Multiple Choice

1. Reading - 40 minutes: 30 questions/5-6 passages

- Don’t stress over the words you don’t know, focus on the ones you do know.

- Annotate for main ideas of paragraphs or summarize in one word

- Read the questions first (whatever works for you)

- If you read the questions first, annotate the passage accordingly

- Smack yourself if you zone out?

- Quick English paraphrasing if the sentence is complicated

- Don’t spend too much time on one passage; pace yourself appropriately

- Skip the harder passages and go back to those at the end

- Think of this as the French ACT, and apply those strategies from the English ACT

- Keep a manageable pace/rhythm throughout the section

- Answers should correlate with other answers in the passage

- Mouth the words to get you into the French mode

- DO NOT LEAVE QUESTIONS BLANK; GUESS IF NEED BE

1. Listening – 55 minutes: 35 questions -- 1) print and audio combined, 2) audio only.
* Print and audio combined:
	+ Look and listen for similarities and differences between texts
	+ Read the questions first so you know which ones are for listening and which ones are for reading
	+ The Malnati Method: for the first round of listening, listen for odd questions. For the second round of listening, listen for the even questions.
	+ Listen for words that are in the answer choices (but still read the possible answer choices)
	+ When in doubt use common sense
	+ Make sure to take notes on the audio (key phrases and words)
	+ Pressure yourself to answer all audio questions before moving on to the next passage
	+ Underline main points in question or jot down words next to question
* Audio:
	+ Summarize question in one word
	+ Figure out the tone of voice to help answer questions
	+ Close your eyes to concentrate! Don’t fall asleep!
	+ Write down key words and phrases next to questions to which they are related
	+ Who, What, When, Where, Why?? Figure these out
	+ Use context clues the second time around to figure out the rest of what they are saying in the audio
	+ Malnati method may work better in this section…

-------------------------------------------------------- PAUSE ---------------------------------------------------------------------

Writing - Email response – 15 minutes: 1 prompt

* READ THE ENTIRE PROMPT
* Don’t rush to get started if you don’t know what you’re going to talk about; write a plan
* If the prompt offers you something, thank the prompt!
* “Je vous remercie”
* Cher monsieur \_\_\_\_\_; Chère Madame\_\_\_\_\_
* Use vous throughout
* Find a closing and stick with it! (Cordialement, sincèrement (bien) etc.)
* Address ALL parts of prompt
* Two sentence intro; answer question 1 with examples; answer question 2 with examples; minimal conclusion (and ask a question); appropriate closing

**Persuasive Essay : 40 min. to write (+ approx. 20 min. to listen to and read sources)**

1. Essayyyyy
2. Review your transition words!! (Ensuite, et puis, alors, bien que, donc, toutefois, malgré que) Find the list with these words
3. Write about an opinion which you know how to talk about in French/which you can make a great argument out of
4. Address counterarguments
5. USE ALL THE SOURCES AND GIVE AN OPINION!!!
6. Malnati Method Part 2: Make up a character to accompany your argument (concrete examples)
7. Don’t copy phrases directly from the sources (paraphrase)
8. The essay doesn’t have to be as formal as a DBQ
9. Use the sources creatively
10. Write about the less popular opinion!
11. Vary your vocabulary and tenses!
12. Create a hook for your intro
13. How to vary your language
	1. Talk about factors related to the issue at hand
	2. Personal experience
	3. “LA SOURCE”
	4. To make a decision = prendre une decision
	5. Mature = mûr(e) (adj) ; to mature = mature (verb)
14. Do not put words in English in quotations; circumlocution
15. Go with the words you are sure you know

**Speaking – Conversation : 5 x 20-second responses, 1 min. to plan**

Mme Imrem dit:

1. While they give you time to read the general directions (1 min) – jot down transition words or other words if you are able to read the prompt. (You know the directions already)
2. Look at the “*thème du cours*” at the top left corner of the conversation – this will give you some guidance about what type of questions will be asked. If the questions printed are very general, jot down a bunch of vocab and phrases that have to do with that theme during your prep time



1. Try not to repeat over and over how excited you are in the exact same way. If you want to say it once , you can say, “je suis tres content(e) de\_\_\_\_\_” or “j’attends avec impatience\_\_\_\_\_”.

Avoid « Je suis très excité or Je suis très enthousiaste. USE DIFFERENT WAYS TO DEMONSTRATE YOUR EXCITEMENT EG, « *j’ai fait mes valises il ya une semaine parce que je suis si contente de venir en France »* and/or « *j’ai fait des recherches pendant des heures hier soir et j’ai appris que ton village a gagné le concours de fleurs en 2012 (deux mille douze) donc je suis très contente de venir en juin pour voir les tulipes et les roses. Ma fleur préférée est la tulipe car j’adore ses couleurs vives et la joie qu’elle représente.* »

1. Don’t stop suddenly just because the tone sounds. If you have a few words left in the sentence, finish it. If you have a long sentence to end, try to cut it short without cutting yourself off. They MAY be able to hear you over the beginning of the next question.
2. Think outside of the box. Try not to answer what you think everyone else is answering.
3. Be descriptive don’t just list stuff (*nous allons au parc, nous allons a la plage, nous allons au cinema* – gets too repetitive and can’t get you past French 1). This is your opportunity to show off your language. If your family eats dinner together, say what you had for dinner yesterday, and who was there, what you talked about, where you ate. If you can’t remember, imagine your dream dinner and describe it. If your friends and you go shopping, describe the last shopping trip you went on. Without using proper names, say where you went (*la rue principale de mode de ma ville*), what you were looking for (*je cherchais un cadeau pour l’anniversaire de ma prof de francais*), what you bought (*je lui ai acheté un beau collier en diamants avec une jolie paire de boucle d’oreilles en forme de coeur pour representer mon amour profond pour elle*). Par exemple.
4. Speak with intonation, texture, engagement, interest. Even if you are not confident, it will seem like you are. Practice this.
5. Wrap it up at the end with “au revoir” or “a bientot” or “a demain.”
6. Think of good transition words to help flow of conversation (ensuite, a mon avis, toute fois, d’apres moi).
7. Don’t act like you’re speaking into a machine; hold it like a phone!
8. Relax, let it flow, fill up the whole twenty seconds, use awesome French.

**Speaking – Cultural Comparison Presentation – 2 min. presentation, 4 min. to plan**

1. While they give you time to read the general directions (1 min) – jot down transition words or other words if you are able to read the prompt. (You know the directions already)
2. This is a comparison, which means you have to cover BOTH communities (yours and the French-speaking one), and try to give them equal treatment. Make yourself a visual outline before you start and plan to spend a certain amount of time on each, par exemple:

***Intro (10 sec) (define the topic, give it a context; introduce the two communities)***

***Ma Communauté (50 sec)(you don’t have to call it this) Communauté Francophone (50 sec)***

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***Conclusion (10 sec) (similarities or differences and your commentary/preference etc.)***

1. Practice pronouncing the word *communauté* (fem = *ma* *communauté)* if you’re going to use it (you don’t have to use this word).
2. Practice saying the name of your country and know if it is feminine masculine and how to say “in” or “to” in combination with it.
	1. *en* + fem countries + countries that start w vowels (en France, en Suisse, en Irak)
	2. *au* + masculine countries (au Senegal, au Quebec)
	3. *aux* + plural countries (aux Seychelles, aux Etats-Unis)
	4. *à +* city (à Chicago, à Paris, etc.)
	5. (not DANS + country)
3. Try not to make this one run-on sentence or a list. Study your transition words and use them. List a few of them during your prep time.
4. You can decide what your home community is based on the question. You can even make up your community if you know something about it. (eg if the topic is rites de passage, you can pretend you are Jewish and your community is “le judaisme” and talk about the Bar/Bat Mitzvah or that you are Latino/a and talk about the quinceñera)
5. Use real or made-up or fictional examples from real life for this. If the question is about racism, tell about a real time when you felt discriminated against or witnessed discrimination or a story from a book you’ve read or a movie you’ve watched. Again, this gives you an opportunity to show off your language, vocab, tenses, etc.
6. Your pacing and confidence are good in this. Use this to your advantage.
7. Watch the counter on your device. It is your friend.
8. *From a past student:* To study for this portion, grab a bunch of note cards and make one for each theme about a country you know about and think of 1-2 things to say about it – for example for education, I wrote that their universities were the best in the world.
9. Use what you know about your country and try to adapt it to the question, even if it’s a bit of a stretch. But don’t stretch it too far ☺
10. Try not to turn this into a socioeconomic commentary – ie EU is the superpower of the world v. other countries are poor or only agricultural or uneducated. Find a way to celebrate the other culture (see #10) and not judge it inferior. If necessary, say what is superior about the other culture, or just notice similarities and differences.
11. Use transition words. (on back of email handout)
12. Even if you can’t think of the right word, find a way to finish your sentence/thought.
13. If you can’t think of anything pertaining to a country, start writing down vocab words that relate to the theme.
14. Using France is okay!
15. Be sure to conclude the comparison at the end. (Your opinion? Why is it important?)
16. In the intro, you can define the theme to lead into your comparison.