

Tips for success in all subjects

1. Languages

Introduction

Language is a tool for thought and communication. Language learning in the Senior Phase includes all the official languages in South Africa: Afrikaans, English, isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sepedi, Sesotho, Setswana, Siswati, Tshivenda, isiNdebele and Xitsonga. These languages can be offered at Home Language level, First Additional Language level as well as Second Additional Language level. Home Language level provides for language proficiency with an emphasis on reading and writing skills.

First Additional Language level is used for communicative functions in society.

The Second Additional Language level teaches basic interpersonal communication skills.

Content in Grade 9

The Languages curriculum is packaged according to the following skills:

Listening & Speaking

Through effective listening and speaking, you will collect and synthesize information, construct knowledge, solve problems and express ideas and opinions.

Reading and Viewing

You should develop proficiency when reading and viewing a wide range of literary and non-literary texts, including visual texts in order to become a critical and creative thinker.

Writing and Presenting

Frequent writing practice will enable you to communicate functionally and creatively. Writing is a powerful instrument of communication that will allow you to construct and communicate thoughts and ideas coherently.

Language Structures and Conventions

You will learn how language is used and will be able to use this knowledge to experiment with language to build meaning from word and sentence levels to whole texts.

Time allocation

The teaching time for Home Language is 5 hours per week, for First Additional Language 4 hours per week. You should read a range of texts and genres every day throughout the year and practise your writing skills daily by keeping a journal.

Assessment

The skills in Languages will be assessed as integrated activities which ultimately make up eleven Formal Assessment Tasks in Grade 9. Formal Assessment Tasks (FATS) include tests, examinations, practical tasks, projects, oral tasks, performances, written tasks, etc. The marks you attain in the Formal Assessment Tasks will be formally recorded by your Languages teacher for progression purposes.

Promotion from Grade 9 to Grade 10 will occur only if you have satisfied the following assessment requirements in Languages by the end of the year:

Official Language 1 - Home Language:
Level 4 (Adequate achievement 50%-59%)
in one of the official languages

Official Language 2 - First Additional
Language: Level 3 (Moderate achievement
40%-49%) in the other official language

There's a wide range of materials and tools available to help you with your language studies, including dictionaries. Ensure that you are a member of your local library!

Careers using languages

Knowledge of one or more foreign languages can be useful in a wide range of careers. For some careers, such as translating, interpreting and language teaching, language skills are major requirements.

For other jobs a combination of languages and other qualifications, knowledge or skills may be needed. For example, people with languages plus Information Technology, Law, Finance or Sales skills are much sought-after.

Language is the vehicle through which all forms of knowledge is gained. The Language skills acquired in Grade 9 will benefit all further study in the career of your choice.