

Exam board information	
Structure of examListening exam: 25% (30 mins + 5 mins reading time Foundation, 40 mins + 5 mins reading time Higher)Speaking exam: 25% (7-9 mins Foundation, 10-12 min Higher: role play, photo card, 1 minute presentation andfollow-up questions, general conversation on one of the two themes not covered in the previous task)Reading exam: 25% (45 mins Foundation, 1 hour Higher)Writing exam: 25% (1 hour 10 mins Foundation, 1 hour 20 mins Higher)	
Themes:Identity and culture (describing yourself and others, hobbies, sport)Local area and travel (holidays and describing places)School (subjects, teachers, education system, buildings and facilities, rules and exchanges)The future (work, plans and future studies)Global issues (the environment, social issues, local issues)Exam paper links	
Useful website/books/apps	
http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/ www.wordreference.com www.pearsonactivelearn.com www.quizlet.com (search GCSE Viva/Studio and the name of the topic or module, as in your vocabulary book)	
Tips to answer common/extended questions	
Listening & Reading skills: Watch out for cognates Pay attention to the use of negatives Identify key verbs/vocabulary/structures	
In the listening exam know when to expect short excerpts and when you will hear the whole passage without pauses.	
Use the reading time wisely at the start of the listening exam and make notes. Work from the back of the exam which is where the hardest questions are.	
Look at the question words and ANSWER the questions specifically.	
Take care not to give too little or too much information. Read all questions first before you start reading	
the text. Answer all questions and don't leave any gaps. Answers will generally be found chronologically so answer to question 1 will appear near the start of	

	the text, etc.
Keep examples of modelled and corrected work clearly so you can use these to help produce accurate and fluent work at the right pathway standard for you.	Apply sensible 'educational guesses' rather than 'knee-jerk' reactions to answer questions you are unsure of.
Practice incorporating CORNETTOS phrases into your written and spoken answers so as to routinely include three time frames, references to others and some stand-out language as well as a range of reasons, opinions and justifications.	
Practise translation skills independently so that you are best prepared to deal with the challenges of the GCSE exam!	