

French and
French with Listening

SAT Subject Tests™

Answer Explanations to Practice Questions
from Getting Ready for the SAT Subject Tests

Visit the SAT® student website to
get more practice and study tips
for the **Subject Tests in French
and French with Listening**.

SAT® Subject Tests in French and French with Listening

In this document, you will find detailed answer explanations to all of the French practice questions from *Getting Ready for the SAT Subject Tests*. By reviewing these answer explanations, you can familiarize yourself with the types of questions on the test and learn your strengths and weaknesses. The estimated difficulty level is based on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 the easiest and 5 the most difficult.

To find out more about the SAT Subject Tests, visit us at SATSubjectTests.org.

Reading Questions

- Difficulty: 1**

Choice (A) is correct. The sentence means, “Why are you up so *late* since you have to get up early?” It does not make sense to ask why one would be up so *far* (B), so *few* (C) or so *high* (D) when one must get up early.
- Difficulty: 2**

Choice (D) is correct. The sentence means, “I am not crying! I have something in (*my*) *eye*.” In this context, it does not make sense to refer to having something in one’s *work* (A), *tool* (B) or *pillow* (C).
- Difficulty: 3**

Choice (B) is correct. The sentence means “Diplomats negotiated an *agreement* between the two countries.” It does not make sense to say that diplomats negotiated a *treatment* (A), an *approval* (C) or a *cucumber* (D) between the countries.
- Difficulty: 2**

Choice (A) is correct. *Chemise* (shirt) is a singular feminine noun. Jean-Louis is a masculine first name. In French, the possessive adjective agrees in gender and number with the noun it modifies, not with the subject of the sentence; here the adjective modifies *chemise*. Choice (A), *sa* (“his” for a singular feminine noun referring to a male), correctly completes the sentence. Choice (B), *son* (his), is used with a singular masculine noun and choice (C), *ses* (his), is used with a plural feminine noun or a masculine noun. Choice (D), *sienne* (his), is a possessive pronoun for a singular feminine noun.
- Difficulty: 3**

Choice (B) is correct. Sentences introduced by *si* express hypothetical situations when the verb in the clause introduced by *si* is in the past tense (*imparfait*). When this is the case, the verb in the main clause must be in the conditional. Choice (B), *sentirais* (would feel), is the conditional form and therefore the correct answer. Choice (A), *sentiras* (will feel), is in the future tense; choice (C), *sentais* (felt), is in the past tense (*imparfait*) and choice (D), *sense* (feel), is in the present tense.
- Difficulty: 4**

Choice (D) is correct. The question ... *est sur la table?* requires a subject that refers to a thing. Choice (D), *Qu’est-ce qui* (What), correctly completes the sentence. Choice (A), *Quoi* (What), is only used in an interrogative sentence as the object of a preposition. Choice (B), *Qu’est-ce qu’* (What), is only used as a direct object. And choice (C), *Quel* (What), would need to be followed by a noun.
- Difficulty: 2**

Choice (A) is correct. The sentence *Les Français célèbrent les fêtes de fin d’années* means “The French celebrate the holiday season.” It makes sense to describe this celebration as a *custom* (A) that is followed. It does not make sense to say that the French celebrate the holiday season according to *the use* (B), *the cloth* or *outfit* (C) or *weather* (D).
- Difficulty: 2**

Choice (A) is correct. Here *en* should be followed by a present participle gerund, equivalent to the English *-ing* verbal nouns following words like “while” or “by.” Choice (A), *consommant* (eating), is the present participle and therefore the correct answer. Choice (B), *consommé* (eaten), is the past participle. Choice (C), *avoir consommé* (to have eaten), is the past infinitive. And choice (D), *consommer* (to eat), is the present infinitive.
- Difficulty: 2**

Choice (D) is correct. The sentence mentions *huîtres* (oysters) and *mer* (sea). In context, it is clear that choice (D), *fruits* (fruits), completes the sentence; in French, *fruits de mer* means *seafood*. It does not make sense to refer to *vegetables* (A), *flowers* (B) or *poisons* (C) of the sea.

SAT® Subject Tests in French and French with Listening

10. Difficulty: 5

Choice (A) is correct. The sentence means “They offer small gifts to those to whom they are grateful.” The preposition *à* is used after the verb *offrir* to indicate to whom something is being offered. An object is expected after the preposition *à*. Choice (A), *ceux* (those), correctly completes the sentence. Choice (B), *lesquels* (the ones), is incorrect both because *auxquels* should be used after the preposition *à* and because it refers to someone or something previously mentioned. Choices (C), *quels* (which), and (D), *leurs* (their), are incorrect because they are adjectives, not pronouns; the sentence contains no noun with which these choices could agree.

11. Difficulty: 3

Choice (D) is correct. The passage says *Ils offrent des petits cadeaux à ... envers qui ils sont*, which means “They offer small gifts to ... to whom they are ...” It makes sense to say that people offer gifts to show that they are grateful (D). It is illogical to suggest that people would offer gifts to show that they are indifferent (A), and there is no reason to suggest that people offer gifts to show that they are repentant (B) or careful (C).

12. Difficulty: 3

Choice (C) is correct. The passage says *Et ils envoient des ... de vœux à ... amis et collègues*, which means, “And they send ... with wishes to ... friends and colleagues.” There is no indication that people send cardboard boxes (A), photos (B) or sheets (D). It is more likely that people send cards (C).

13. Difficulty: 2

Choice (C) is correct. *Ils* is the plural subject of the last sentence, so the possessive adjective needed here is *leurs* (their) (C). The nouns *amis* (friends) and *collègues* (colleagues) are plural, so *leur* needs an “s” at the end. Choices (A), *ses* (his/her/its), and (D), *mes* (my), do not agree with the plural subject *ils* in this sentence. Choice (B), *tous* (all), cannot modify a noun unless a possessive adjective is also used.

14. Difficulty: 3

Choice (D) is correct. The question asks in which way, according to the article, television’s violent scenes and sexual complacency usually affect young children. The article indicates that young children are usually indifferent to them (*ils sont en général indifférents*). In other words, the effects are usually insignificant (D). The passage does not indicate that the effects are harmful (A), serious (B) or favorable (C).

15. Difficulty: 4

Choice (A) is correct. The question asks what reaction television news evokes in young children, according to the text. The passage indicates that television news makes young children uncomfortable (*il les met mal à l’aise*). In other words, it disturbs them (A). The passage does not indicate that it interests them (B), that it leaves them indifferent (C) or that it reassures them (D).

16. Difficulty: 3

Choice (A) is correct. The question asks what the article’s conclusion is regarding advertising. The text says *Ce n’est pas le problème des enfants. Cela peut être celui des parents* (It is not the children’s problem. It might be the parents’). That is, the passage concludes that children’s reaction to advertising depends on parents (A). The passage does not conclude that all children react differently to advertising (B), that advertising is beneficial in child development (C) or that it is right to denounce advertising messages (D).

17. Difficulty: 3

Choice (A) is correct. The question asks at which time people who travel by train should make a reservation for a table. The advertisement says that the SNCF suggests you make a reservation for your meal at the same time as your seat (*la SNCF vous recommande de réserver votre repas en même temps que votre place*). That is, one should make a reservation for a table when one buys his or her ticket (A), not when one starts the trip (B), announces lunch time (C) or arrives at his or her destination (D).

Listening Questions

1. Difficulty: 4

Choice (D) is correct. The picture shows a rowboat on a river; therefore, choice (D), *Les bateaux à rames sont lents et silencieux* (Rowboats are slow and quiet), is the correct answer. Choice (A) refers to waves, but the picture does not depict waves. Choice (B) refers to a forest and choice (C) to a sailboat; these things do not appear in the picture.

2. Difficulty: 3

Choice (A) is correct. The picture shows people playing music outdoors; therefore, choice (A), *C’est bien, la musique en plein air!* (It is good, outdoor music!), is the correct answer. Choice (B) refers to a speech, but the musicians are playing music, not making a speech. Choice (C) refers to people complaining about noise, but the people seem to be enjoying the music. Choice (D) refers to a concert hall, but the musicians are playing outdoors, not in a concert hall.

3. Difficulty: 2

Choice (C) is correct. The question asks what the man wants to do. He asks, *Pourriez-vous m’aider à trouver un vol pour Toronto?* (“Could you help me to find a flight for Toronto?”) In other words, he wants to take a plane (C). He does not want to make a room reservation (A) or buy a computer (B).

SAT® Subject Tests in French and French with Listening

4. Difficulty: 2

Choice (B) is correct. The question asks when the man is going to leave. He asks, “*Pourriez-vous m’aider à trouver un vol pour Toronto dans la semaine du 15 avril?*” (“Could you help me to find a flight for Toronto in the week of April 15?”) The man is going to leave *during the week* (B) of April 15; he is not going to leave *immediately* (A) or *during the weekend* (C).

5. Difficulty: 2

Choice (C) is correct. The question asks about the purpose of the radio announcement. The man on the radio says, “*des échanges auront lieu entre des étudiants de Paris et de New York*” (“exchanges will take place between students from Paris and students from New York”). The purpose of the ad is *to present an exchange program* (C), not to *encourage tourism during the summer* (A) or to *provide information on Paris* (B).

6. Difficulty: 3

Choice (A) is correct. The question asks how long the stay should last. The man on the radio says, “*étudiants âgés de 15 à 17 ans viendront passer trois semaines*” (“15- to 17-year-old students will stay three weeks”). Therefore, the stay should last *three weeks* (A), not *six months* (B) or *one year* (C).

7. Difficulty: 2

Choice (B) is correct. The question asks what the friends are going to do together. The man says, “*Nous allons d’abord voir un film.*” (“First, we are going to see a movie.”); the friends are going to *go to the cinema* (B). They are not going to *take the train* (A) or *listen to records* (C).

8. Difficulty: 3

Choice (B) is correct. The question asks where the friends are going to meet Anne and Sophie. The man says, “*... retrouver Anne et Sophie au café de la gare*” (“meet Anne and Sophie at the train station’s café”). The friends are going to meet Anne and Sophie *in a café* (B), not *at their place* (A) or *at the theater* (C).

9. Difficulty: 2

Choice (A) is correct. The question asks what we learn about Éric through this conversation. Man B (Éric) says, “*Je suis chanteur ...*” (“I am a singer”). Therefore, we learn that *he is a singer* (A). We do not learn that Éric *finished his studies* (B), that *he is an actor* (C) or that *he wants to learn French* (D).

10. Difficulty: 4

Choice (A) is correct. The question asks why the members of the Rythme & Blues band don’t often rehearse. Man B (Éric) says, “*... nous avons répété pendant huit mois et donc nous connaissons bien le répertoire ...*” (“We rehearsed for eight months and so we know the repertoire well”). In other words, the members don’t often rehearse *because they know the songs well* (A), not *because they like to improvise* (B), *because they are interested in other concerts* (C), or *because they rarely play in public* (D).

11. Difficulty: 3

Choice (C) is correct. The question asks where Eric gives concerts. Man B (Eric) says, “*Nous jouons dans des bars, dans des clubs, dans des bistros, dans des caves*” (“We play in bars, in clubs, in bistros, in cellars”). Eric lists several places where he performs, but only choice (C) refers to a place explicitly mentioned in the dialogue: clubs.