Multiple Choice

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

* Read questions before you read the passage
* Annotate the passage – write one word to summarize each paragraph
* Underline things that relate to a question
* Circle words from the text that match questions
* Come back to big idea questions
* Eliminate multiple choice answers
* Skip to easy questions first (ones that directly reference a line in the text etc.)
* Pay attention to/mark experts/statistics because they are usually asked about in questions

1. Listening – 55 minutes: 35 questions -- 1) print and audio combined, 2) audio only.

* Print and audio combined:
  + Take notes and try to connect audio to things from the reading
  + Look for questions that only refer to the listening or the reading and make a mark by them
  + Don’t get hung up on a word you don’t know
  + Look for key words in the questions that you can listen out for when the audio plays
* Audio only:
  + Read the entire intro
  + The first time the audio plays, listen as a general introduction to it and answer the more general questions about it; the second time it plays listen for info related to more detailed questions
  + Remember that questions go chronologically
  + Underline specific words/phrases in the questions so that when they pop up in the audio it’s easier to catch
  + Mark each question by its type (who, what, when, etc.)
  + Take notes on words you hear

Writing - Email response – 15 minutes: 1 prompt

Chère Madame SMITH/Cher Monsieur SMITH

Know sign offs (Cordialement/Sincèrement/Sincères salutations)

Include a question somewhere in the email (doesn’t have to be at the end)

Thank the person – Je vous remercie pour votre réponse

Use ‘vous’ – it’s usually an employer or similarly revered you are responding to

Talk about experiences 🡪 lie/invent if you have to

Know how to explain your language/cultural experience

Use real life examples

Short intro, 2 body paragraphs, short conclusion, sign off

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

Use all 3 sources

Take notes with the audio source

Try to care about the question/take an actual stance

Structure (Intro, 2-3 body paragraphs, conclusion)

Transition words and phrases

Neat handwriting!

If time permits, go back and proofread your essay and/or read it out loud to yourself (but quietly ☺)

Don’t quote an entire sentence

Use French quotation marks

Dans la source numéro …/Selon…/Quant à…/D’après…

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

Draw lines on prompt to visually separate each question and response from the next one

It’s you and a peer🡪 use “tu”

Use all the time given

Remind yourself about yourself (interests)

Smile while speaking. Have a good mood/happy voice to sound more energetic. Relax!

Don’t cut yourself off when hearing the ‘beep’. Just finish your sentence.

Utilize The List for transition words

Know how to express excitement – most of these are about upcoming events you are excited about!

Try to predict the questions and plan /write down some ways you would answer it

Have a couple fancy-tense/idiomatic expressions memorized

Know various parting words

Jot down vocab that relates to theme/you during preparation time

Know very general, non-answering phrases in case you don’t know what’s going on (“ we are not ready for that”)

No need to repeat the question

If you don’t understand the question, it’s still better to say something and show off your French.

When see the theme, write down general related vocab words

Practice talking in 20 seconds (to your pet, the wall, your siblings, your parents)

Vary your intonation

**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 (especially comparison phrases).
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. Write down the time you started so you know when to wrap up.
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.
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.

*BON COURAGE! FAITES-MOI FIERE! FAITES-VOUS FIERS!!!*

