

S3 PUPILS FROM KILMARNOCK ACADEMY

PROMPT QUESTIONS

1. Tell us if you are a boy or a girl, your age and which grade or year you are in.
2. How long have you been studying this language/these languages?
3. Which language(s) are you studying at school? How much language teaching do you get per week? What kind of activities do you do? Do any of them involve ICT?
4. What kind of things do you particularly enjoy about your language learning experience? Tell us what makes these activities enjoyable?
5. What kind of things don't you enjoy? Perhaps you can tell us why you don't like them, and how you would change them if you could.
6. (A) If you were asked to sum up your language learning at school in three words, what would they be? (B) Try to sum up your language learning at school very briefly.
7. Tell us a little bit about any contact you may have had with languages other than English outside of school. For example, do you have the opportunity to use your languages with members of your family, with friends or other acquaintances? Have you ever been abroad, e.g. on holiday, to a country where English is not an official language? If so, which language(s) are you or have you used? What can you tell us about your experiences? How has this affected your language learning experience at school?
8. At this point, do you see yourself using languages after you have left school? If yes, in what ways? If no, why not?

BOYS

'Andrew'

1. I am a boy. I am 14 and I am in 3rd year.
2. I have been studying French since I was 10, I was in Primary 6. So far I've studied French for 5 years.
3. I am studying French. And I get it 3 times a week. (Each lesson is 50 minutes). We do activities from a course book. I think the book is quite boring sometimes. We use the Smart Board and computer a lot – that is really fun!
4. Going into your own groups and doing presentations is enjoyable!
5. I hate using the book as it is boring – the computer is much more enjoyable and you still are learning while you are on the computer.
6. Fun but boring (B) The computer is fun and the textbook is rubbish.
7. I only speak English with my family unless I am practising for French homework. I have spoken a little Spanish but to be honest I wouldn't really want to learn that either.
8. I don't think I would use French outside of school when I have left as I don't really think I need to as it wouldn't come under a category to the job that I would like. I really like French when using the Smart Board as it is really fun, I like the teacher I've got but the downside of French is definitely the textbooks.

'Brendan'

1. Boy, 14, 3rd year.
2. I have been studying French for 4 years.
3. I am studying French at school. I get 3 periods a week in French. Sometimes its written work and mostly we talk about it and the Smart Board is used almost every period.
4. I particularly enjoy using the Smart Board doing the games and I find it really helps our understanding of French when we are having fun.
5. I don't enjoy doing work from the textbook. If I were to change the textbook work I would just scrap it and focus more on sheets and fun things. Although I would still copy things into my vocabulary to have something to look back on.

6. (A) Fun most times (B) Language at school I suppose is not a total waste of time but since learning it I have never had the need to use it.
7. I have never had the chance to use languages with my family but I have on the Internet. I have talked to Spanish, German, and a couple of French people. I find that learning Spanish or German would be good if I wanted to have a job as community manager for Europe in my games on the Internet.
8. I would like to learn languages for use on the Internet with people that use a different language.

'Callum'

1. I am a boy, aged 14 and I am in third year.
2. I am studying French and have been studying it for 3 and-a-bit years.
3. I get 3 50-55 minute lessons a week. I use the Smart Board so I do use some form of ICT.
4. I enjoy using the Smart Board as it makes things more fun rather than just looking at still, boring pictures in the book.
5. I don't like using the books in French as they are quite boring.
6. (A) It's good fun (B) It is better than a few other subjects I take.
7. I have come in contact with a few languages out of school, mainly on holiday. I have been in Spain and France and have spoke to different people.
8. I don't think that I will be using French after I leave school.

'Donald'

1. I am a boy, aged 14 and I am in Third Year (S3).
2. I have been studying this language for just over 4 years.
3. At school I am studying French. I get 3 50-55 minute periods of French per week. We use the Smart Board, play games and do work out of a book. Therefore, we do activities using ICT.
4. I enjoy the Smart Board and playing games, because if we do fun things, we get more interested in the subject.
5. I don't enjoy using the books because the activities in them can be a bit boring at times.
6. (A) It's good fun (B) I enjoy language learning at my school, as we do a lot of fun activities and do quite a bit of group work.
7. I have been in Spain and France so I have spoke Spanish and French before. It was quite hard but also quite fun.
8. I do not see myself using languages after I have left school, because I will not need it for the job I would like.

'Eric'

1. Hey, I'm a boy in my third year and I'm 14 years old.
2. I have been studying this language for five and a half years.
3. The language I'm studying is French. I do French for 3 periods a week for Standard Grade. In French we do quite a lot of ICT on the Smart boards.
4. I enjoy using the Smart board, those lessons are full of fun and I like lessons when we learn things by talking to one another.
5. I don't really enjoy the writing but I get on with it, I don't like it because it's to quite, I learn more when we talk, I would change this by getting lab??? (like that will happen: lol*).
6. (A) J'aime le français.
7. ---
8. I will maybe use French if I ever go to France on holiday or if I get a French visitor.

*laugh out loud

GIRLS

'Anne'

1. I'm female, thirteen years old and I am in S3.
2. I've been studying French for approximately four years, although in Primary six and seven it's pretty basic stuff. We learned things like 'bonjour' and parts of the body and furniture.
3. At school I study French. I hoped to be studying German too, but due to complications I was unable to do so. We get 3 periods of French a week. A period is roughly 55 minutes. We usually copy out of books but our teacher makes it fun. She is skilled in using the Smart Board. The Smart Board is increasingly enjoyable. At home I study Japanese in my free time. My mind seems to absorb Japanese better because I really want to learn it. I hope to become a 'MANGA' artist when I'm older so Japanese is almost compulsory! I study it for roughly 45 minutes a week. The only activities I do are reading the vocabulary book and listening to the pronunciation audio and CD.
4. I enjoy copying out of books! Most children hate it, but I am introverted and enjoy working on my own. However, I find it enjoyable to watch the other kids use the Smart Board.
5. I don't enjoy being told to use the Smart Board in front of the class as I flustered. I don't really enjoy group work wither as people have bossed me around in the past.
6. (A) Suppose it's okay. (B) Well, as I've said before, the teacher works hard to make it enjoyable. She actually makes a very good job of it as well! French is one of my preferred periods.
7. There was once, in Belgium, a girl asked me if I knew where a 'chocolate' shop was, in French! I panicked and gave her the answer in English but she smiled as she walked away in the direction I'd given her! Weird... Sometimes I try to converse with my friends in Japanese, but they are familiar with only simple phrases, such as 'Good afternoon'. I have also used Japanese, French and German to translate songs – or rather – attempt to translate songs!
8. Well, obviously I'm going to be using Japanese if I pursue my dream, but French will probably only be of use on holidays.

'Brenda'

1. I am a fourteen year old, 3rd year girl.
2. I've been studying French since Primary 6 - for about four years.
3. I study French at school. We have 3 55-min classes per week. There is a Smart Board in our French class, and we use it nearly every period we are in French. Using the Smart Board means that everyone in the class can participate. It is also more fun than doing stuff from the blackboard or a book.
4. I really enjoy the games we play in French because you are learning as you play, but you don't realise. My teacher makes it fun because she is always trying new ways of teaching us things.
5. I don't enjoy copying out vocabulary but it is useful when you get a test. I also don't like all the rules you have to remember for verbs.
6. Absolutely not fantastic
7. I am going to France next year so my language skills will come in useful. So I am happy I have learned basic French.
8. I am not planning to move to another country.

'Claire'

1. I am a girl, I am in 10th grade.
2. I've been studying the language of French for four years, ever since I was in primary
3. Currently I am studying French at school. Per week I get three periods of French. We do activities such as projects at the end of topics to help us revise and remember what we have learned. ICT is generally not used in French.
4. ---
5. I don't enjoy the Listening Activities in the French book because the people talking are too quick. Also vocabulary tests are in my 'don't like' list. If I was able to change these things I would slow down the talking on the tape and I would do vocab tests at home.
6. (A) Intriguing, spectacular, splendid (B) I would say that it is fairly useful and I hope to use it in the future.
7. I do include my native tongue Amharic, used in Ethiopia and some Russian. I use these languages at home and with my friends who use these languages. These have not affected my learning at school.

8. At this point I do not think I will use French anywhere else, unless I go to France on holiday. French is a good language to learn and I believe that because I learned it at an earlier age. FRENCH IS GREAT!!!

'Donna'

1. I'm a girl aged 14, in my third year at secondary school.
2. I have been studying French at school for three years because I studied German at primary school for two years. I go to a private tutor once a week for an hour to learn German, and my Mum is involved in a language promotion project.
3. I study French for three periods a week, and I find it very enjoyable. My teacher uses original methods to teach us, many of which involve a computer. When we learnt clothes, for example, we had a fashion show, and so on. I also study at home, but I prefer lessons.
4. --
5. There is nothing that I don't enjoy apart from tests, but I understand why they are necessary. However, it would be helpful if I learnt more grammar.
6. Interesting and fun
7. At home I speak a forty-year-old version of Viennese dialect, because half of my family are Austrian. I write to one of my distant cousins who lives in Vienna, occasionally. We have been on holiday to Austria several times and also to Denmark and Sweden. Luckily, Denmark and Sweden, everyone spoke English but I still picked up a few words. In Austria, I even managed to speak 'nach die schrift'. Because I am bilingual I find it quite easy to learn new languages.
8. I probably will use languages when I leave school, because I plan to be an aid worker and whoever I work with might not speak English. I also enjoy reading books in the original language they were written in, and I would like to raise bilingual children, so yes, I will use languages after I leave school.

'Eileen'

1. Girl, 14 years old and in 3rd year.
2. 5 years.
3. French, 3 periods (3 hours). We do workbook activities, French activities on the Smart Board and board games, songs and rhymes.
4. I enjoy learning new things such as new topics. It makes fun because we do different flashcards and do things on the Smart Board.
5. I enjoy every part of French.
6. (A) Fun, Fantastic, Interesting (B) Very enjoyable, some parts are difficult but most are very easy to understand.
7. With my sister Fiona as she speaks French at school. Yes, I have been abroad (American). American is another language I have spoken. Weird to know but very easy to understand. It hasn't affected my language learning experience.
8. Yes, if I am dealing with people who are French.

'Fiona'

1. I am a girl. I'm in 10th grade (3rd year). I am 14.
2. I have been studying French for 4 years at primary and 3 years at secondary.
3. I only study French at school. I get French 3 times a week and its usually good fun because our teacher is very informative and we love playing French games on the Smart Board. Friday last period is the best as recently we had a party for Children in Need.
4. I particularly enjoy playing games on the Smart Board.

5. I don't like vocabulary tests. I always get something wrong.
6. (A) BETTER THAN ENGLISH!!!! (B) French is kool but vocab tests are rubbish.
7. The only thing I say outside school is 'bonjour' people. It doesn't affect me.
8. No, I don't think so because I'd rather not get French and English mixed up in my head.

'Gillian'

1. I am a 14 year old girl and I am in 3rd year.
2. I have been doing French for five and a half years.
3. At school I am studying 1 language at school which is French. I get French 3 periods a week and we work out of the books and work with a Smart Board.
4. I like playing games on the Smart Board and find it quite interesting.
5. I don't like vocabulary tests as they are boring. If I could I would make it so that you fill in the blanks.
6. (A) BETTER THAN MATHS (B) French is kool but vocab tests are rubbish.
7. The only contact outside of school I have with foreign languages is when I go on holiday.
8. I might use languages after school, I couldn't really say.

'Hazel'

1. I am a girl in 3rd year.
2. I have been doing French for five and a half years.
3. I get taught French for three periods a week and each period lasts for 50 minutes at a time, and all the periods involve using ICT.
4. I like doing French presentations and using the Smart Board makes the activities enjoyable.
5. I don't like writing essays.
6. (A) BETTER THAN MATHS (B) I think I am not very good at my language. I like French and I think it can be useful for some people but not for others.
7. I have been to France before but I didn't use the language. I don't speak any other languages out of school.
8. I might consider using a language out of school for I think it could be useful and managing to be able to speak another language is very impressive and clever.

'Isobel'

1. I am a fourteen year old girl, currently in third year.
2. I have been studying French for three years – since first year. I really enjoy it and wanted to study German for Standard Grade as well, but because of lack of pupil demand for the subject, this was not possible.
3. A lot of activities we do in class are with the computer and the Smart Board. We also do lots of fun activities such as film-making, fashion shows and we regularly have competitions. We also work with a course book.
4. I really enjoy making films when we act out scenes; for example a shop, and then our teacher films us and it is really funny when we watch the videos back! I think these type of activities are great because it is a fun way to learn French and I find it help me to remember words better.
5. The only thing I don't really enjoy in the French class is the listening exercises. I find it really boring and the voices on the tapes are not clear. This could be improved by using a CD and playing it through the computer

6. (A) Fun, interesting and génial
7. I have never been to France before but I intend to go in the near future.
8. I would love the opportunity to really use what I have learned and after I leave school I really want to be a languages teacher.

'Jean'

1. I'm a fourteen-year old girl, currently in S3.
2. I have been studying French since I was eleven, in P6.
3. I'm only studying French for Standard Grade. I also wanted to study German but because of lack of pupil demand, four others and I were not able to. Most of the activities we do in class are computer based but we also do some other fun activities, e.g. film-making, fashion-shows. We also work with a course book.
4. I enjoy making films with my friends in class. The last film I was in was when I was playing a shopkeeper who was dealing with a fussy customer. By far the funniest thing that has ever happened in the French class was when our teacher dressed up as Anne Robinson and we did a French 'Weakest Link' style quiz. It was hilarious!
5. I don't really enjoy listening exercises because the voices aren't very clear. I think the sound quality could be improved by putting the exercises on a CD and playing it through the laptop.
6. (A) Fun, interesting and easy (B) I have found French very helpful for when I go to France I seem to be able to understand it fairly well.
7. I have been on holiday to France twice and I'm going again next year. This has helped my French considerably because I hear French used in everyday life. I found the French supermarkets particularly helpful because I managed to learn what all the foods are.
8. I may use languages after I leave school. I don't know if languages offer many job opportunities but if there is jobs out there I may go to university and study languages.

'Kathleen'

1. I am a girl in 3rd year.
2. I have been studying French for about 5 and a half years, from Primary school to secondary.
3. I have French 3 times a week for about an hour. Some times we do poster work which is okay but can be boring and we often involve ICT.
4. ---
5. I think lots of thing could be changes about the French way of teaching. I think the main thing is that you make it exciting.
6. (A) I prefer English (B) I don't like French because I don't think it is exciting.
7. ---
8. I don't really think that I'll ever use French but learning a new language would be cool just that you have to make it easier to learn.

Unidentified

1. I am a fourteen year old in third year.
2. I have been studying French since primary six or seven.
3. I have French for three periods per week. We do different activities including games on the smart board.
4. I particularly enjoy learning about the language itself and how they are connected to the English language too.