

## Higher French/German/Spanish

### **Q I can't get access to the Scholar website to use the activities?**

If you are registered with your school to sit the exam, then you should have a Scholar ID and password. Ask your teacher or at the school office. If you have access to some of your subjects, but not others, then probably your details have not been updated, so again, check with your teacher.

### **Q How can I improve my listening skills?**

First is practice. The earlier Scholar activities are easier and slower, so start with them. When you are in the Higher area, on the left under additional tools you will find activities. Click on that, and look for all the listening activities to practise with.

Secondly, is to get used to the listening by looking at the script while you are listening. This is easy to do on Scholar by pressing reveal at the bottom of the page. For past papers, you can download the scripts for the last three or four years from the SQA website, as well as the sound files. Listen and read, and pause as often as you want to get used to the listening. You might also find the Intermediate 2 listening exercises good practice.

Thirdly, listen to music, radio and films to help tone your ear.

### **Q can I learn some essays for the opinion/personal response writing?**

No, as you will be given specific questions to answer (2 or 3) as part of the task, and you just cannot predict these. Get together a lot of short 20-30 word opinions on a variety of topics, and be ready to adapt them to different questions.

### **Q how do I revise for reading?**

You can't really revise for reading, it is more of a skill. You need to work at these skills, particularly dictionary use, and knowing where to find the answers. Try Scholar reading assessments, or past papers with the SQA marking schemes which you can download from the SQA website.

### **Q How long should my answers be for the reading?**

No need for long answers, or sentences. Look carefully at the question, see how many points are awarded, then identify in the text where the answers are.

### **Do I have to be word for word in the translation?**

You have to give all the relevant information, but your translation has to read like English! So change what you have to, but make sure you give all the details from the original.

### **Q Do I have to write the same amount for all the bullet points in the directed writing?**

pretty much: a minimum of 20 words for each bullet point is a good guide, and a maximum of 40.

### **Q How much time should I spend on the reading and writing?**

50 minutes for the reading, 10 for the translation, 40 for the writing is a good rough guide: however, some people are much quicker at one particular area, so it could be different for you.

### **Q How can I prepare for the presentation in the speaking test?**

Firstly, be confident: this is the bit which people get the best mark for in Higher. Secondly, start in plenty of time, then get your teacher to check what you are planning to say. Then practise it, best of all recording yourself on a phone or your computer. Finally, take in some notes to help you through the presentation.

### **Q How does the discussion work in the speaking test?**

Your teacher will follow on with questions on the area you have presented on, then move to another topic area. Try to use the 1-2-3 principle when answering questions: give an answer, give a reason for your answer, then either a second reason, or a but with a different opinion or answer .