**French C.E exam**

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

**Part 1: Oral** (around 6 minutes + 10 mn preparation– 25 points)

They need to revise the questions done in class as most of them 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 after they have used their 10 minutes preparation with a dictionary (they can take notes and refer to them during the exam– all writing material will be provided):

1. Role play: 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…). They are given sentences to translate with the help of a dictionary during the preparation time.
2. Text based task: Using the card provided before the preparation time, the candidate must answer questions about its content. The information on the card is given in English so he/she will need to translate these into sentences. If a word is unknown, the candidate can use other expressions as the focus is on the message conveyed. Use of the present, future and past tenses is encouraged for top marks.
3. Unprepared discussion with the examiner on all the other topics not used previously during this exam (questions prepared in class). Use of the present, future and past tenses is encouraged for top marks.

**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 10 points and the pupils need to translate 5 sentences into French. They are given some verbs (infinitive form) and nouns for help in French. The past tense is not expected in this section.
* The second part is the letter/email writing, out of 15 points. They must use 4 bullet points (out of 5) given in the instructions (for instance, mention a friend, a present, an 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. They are expected to use three tenses in this letter (present, near future and perfect tenses) to achieve higher marks. One tip I give the pupils is to re-use some parts of their orals they have learnt by heart 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.