AP French – Tricks & Tips For Success

**Task #1: INTERPRETIVE COMMUNICATION – Printed Texts**

**\*\* TIP: Pre-read**

**\*\*TRICK: Pre-read title & intro to make predictions**

**TIP TRICK**

**√ Pre-read √ pre-read title & intro to make predictions**

**√ Overcome unknown vocab √ use prefixes & suffixes to help**

**√ Look for familiar etymology**

**√ Read quickly √ read every day**

**√ Read critically √ identify the 5 Ws :**

**Who, What, Why, When, Where**

**√ identify the register**

**√ Find your reading purpose √ read questions ahead of time**

**√ connect passage to purpose √ underline key phrases**

**√ don’t overlook details √ don’t leave answers blank**

**√ look for synonyms in answers**

**√ watch out for exclusive answers**

**√ don’t pick the most complicated answer**

**\*\* TIP: Overcome unknown vocab**

**\*\*TRICK: Use prefixes & suffixes (these can really help you grapple with unknown words)**

**PREFIX ENGLISH EXAMPLES**

1. **negation/lacking/loss *anormal***

**an- (before H or vowel) *anhistorique***

**in- show opposite *inacceptable***

**im- (before b, m or p) *immature***

**il- (before l) *illégal***

**ir- (before r) *irrégulier***

**Suffix: Part of Speech: English: Examples:**

-ain, aine (f) adjective -an *africain, cubain*

noun *fonctionnaire, tracasserie, loterie, niaiserie, mièvrerie*

-aire, -erie (f) -ary, -ery, -ing

adjective *planétaire, unitaire, bancaire*

-ais, -aise (f), -ois, -oise (f) adjective -ese *français, marseillais, chinois*

-aison (f) noun -eason, -ison *salaison, déclinaison, saison*

-al, -ale, -el, -elle (f) adjective -al *tropical, patronal, théâtral*

-ard, -arde (f) noun -ard *braillard, traînarde*

-ateur, -atrice (f) noun - ator *ventilateur, perforatrice*

-atique adjective -atic *problématique, dogmatique*

noun (f) *modestie, économie, folie*

-é, ée (f), -ie -y, -ey

adjective *feuillé, rosé, préféré*

-éen, éenne (f), -ien, -ienne adjective -ian *européen, herculéen,*

-ement, -issement noun (m) -ment, -ishment *agrandissement, gouvernement*

-eur, -euse, eresse, -rice noun -or (-our) *pâleur, coiffeuse, actrice*

-eux, -euse (f) adjective -ous *paresseux, ferreux, délicieux*

noun (m) *mécanicien, jurassique*

-ien, -ienne (f), -ique, -(a)ïque -ic (-ique), -aic

adjective *judaïque, scénique, géométrique*

-ier, -ière (f) noun -er, -ery *roulier, févier, verrière*

-if, -ive (f) adjective -ive *offensif, explosif, combatif*

-oir, -oire (f) noun -ory, -ery *nageoire, boudoir*

-té, -eté, -ité noun -ty, -ety, -ity *beauté, solidité*

**\*\* TIP: Overcome unknown vocab**

**\*\*TRICK: Look for familiar etymology**

Practice making word families – nouns, adjectives, adverbs, verbs, opposites:

Ex: *un chanteur/une chanteuse, une chanson, chanter, un chant, une chansonnette*

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**\*\* TIP: Read quickly**

**\*\*TRICK: Read EVERYDAY!!**

You need to increase your speed reading ability in French.

Read in French **EVERYDAY**!! It can be anything you’re interested in as long as it’s in French – the content has no impact on your speed reading ability!

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**\*\* TIP: Read critically**

**\*\*TRICK: Identify the 5 Ws: WHO, WHAT, WHY, WHEN, WHERE**

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**\*\* TIP: Find your reading purpose**

**\*\*TRICK: Read questions ahead of time**

As soon as you are instructed to turn the page, begin absorbing information!

You do NOT need to listen to the instructions because you already know them!

While narrator says “***Vous aurez une minute pour lire l’introduction et parcourir les questions***” you should be jotting down key words for each question

Ex: “***Quel est le but de l’article?”*** – write **BUT/GOAL** next to that question

**REMEMBER**: most common multiple choice question topics are **goal, cultural connections, comprehension, register, definition and tone**

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**\*\* TIP: Connect the passage to the purpose**

**\*\*TRICK: Underline/highlight key phrases**

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**\*\* TIP: DON’T OVERLOOK DETAILS!!**

**\*\*TRICK: DON’T LEAVE ANSWERS BLANK!!**

**TRICK: look for synonyms in answers**

(often the answer is not the same words as in the passage, will often contain a synonym of a word from the passage)

**TRICK: watch out for elusive answers**

(answers that contain the words **TOUJOURS** or **JAMAIS** are typically not correct! If the text does not explicitly mention these frequencies, those answers are tricks!)

**TRICK: don’t pick the most complicated answer**

(as language learners we are all impressed by long, complicated answers. Some of the responses are complicated on purpose to trick you)

**DON’T PICK AN ANSWER JUST BECAUSE YOU DON’T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS!!**

**Task #2: INTERPRETIVE COMMUNICATION – Printed & Audio Texts**

**TIP TRICK**

**√ Pre-read √ pre-read title & intro to make predictions**

**√ Find your reading purpose √ read questions ahead of time**

**√ connect passage to purpose √ underline key sentences**

**√ Read quickly √ take detailed notes on the audio**

**√ Manage your time wisely √ know the test instructions by heart**

**√ answer passage-specific questions FIRST!**

**√ refocus during pause between readings**

**√ don’t panic!**

**√ Be a better listener √ visualize**

**√ don’t overlook details √ don’t leave answers blank**

**√ look for synonyms in answers**

**√ watch out for exclusive answers**

**√ don’t pick the most complicated answer**

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**\*\* TIP: Pre-read**

**\*\*TRICK: Pre-read title & intro to make predictions**

Do NOT omit to read title & introduction! These will give you vital clues as to the content

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**\*\* TIP: Find your purpose**

**\*\*TRICK: Read questions ahead of time**

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**\*\* TIP: Connect the passage to the purpose**

**\*\*TRICK: Underline key sentences**

**\*\*TRICK: Take notes for audio selection on the questions page**

This will save you time flicking through pages!

**\*\* TIP: Manage your time wisely**

**\*\*TRICK: Know test instructions by heart**

You already know them!This will give you a few extra minutes

**\*\*TRICK: Answer passage-specific questions FIRST!!**

DON’T start with the passage, start with the QUESTIONS! Speed read them and answer those that can be answered with the passage only (they tend to have words ARTICLE or PASSAGE in them)

Write #1 next to those questions so you know they are in SOURCE 1

**\*\*TRICK: Refocus during pause between readings**

**\*\*TRICK: DON’T PANIC!!**

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**\*\* TIP: Be a better listener**

**\*\*TRICK: Visualize**

Do not down word for word what you hear!

Visualize main events, characters, settings – you will remember them more easily later!

Close your eyes and imagine you can see the speaker

Only write down notes that help you answer the questions

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**\*\* TIP: Don’t overlook details**

**\*\*TRICK: Don’t leave answers blank**

You only get credit for correct answers. Points are not deducted from incorrect or unanswered questions. Therefore, NEVER leave a question unanswered!!

Most questions follow the sequence of the passage, this might help you identify the location of the answer

Use process of elimination, remember, two answer choices are ridiculous, eliminate them first

If you guess wrong, no worries, you’re no worse off than leaving it blank!

**\*\*TRICK: Look for synonyms in answers**

**\*\*TRICK: Watch out for exclusive answers**

**\*\*TRICK: Don’t pick the most complicated answer**

**Task #3: INTERPERSONAL WRITING – E-mail reply**

**TIP TRICK**

**√ Identify register √ choose TU or VOUS**

**√ Begin & end well √ practice introductions & closings**

**√ Use time wisely √ block your time**

**√ Address the question √ underline the question/request**

**√ Elaborate, elaborate, elaborate! √ provide lots of details**

**√ highlight your knowledge**

**√ Give a polished answer √ choose varied vocabulary**

**√ use idiomatic expressions – show off!**

**\*\* TIP: Begin & end well**

**\*\*TRICK: Practice introductions & closings**

**INTRODUCTION:**

***Chers Collègues, Madame/Mesdames, Madame la Directrice, Monsieur/Messieurs, Monsieur le Directeur, Monsieur le Maire***

**CLOSING:**

**\*\*\*There are ALWAYS three sections to a closing line in French!!\*\*\***

1. **PERSONALIZED REQUEST 2. EXPRESSION 3. KIND STATEMENT**

*(use same title as the introduction)*

**Je vous prie d’agréer. Monsieur… l’expression de… mes sentiments respectueux**

**Je vous prie d’accepter, Madame… mes sincères salutations**

**Veuillez agréer, Monsieur… mes salutations distinguées**

**Veuillez accepter Madame… mes sentiments les meilleurs**

**\*\* TIP: Use your time wisely**

**\*\*TRICK: Block your time**

Your email is about **150 words**

Give yourself **3 minutes to read, 10 minutes to write, 2 minutes to revise**

The 2 minutes to revise are crucial to ensure correct verb conjugation, subject/adjective agreement etc.

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**\*\* TIP: Address all questions posed**

**\*\*TRICK: Underline the question/request**

There will always be a request for additional information, underline these questions.

Make sure you cover **ALL** requested information

**\*\* TIP: Elaborate, elaborate, elaborate**

**\*\*TRICK: Provide CREATIVE answers with LOTS of details**

Include: city names, geographical & historical references, people’s names, dates, times

**\*\*TRICK: Highlight your knowledge, not your ignorance!**

Personal information can easily be invented. However, geographical and historical data cannot be made up!!

**Task #4: INTERPERSONAL WRITING – Persuasive essay**

**\*\* TIP: Use your time wisely**

**\*\*TRICK: Block your time**

You only have 55 minutes to complete the task!

You have **6 minutes** to read the printed materials. This includes the topic, the introductions for all 3 sources and text of source 1

Read **QUICKLY**! Start with the topic and introductions to prepare you for audio.

Audio plays **TWICE** (takes ~10 minutes)

Once audio is over you have **40 minutes** to produce your essay (really just 35 minutes as you **MUST** spend 5 minutes reviewing your work)

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**\*\* TIP: Understand the sources**

**\*\*TRICK: Underline citable sources in reading**

In **6 minute** window before audio, mark up the reading passage! You won’t have time to search for something u already read! Underline important words, make notes etc.

**\*\*TRICK: Take notes while listening**

Audio is played twice only! Note-taking is CRUCIAL! There will be numbers & statistics – write them down as they support your argument.

Visualizing the audio in your mind will help you retain the information

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**\*\* TIP: Form a structured response**

**\*\*TRICK: Extract the various points of view**

The best way to tackle this is with a **GRAPHIC ORGANIZER** (see **inverted T chart**)

This will keep you focused

Once you understand the sources, put them together with your own views

Organize the citable items you underlined in your **FOR /POUR** and **AGAINST/CONTRE** boxes

You should have **THREE** citations in each box

Next, write your opinion in the **Personal View box** – be sure to state your opinion and give at least **THREE** examples or supporting details

**\*\* TRICK: Outline your INTRODUCTION & CONCLUSION**

Both your Introduction and Conclusion should reflect the same information

Introduce the concept, present all views, justify your opinion

Don’t forget that the Introduction should include a personal connection to the topic

**\*\*TRICK: Use Transitions**

Connect your thoughts using transition words and phrases (it impresses the examiners and is very important!)

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**\*\* TIP: Cite the sources**

**\*\*TRICK: Use the source number**

Use the phrase **SOURCE 1** to allow graders to know which source you are talking about

***En ce qui concerne l’auteur de source 3…***

***L’auteur de source 1 attire notre attention sur…***

***L’auteur de source 2 nous rappelle…***

***L’auteur de source 3 nous signale que…***

**\*\*TRICK: Paraphrase citations**

**NEVER** copy verbatim (word for word) from any source!

You must rephrase in **YOUR OWN WORDS**

Use synonyms to help you

**\*\*TRICK: Discuss the data**

You **MUST** refer to all **THREE** sources

There is an audio source, a text source and a visual source (either a graph or chart)

**\*\*TRICK: Use a specific example from the listening section**

You took notes while you were listening, **USE** them!

**\*\* TIP: Justify your opinion**

**\*\*TRICK: Let the sources do the work for you**

Align your opinion with the evidence in the three sources.

Allow your response to build to a conclusion that includes your opinion rather than attempting to dispute what the selections present

**Schéma pour écrire l’essai persuasif**:

#4 Phrase d’introduction

#1 Article #2 Graphique

Pour: Contre: Pour: Contre:

#3 Audio

Pour: Contre:

#5 Conclusion

**Task #5: INTERPERSONAL SPEAKING – Conversation**

**TIP TRICK**

**√ Identify register √ choose TU or VOUS**

**√ Begin & end well √ practice introductions & closings**

**√ Read the outline well √ underline the type of response**

**√ determine if your response will be affirmative or negative**

**√ Speak for full 20 seconds √ brainstorm details on the outline**

**√ STOP speaking when you hear the tone**

**√ Give a polished answer √ self-correct**

**√ make the conversation sound real**

**√ Put your best foot forward in French - show off!**

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**\*\* TIP: Identify the register**

**\*\*TRICK: choose TU or VOUS**

When you read the introduction it is important you look for clues about to whom you are talking.

If it is someone you don’t know/adult – **VOUS**

If it is someone your own age/known to you – **TU**

**\*\*\* Make sure you stick with the correct register throughout your conversation – this means ALL verbs, commands, possessive pronouns, emphatic pronouns etc\*\***

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**\*\* TIP: Begin & end well**

**\*\*TRICK: Practice your introductions**

Be sure to have both a **FORMAL** and **INFORMAL** opener at the ready

If it is a phone conversation, you can begin with **ALLÔ**

***Bonjour, c’est \_\_ (insert your name), comment allez-vous?***

***Allô \_\_ (insert your name), comment ça va?***

***Bonjour, ici \_\_ (insert your name). Quoi de neuf \_\_ (insert their name)?***

**\*\*TRICK: Practice your closings**

Be sure to have both a **FORMAL** and **INFORMAL** closing expression at the ready

***Au revoir, \_\_ (insert their name), je vous parlerai bientôt***

***À la prochaine, \_\_ (insert their name). Je t’appellerai plus tard***

***Ciao mon ami (bises)!***

**\*\* TIP: Read the outline well**

**\*\*TRICK: Underline the type of response**

The exam will help you! It will say something like: **ask, accept, decline, invite, refuse, suggest, express etc**

Underline this so you give the correct type of response

If you fail to do this, you will automatically get a 2 on this due to partial completion!

**\*\*TRICK: Determine if your response will be positive or negative**

As you read the outline, write a big + or – sign next to answers that must be either affirmative or negative

This will help you remember during the actual task

**Ex: “*Déclinez son invitation et proposez une alternative*” you would write: (-)**

**(+) (-)**

**Félicitations! c’est dommage**

**Je suis content(e) pour toi/vous ne t’inquiète pas / ne vous inquiétez pas**

**Quelle surprise je ne suis pas d’accord**

**\*\* TIP: Speak for 20 seconds**

**\*\*TRICK: Brainstorm details on the outline**

As you read the outline, jot down words that might be useful to you

**\*\*TRICK: STOP speaking when you hear the tone**

If you don’t stop when you hear the tone you will miss vital information

**\*\* TIP: Give a polished answer**

**\*\*TRICK: Self-correct**

There is a section in the grading rubric to assess if self-correction helped the listener understand what you were trying to say

***Je veux dire… = I mean…***

***Je voulais dire… = I meant to say…***

***Pardon/excusez-moi… = excuse me…!***

**\*\*TRICK: Make your conversation sound real**

The conversation needs to sound authentic. If your responses are boring or dull in tone your grade will reflect that!

Use voice inflection, make a personal connection, throw in some personal details to make the listener feel you’re talking to a real person not just a digital recording!

**\*\*TRICK: Put your best foot forward in French**

Use the most sophisticated grammar and vocab you can! In order to earn a 5, sophisticated structures like the subjunctive most be used correctly and sound unrehearsed.

**NEVER** use expressions you’re unfamiliar with!

**Task #6: PRESENTATIONAL SPEAKING – Cultural comparison**

**TIP TRICK**

**√ Identify register √ stay FORMAL**

**√ Begin well √ address your audience and announce the topic**

**√ manage your time √ know the directions**

**√ close well √ provide a summary statement**

**√ outline a developed response √ stay structured**

**√ Use transitional phrases**

**√ Present specific local**

**& francophone viewpoints √ highlight your knowledge**

**\*\* TIP: Identify register**

**\*\*TRICK: Stay FORMAL**

The word **“ON”** is your best friend!

**NEVER** use **“ILS/ELLES”** when talking about others in a general sense

You will make comparisons between elements of your culture and francophone culture

You may use **“JE”** and **“NOUS”** when representing your own culture

When talking about francophone culture, use **“ON”**

**\*\* TIP: Begin well**

**\*\*TRICK: Address your audience and announce the topic**

Identify the audience in the instructions to see how to address them

To address a group of classmates: **Mes camarades / mes amis…**

To address a more formal group **: Mesdames et Messieurs…**

Once you address your audience, announce the topic of your speech

***Je voudrais vous parler de l’attitude des gens dans ma région envers…***

***Aujourd’hui, je vais discuter de l’importance de…***

***Je vais commencer par l’analyse de…Ensuite, je vais contraster mes observations avec…***

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**\*\* TIP: Manage your time**

**\*\*TRICK: Know the directions**

You have **4 minutes** to read the prompt and prepare a **2 minute** speech

You have **1 minute** to read the instructions and **4 minutes** to prepare. The instructions are always the same so this gives you an extra minute of prep time

Write your outline using the chart below, jot down any useful vocab

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**\*\* TIP: Close well**

**\*\*TRICK: Provide a summary statement**

Use: ***donc, on voit que…, pour finir…, en somme…, pour conclure…***

**\*\* TIP: Outline a developed response**

**\*\*TRICK: Use transitional phrases (words like *tandis que… = whereas*)**

**OPENING**

**- state view points of BOTH cultures**

**- Viewpoint 1 (your culture)**

**- 2-3 examples**

**TRANSITION**

**-Viewpoint 2 (francophone culture)**

**- 2-3 examples**

**CLOSING**

**\*\* TIP: Present specific local and francophone viewpoints**

**\*\*TRICK: Highlight your knowledge**

**NEVER** invent dates and details!!

Choose examples that highlight what you **DO** know and **NOT** what you **DON’T!!**

You do not have to talk about France!!

Think back over articles we read in class and use them to impress examiners

**SCHÉMA POUR PRÉSENTATION CULTURELLE SUJET:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Introduction: (20 secs)** | **Mots et expressions:** |
| **CULTURE 1** | **Détail 1: (20 secs)** |  |
|  | **Détail 2: (20 secs)** |  |
| **CULTURE 2** | **Détail 1: (20 secs)** |  |
|  | **Détail 2: (20 secs)** |  |
|  | **Conclusion:** |  |