
Teaching notes

This resource consists of a PowerPoint and a worksheet, and is designed to enable foundation level students to complete writing and speaking tasks on the topic of optional and compulsory subjects (tasks 1-2 on p.5 of this Word document). It builds on the work covered in the resource *Mes études* but can also be used on its own. To develop students' work, the following five steps are covered:

1. Using *devoir/pouvoir* in the present tense (slides 2-3 and worksheet ex. A).
2. Using the perfect tense to discuss past choices (slide 4 and worksheet ex.B-C).
3. Giving reasons for choices, with preceding direct objects (slide 5).
4. Comparing subjects (slides 6-7 and worksheet ex.D).
5. Introducing opinion phrases (slide 8).

Start by showing the PowerPoint slides, as outlined below:

Slide 2: Introduces the first step – using *devoir* and *pouvoir* fully conjugated in the present tense. Repeat and drill for pronunciation and memorisation.

Slide 3: Gapped sentences using *devoir* and *pouvoir* to talk about school subjects (answers will appear on clicking).

Slide 4: Step two is to recap the perfect tense with *avoir* using verbs that relate to past option choices. Students could work in pairs to roll a dice and practise saying sentences about subjects. The number on the dice will dictate the start of each sentence according to the numbered part of *avoir* on the slide. For example, rolling a four will prompt a sentence starting with *Nous avons*. Their partner should then translate the sentence into English to win their turn with the dice.

Slide 5: This grid to support giving reasons corresponds to step three above. Students could play noughts and crosses, quickly drawing a grid and choosing any nine school subjects in French to write in the squares. To win the square, they should refer to the slide to say a full sentence about that subject in French. More able students should be challenged to extend and develop the suggested opinions.

Slide 6: How to compare subjects using *plus/moins ... que* (step four).

Slide 7: Students use the prompts to compare subjects using the adjectives in the middle. Click on the cards to change the subjects and adjectives and generate new sentences.

Slide 8: A reminder of how to introduce opinions (step five). The English will appear on clicking.

Slide 9: A recap of the five steps to include when speaking and writing on this topic.

When moving on to the worksheet tasks, you may wish to project the relevant slides of the PowerPoint to support these exercises:

- For exercise A on the worksheet, project slide 2.
- For exercise B, project slide 4.
- For exercise D, project slide 6.

Answers

Ex. A

1. Dans certains collèges les élèves **doivent** étudier la religion.
= In some schools pupils have to study Religion / to do Religious Studies.
2. Ici, nous **devons** apprendre l'informatique de la sixième à la quatrième.
= Here we have to learn ICT from Year 7 to Year 9.
3. Qu'est-ce que vous **devez** faire comme matières obligatoires?
= What/which compulsory subjects do you have to do?
4. Quelles matières **pouvez**-vous choisir?
= What/which subjects can you choose?
5. Dans mon collège les élèves **peuvent** faire trois sciences – la biologie, la chimie et la physique.
= In my school pupils can do three Sciences – Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Ex. B

1. J'**ai abandonné** l'histoire.
2. J'**ai décidé** de faire de l'art dramatique.
3. Mes camarades de classe **ont choisi** la géographie.
4. Beaucoup d'élèves **ont continué** les sciences.
5. Moi, j'**ai choisi** la littérature anglaise mais beaucoup de mes amis ont abandonné cette matière.
6. Mon frère aime beaucoup jouer du piano donc il **a décidé** d'étudier la musique. Moi, par contre, je suis sportive donc j'**ai choisi** l'EPS.

Ex. C

| | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1 = e | 2 = a | 3 = f | 4 = g | 5 = b | 6 = c | 7 = h | 8 = d |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|

Ex. D

1. La physique est plus/moins difficile que la chimie.
2. L'anglais est plus/moins utile que l'allemand.
3. Le latin est plus/moins facile que le grec.
4. Le prof d'EPS est plus/moins dynamique que le prof de dessin.
5. Les cours de maths sont plus/moins amusants que les cours d'histoire.

Grammar exercises

Ex. A: Write the correct form of the verb in brackets (*devoir* or *pouvoir*) in each gap and translate each sentence into English.

Example:

Une matière obligatoire est une matière que tous les élèves ...**doivent**... étudier. (devoir)
= A compulsory subject is a subject which all students must study.

1. Dans certains collèges les élèves _____ étudier la religion. (devoir)

.....
.....

2. Ici, nous _____ apprendre l'informatique de la sixième à la quatrième. (devoir)

.....
.....

3. Qu'est-ce que vous _____ faire comme matières obligatoires? (devoir)

.....
.....

4. Quelles matières _____ -vous choisir? (pouvoir)

.....
.....

5. Dans mon collège les élèves _____ faire trois sciences – la biologie, la chimie et la physique. (pouvoir)

.....
.....

Ex. B: Complete the gaps with the correct form of the perfect tense using the verb in brackets.

Example: J' _____ (choisir) d'étudier le français et l'espagnol.

Answer: J'ai choisi d'étudier le français et l'espagnol.

1. J' _____ (abandonner) l'histoire.
2. J' _____ (décider) de faire de l'art dramatique.
3. Mes camarades de classe _____ (choisir) la géographie.
4. Beaucoup d'élèves _____ (continuer) les sciences.
5. Moi, j' _____ (choisir) la littérature anglaise mais beaucoup de mes amis _____ (abandonner) cette matière.
6. Mon frère aime beaucoup jouer du piano donc il _____ (décider) d'étudier la musique. Moi, par contre, je suis sportive donc j' _____ (choisir) l'EPS.

Ex. C: Match the two halves of each sentence by writing the correct letter in the grid below.

| | | | | | | | |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 = e | 2 = | 3 = | 4 = | 5 = | 6 = | 7 = | 8 = |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1 | Nous avons décidé de faire du dessin | a | parce qu'elle trouve le passé très intéressant. |
| 2 | Ma sœur a choisi l'histoire | b | parce que j'ai trouvé la grammaire très difficile. |
| 3 | Beaucoup d'élèves continuent les sciences | c | car il aime l'idée de composer ses propres chansons. |
| 4 | Si on est sportif | d | parce que ce sont des matières obligatoires. |
| 5 | J'ai abandonné le latin | e | car nous sommes très créatifs. |
| 6 | Il a décidé de continuer la musique | f | parce qu'elles sont utiles dans beaucoup d'emplois. |
| 7 | Presque tous les élèves ont choisi la géographie | g | on peut choisir l'EPS. |
| 8 | J'étudie les maths et l'anglais | h | car ils trouvent le prof vraiment inspirant. |

Ex. D: Compare the pairs of subjects below using the adjective in the middle.

| | | | |
|----------|------------|--------|-------------|
| Example: | l'espagnol | facile | le français |
|----------|------------|--------|-------------|

= *L'espagnol est **plus** facile **que** le français. / L'espagnol est **moins** facile **que** le français.*

| | | | |
|----|-------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. | la physique | difficile | la chimie |
|----|-------------|-----------|-----------|

| | | | |
|----|-----------|-------|------------|
| 2. | l'anglais | utile | l'allemand |
|----|-----------|-------|------------|

| | | | |
|----|----------|--------|---------|
| 3. | le latin | facile | le grec |
|----|----------|--------|---------|

| | | | |
|----|---------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 4. | le prof d'EPS | dynamique | le prof de dessin |
|----|---------------|-----------|-------------------|

| | | | |
|----|--------------------|---------|----------------------|
| 5. | les cours de maths | amusant | les cours d'histoire |
|----|--------------------|---------|----------------------|

Writing and speaking tasks

Task 1: Writing

Write a paragraph in French that includes:

- an explanation of which subjects are compulsory in your school
- your opinion of having to study one such subject
- an explanation of what subjects you have chosen to do
- an explanation of what subjects you have chosen to drop
- at least two comparisons between subjects.

Task 2: Speaking

Practise reading your paragraph out loud. When you are ready, read your work to a partner and ask them to give you feedback on the content of your work. You could also record your speaking.

Extension

Note 20 key words from your writing or draw 20 symbols to help you give your presentation to your partner from memory.