**French C.E exam**

It consists of 4 parts each worth 25% of the total mark.

**Part 1: Oral** (around 15 minutes – 25 points)

They need to know the 4/5 orals done in class and to revise the questions they will be asked. The orals are done in school and recorded. Each recording is then sent to the candidate’s chosen school.

The oral is divided in 3 parts:

1. 10 mn preparation with a dictionary where they are given a role play and told which orals they will be ask on.
2. Role play. The candidate cannot take his/her notes but can take the “candidate exam sheet” they were given at the start of the preparation. The topic of the role play is completely random and can relate to any kind of situation (meeting someone, going to a restaurant, a doctor, checking in a hotel…)
3. The candidate does the first oral he/she has chosen plus answers 4 questions on it. Then the candidate does the second oral that has been picked randomly by the teacher and finally answers 4 questions on it as well.

**Part 2: Listening** (around 20 minutes – 25 points)

This is a pre-recorded CD sent by ISEB. The paper consists of five parts. The first three parts are usually just a match up with minimal writing. Part 4 is in general a series of multiple choice questions. The last part is the hardest as it is longer and with less pauses. The answers need also to be longer. This last part is usually more cultural (it could be about a French event, place or monument) and it requires the pupils to use their general knowledge as well as their understanding of the language. All parts are repeated twice in the recording with two minutes at the beginning and end of the exam to read questions or check answers.

**Part 3 and 4**: Reading and Writing (1 hour)

Reading (25 points): five sections, each longer and more complex than the previous one. The first few sections are usually in the form of a match up or a true or false exercise. The last two sections are longer texts, requiring longer answers (in English).

Writing (25 points): It is divided in two sections. The first section is out of 8 and the pupils need to write 5 sentences between 5 and 10 words each (each sentence is about an image given). The second part and the most important one is the letter writing, out of 17. There is a topic and the pupils must include 4 out of 5 bullet points given in the instructions (for instance, mention a friend, a present and activity…). The letter must be quite formal with a signing in and off. It is the part where the pupils can show their knowledge of the language. I would always push them to try to use two or three tenses in this letter (present, near future and perfect tenses). One tip I give the pupils is to re-use some parts of their orals they have learnt by heart in it as the topics are usually similar.

**Topics overview of year 7 and 8:**

• house, home, daily routine and chores\*

• life and work at school\*

• time, dates, numbers and prices

• personal description, family, friends and pets \*

• meeting people

• free-time activities

• holiday activities\*

• visiting a café or restaurant

• simple health problems

• description of a town or region

• finding the way and using transport

• understanding tourist information

• shopping (e.g. for food, clothes, presents, pocket money)

• weather

* Tenses: Present tense, near future tense and perfect tense.

\*These are the four main topics for the oral exam.