your answer. Remember you want to show up all this work you have prepared.
- Spend time on understanding questions. This is why our Oral preparation pack will help. We have devised over 200 questions which are recorded so you get to listen and recognise the questions. They are categorised in different topics.
- Play each question and practise your answer. The more practised you are the more natural you will sound.
- Listen carefully to the questions. The question word and the tense used are always useful to prepare your answer.
- Practise your pronunciation. The website: www.voki.com can help you with that.
- If you are preparing a document, think of questions which could arise from your document. You will not only be asked about the document itself but also about related topics.
- if you make a mistake, learn to correct yourself. If you correct the mistake, consider it forgotten.



The day of the exam

It is normal to feel a bit nervous and the examiner is aware of this.

You will feel that the 12 minutes are over in no time. I know at the moment you feel it is so long, but it will fly.

Speak and have a nice conversation with the examiner. It is OK to stop to think and it is also OK not to know what to say! Just make sure that it is not for every question!

If you get stuck, the examiner will help you by rephrasing the question, so listen carefully!

Don't forget to greet and thank the examiner. There are no marks for it but it is a nice gesture.

**Don't forget
to consult
our listening
examination
advice sheet.**

