

Saturday School of Community Languages

HSC Languages Online Study Guide

Speaking

- Sort vocabulary lists by topics
- Add any unfamiliar words to your vocabulary lists and use them in a sentence
- Ask your teacher for a list of possible questions and write out sample responses for each question
- Create a list of linking words and expressions you could use to help you sound more natural
- Practise clear pronunciation and intonation by reciting your sample responses in front of a mirror
- Find a native speaker to converse with online. You might come across informal expressions or colloquial speech in the exam, so having a bit of practice with a native speaker helps

Listening

- Listen to news, podcasts or radio stations in your target language. Get a family member or friend to ask you questions to test your comprehension
- Download the audio from past HSC papers and do practice exams. Look at the marking guidelines and sample answers to see what mark you would have received. You can ask your teacher to mark it and provide feedback
- Add any unfamiliar words in past HSC papers to your vocabulary list
- When answering examination questions, provide as much detail as you can but do not translate everything you hear if it is not relevant

Reading

- Read as much as possible, look for articles that interest you on the internet
- Read news articles or blogs in your target language and practice summarising the key points
- Add any new words to your vocabulary list
- Try to understand the main messages and keywords in the text but don't stress if you do not understand every single word

Writing

- Refer to the text type list in the syllabus and make sure you have a sample for each text type and the features it should include
- Go through the grammar lists and make sure you understand when to use each structure
- Keep a diary or a writing journal and ask your teacher for feedback.
- Download past HSC papers from the NESAs website and practice answering the questions in the exam time frame
- Read over and revise your practice answers. You can also ask your teacher for feedback

General tips

- Download the syllabus and organise your notes according to the themes or topics listed
- Make sure you have a dictionary and that you know how to use it.
- Refer to the "Glossary of key words" on the NESAs website so that you have a good understanding of words that appear frequently in examination questions and what the question is asking you to do.
- Organise your notes electronically so that you can always edit and add as you go
- Practise completing past HSC papers within the time frame of the exam. Try individual sections first and work your way up to completing the whole exam in one go