Nom: …….

Introduction to Year 12 French & Summer Work

YEAR 12 FRENCH – Course Structure

Moving from IGCSE to A level is all very straightforward – you already have all the skills that you need but we need to just take them to the next level. We want you to be able to express yourself freely in French and during the next two years we will ensure that you are able to

spontaneously express yourself i.e. say whatever you want, whenever you want in French!

To this end, there are a number of things you should be doing.

The key to becoming conversant in a foreign language is to immerse yourself as much as possible in the language whether it's changing the setting on your mobile phone to French, watching Euronews in French, practising French with the locals whilst in France this summer, listening to French pop music (we can give recommendations, despite our age…), buying a French newspaper or visiting the Rex to watch a French film. These things are not just nice extras, they are essential to help you to progress to A level standard, so why not start now as you mean to go on, and try some of the suggestions over the summer?

The A level course that you will follow next year is organised as follows. Your holiday work will help prepare you for this.

A level Topic Areas (Exam board: Edexcel)

Theme 1: Les changements dans la société française

Les changements dans les structures familiales

- Les changements dans les attitudes envers le mariage, les couples et la famille.

L'éducation

- Le système éducatif et les questions estudiantines.

Le monde du travail

- La vie active en France et les attitudes envers le travail; le droit à la grève; l'égalité des sexes.

Theme 2: La culture politique et artistique dans les pays francophones

La musique

- Les changements et les développements; l'impact de la musique sur la culture populaire.

Les médias

- La liberté d'expression; la presse écrite et en ligne; l'impact sur la société et la politique.

Les festivals et les traditions

- Les festivals, fêtes, coutumes et traditions.

Theme 3: L'immigration et la société multiculturelle française

L'impact positif de l'immigration sur la société française

- Les contributions des immigrés à l'économie et à la culture.

Répondre aux défis de l'immigration et l'intégration en France

- Les activités des communautés; la marginalisation et l'aliénation du point de vue des immigrés.

L'extrême droite

- La montée du Front National; les leaders du Front National; l'opinion publique.

Theme 4: L'Occupation et la Résistance

La France occupée

- La collaboration; l'antisémitisme.

Le régime de Vichy

- Maréchal Pétain et la Révolution nationale.

La Résistance

- Jean Moulin, Charles de Gaulle et les femmes de la Résistance; la résistance des français.

On top of all of this we will watch some French films and read French plays / novels – everything that helps bring the beautiful language alive!

YEAR 12 FRENCH - Summer Work

It is essential you use the summer to consolidate work from GCSE in terms of grammar, structures and vocabulary to make sure the jump to A level is as smooth as possible! There are four specific tasks you MUST do, however, *some additional reading and listening will be extremely beneficial.*

Task 1: Grammar

You will be given a new grammar book at the beginning of Year 12 and it is important to be ahead of the game when we start in September. It is a good idea to set up a grammar file over the holidays in preparation for next year – you will be able to write in the book itself but you will also get some useful sheets with explanations, so it is essential that you store them in a safe place! In the meantime, get up to speed with the following topics over the summer – they may seem simple but getting the basics right makes a big difference…

1. Gender and plurals
2. Adjectives
3. Present tense
4. Reflexive verbs
5. Articles
6. Perfect tense
7. Future
8. Negatives

You will find lots of useful exercises and support for grammar at www.languagesonline.org.uk.

Task 2: Les Intouchables

1. Watch the film *Intouchables*. The film is inspired by the true story of Philippe Pozzo di Borgo and his French-Algerian caregiver Abdel Sellou and it is a fabulous watch – I guarantee you will enjoy it! You know that it is going to be a good film when it becomes the 2nd biggest box office hit in France.

2. Research how film reviews are written in French and create your own review of about 300 words. Please type up your work, as this will allow you to play around with the text after it has been written (think of this as constant redrafting). Try to include a range of tenses (if possible), opinions, reflections and justifications. We are interested in seeing what you can do, so don't play safe. Try to include as wide a range of grammar and structure as you can. It doesn't matter if you make mistakes – in fact, if there are no mistakes, it

means you haven't made it complex enough! You will be discussing this in your speaking session in week 2

Task 3: Mini-presentation

Film or record yourself talking in French for 2-3 minutes **without reference to any notes**. The focus / topic is entirely your choice, so choose an issue or event that interests or inspires you.

Examples could include a personal commentary on a film you have seen, experience of a new sports activity, a visit to an amazing town, city or country, your hopes and fears for the sixth form, etc.

You will need to bring an electronic copy of the recording with you at the start of Year 12 for us to watch back / listen to as a group. We will then save this and play it back to you at the end of the year, as it is always interesting to compare the 'avant' with the 'après'!

Task 4: Literature work

Please read the book 'No et Moi' (either in French or in English or both!). It is important that you understand the story and the plot of the book before studying it in class!

All four tasks must be completed before the start of next term!

TO WORK ON YOUR READING

Reading current events articles is of course the best way to maintain your language at a good level and to extend it further. By doing so, **you will also develop your own ideas and opinions**, which you will need for good class interaction on current events and in oral lessons.

If you are reading a text, it is worth reading it twice. The first time to get an overview of the meaning. The second time to analyse the content in more detail. The recommended approach to reading and then analysing a text is:

- Select an article that interests you.
- Read it all the way through once, highlighting any words / phrases that you do not understand.
- Select at least **10 new pieces** of vocabulary from the parts you highlighted to look up (these words can be key words or just new ones for you) – note these down, in French and English, in a vocab book or a vocab section of your folder.
- Read the article through a second time, paying close attention to grammar and structure, and highlight (in a different colour) and annotate at least **5 interesting structures or points of grammar**.

The choice of topic area is limitless. The temptation may be to pick an article on fashion or sport, but it is a good idea to vary the topic area and to choose articles related to the syllabus topics so that you encounter a variety of vocabulary.

A good place to start to locate articles is the BBC Languages French website: http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/ . If you click on the 'French news, TV and radio' section, it offers a number of links to French language news information.

Other useful websites for reading and for finding articles include:

http://www.lexpress.fr/ & http://tempsreel.nouvelobs.com/ - French current affairs magazines' websites.

http://www.lemonde.fr/

http://www.liberation.fr/

http://www.lefigaro.fr/ - French newspaper websites.

http://www.lequipe.fr/ - French sport newspaper website.

http://tf1.lci.fr/

http://info.france2.fr/ - French TV channel websites.

TO WORK ON YOUR LISTENING

Like reading, listening to short excerpts of French really helps you to maintain and improve your comprehension skills.

In general terms, it is easier to start with short news bulletins. Video clips are ideal as they are easier to understand. Start with shorter clips and then when you feel ready, you could choose a radio station to listen to regularly. Remember, listening to French music is also an excellent way of learning new phrases and vocabulary, especially if you find the lyrics and follow them as you listen.

Some useful websites for watching / listening to French include:

http://fr.ver-taal.com/ - provides 'exercises d'écoute', for example videos with gap fill exercises on the transcript. Very useful starting point to improve your listening skills and to build up vocabulary.

http://fr.euronews.com/ - provides a wide variety of news videos. Has versions in different languages, so you can check the English version of news that you listen to (though be aware it will not be a direct translation).

http://apprendre.tv5monde.com/ - offers videos and linked exercises on news and current affairs; to start with you should opt for level B1 (intermédiare), progressing to B2 (avancé) by year 13. There is usually a transcript linked to each video, so you can do the exercises either as reading or listening exercises.

http://www.france24.com/en/ - French news TV channel website, allowing you to watch live, or to read articles.