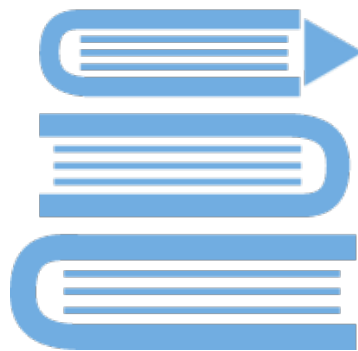


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Reading Comprehension

Reading Comprehension

The reading comprehension section (100 marks) is 32% of the entire exam. You must be learning new vocabulary throughout the year to do well in this section. There are nine questions (comprehensions) in this section.

Key Advice:

- You should be doing comprehensions every week and translating words you do not know within the comprehensions, in order to guarantee high marks in this section.
- Read the questions first so you know what to look for in the comprehension.
- Underline key question words.
- Give as much information as possible.
- Attempt every single answer.
- Answer in English.

Question 1

This comprehension deals with signs/advertisements/texts. It will have two parts, (a) and (b). You must know the following vocabulary:

Road signs -

- la déviation = diversion
- le sens unique = one way
- les travaux = roadworks
- le péage = toll bridge/road
- une voie sans issue = cul de sac
- sauf riverains = local access only
- une sortie de camions = truck exit
- un stationnement interdit = no parking
- une aire de repos = rest area
- la déchetterie = rubbish dump

Railway station signs -

- la consigne = lockers
- le guichet = ticket desk
- les renseignements = information
- la salle d'attente = waiting room
- la sortie = exit
- l'entrée = entrance
- défense de fumer = no smoking
- l'accès aux quais = access to platforms

Town signs (shops and places) -

- la librairie = bookshop
- la pâtisserie = cake shop
- la boulangerie = bakery
- la boucherie = butchers

- l'hôtel de ville = town hall
- le terrain de boules = bowling green
- la papeterie = stationary shop
- la mairie = town hall
- l'épicerie = grocery
- la bibliothèque = library
- la maison de la presse = newsagents
- le syndicat d'initiative = tourist office
- le coiffeur = hairdressers
- le musée = museum
- le tabac = tobacconist
- la confiserie = sweetshop

Signs inside shop -

- les chaussures = shoes
- la fromagerie = cheese
- les légumes = vegetables
- la charcuterie = delicatessen
- le produits laitiers = dairy products
- l'ascenseur = lift
- la sortie de secours = fire exit
- les soldes = sale
- le sous-sol = basement
- les vêtements = clothes

School signs -

- la conciergerie = caretaker
- le secrétariat = office area
- le bureau = office
- la salle de classe/cours = classroom

Internet sites -

- jardin.fr = gardens
- motos.fr = motorbikes
- bricolage.fr = D.I.Y
- cuisine.fr = cooking/recipes
- mode.fr = fashion
- autos.fr = cars

Campsite signs -

- l'accueil = reception
- la salle de jeux = games room
- les plats à emporter = take away
- l'eau potable = drinking water
- les douches = showers

Market stall signs and other signs -

- vend lapins = rabbits for sale
- achète disques = records wanted
- donne chatons = free kittens
- gratuit(e) = free of charge
- libre service = self service

Question 2, 3 and 4

These three comprehensions are usually quite short, and concern food, houses, health, books or news items. You will need to know vocabulary for food, days of the week, months, numbers and times of the day.

Opening and closing times -

- ouvert tous les jours = open everyday
- ... sauf le mercredi = ... except on Wednesday
- ouvert toute l'année = open all year
- fermé le dimanche = closed on Sunday

Recipes -

- ajoutez = add
- beurrez = butter
- coupez = cut
- couvrez = cover
- épluchez = peel
- lavez = wash
- mélangez = mix
- mettez au frigo = put in the fridge
- poivrez = put pepper on
- préchauffez le four = preheat the oven
- salez = put salt on
- servez chaud/froid = serve warm/cold
- 1 cuillerée à café de... = teaspoon
- 1 cuillerée à soupe de... = tablespoon

Question 5, 6, 7 and 8

These four articles (comprehensions) are longer than the previous pieces, with more questions. They concern local news items about people, events, crimes, sport, film and book reviews, and advertisements.

*Always read the titles and any writing you see at the top of the text.

The vocabulary you need to know for these comprehensions is hugely varied, so, again, we must remind you to be learning vocabulary throughout the year.

Question 9

This question usually consists of an interview with a French celebrity. Remember to read the title. The text is often divided into different parts, and there are many questions (8-10) with the text.

Once again, these interviews never focus on specific vocabulary topics, so be prepared for anything.

Conclusion

When you have finished the reading comprehension section:

- Check that you have attempted every question
- Make sure your answers are written clearly
- Give any extra information if it is relevant