FR 1120
Oral Exam 2
(Deux Mondes, 7th)
chapitre 5, chapitre 6, chapitre 7, chapitre 8, chapitre 9, chapitre 10*

When?
• The dates for the oral exams are marked on the syllabus.
• There are two days devoted to the first oral exam. Each student will be given the day and time s/he must come to class. During the two-day exam period, you need only come on your assigned day and time. You do not need to come on the other day of that period.
• Every effort will be made to fit everyone in during normal class time. However, depending on the size of the class, the instructor might have to make appointments with individual students outside the normal class time/room.
• Once a day and time have been given to you, you are required to come on that day at that time.

Where?
In the normal classroom unless otherwise specified.

How long?
The oral exam will last about five minutes.

How much is it worth?
Both oral exams together are worth a total of 15% of your grade in FR 1120. You will be graded on a variety of criteria depending on the parts but for each part you will be graded not on what a native French speaker would produce but on what a FR 1120 student (a real beginner) is supposed to be able to produce.

How to succeed?
• Class time is your practice time: be very attentive and volunteer often.
• It is highly recommended that you practice the oral exam with a partner. Not only will it help you study better, but it will also make it more enjoyable.
• Do not wait until the last minute to practice!

Important:
• The oral exam will be conducted entirely in French. Once the exam begins, it is in your best interest to use only French.
• No notes are allowed.
• Your instructor will record your oral exam.
• Chewing gum while taking an oral exam is a bad idea.

* Even though the exam focuses on chapters 5-10, it is assumed, due to the nature of language study, that you will know the basic vocabulary and grammar covered in the première and deuxième étapes, and in chapters 1-4.
The oral exam will consist of three small parts.

Part I (12 points):

- You will be asked to read (NOT recite from memory) the short poem below (“Un ciel sombre,”) by Olivier Massé (France). Listen to and practice reading the poem online. You will be graded on pronunciation.

- You can listen to the poem at this address: https://people.ohio.edu/moretti/french.html

What you see:

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Un ciel sombre et lourd
le printemps semble effacé
la pluie sans répit
je ne sais là-bas quel ciel
tes yeux peuvent contempler
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What you say:

“Un ciel sombre et lourd / le printemps semble effacé / la pluie sans répit /
je ne sais là-bas quel ciel / tes yeux peuvent contempler”

- You will be graded on correctness of pronunciation (liaisons do count!): typically - 1 point for each mistake.

Translation:

A dark and heavy sky
Springtime seems erased
Rain without end
I know not what distant sky
your eyes might be contemplating
Part II (40 points):

• On the day of the oral exam, your instructor will have several sheets with six cartoons and will pick one sheet at random for you.

• You will have to describe a minimum of four of the six cartoons with a minimum of two complete sentences each.

• Make sure you vary your verbs and your vocabulary.

What you see:

A. B. C.

D. E. F.

What you could say:
1. (B) Il y a deux enfants à la plage. Ils s’amusent. La mer est calme et il y a un bateau. Moi, je préfère la montagne.
2. (C) C’est un agent de police. Il a l’air sérieux. Il écrit une contravention.
3. (D) Ce sont des étudiants. Ils assistent à des cours d’amphi et après ils vont dans un café.
4. (E) Il y a deux voyageurs et un douanier. Le douanier fouille les bagages. Les voyageurs ne sont pas contents.

• You will be graded on:
  o the correctness of your French (vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation)
  o the richness and variety of your French (vocabulary, grammar, sentence structure)
  o your fluency (are there too many hesitations and pauses in your speech?)
Part III (48 points):

• You will be asked to answer several questions about the material covered in class.
• You should answer basic questions (ex: "How are you today?") with a minimum of one full sentence.
• You should answer open-ended questions (ex: "What do you like to do?") with several sentences.
• When possible, try to have a conversation with your instructor rather than simply answer questions.
• Be careful with tenses: some questions will be asked in the present, others might be asked in the passé composé and/or futur simple!

Possible topics of discussion:
1. Your personal info (name, age, etc.)
2. Your favorite season.
3. The weather.
4. Your favorite type of landscape (le paysage) (mountain, island, sea, countryside, etc.).
5. The places you visited in the US and in the world (location, types of landscapes, transportation, hotel accommodations, souvenirs, activities, etc.)
6. Problems with the environment. What you do (what one can do) to help protect the environment, etc.
7. University life and classes.
9. Your graduation.
10. Public transportation.
12. Shopping.
13. etc.

Sample exchange:
Professeur: "Est-ce que vous avez un permis de conduire?"
Étudiante: "Oui. J'ai reçu mon permis il y a 3 ans."
Professeur: "Est-ce que vous conduisez bien?"
Étudiante: "Oui, je suis prudente. Je n'ai jamais reçu de contraventions. Et vous?"
Professeur: "Moi non plus!"
...

You will be graded on:
- Comprehension (12 points)
  o how readily do you understand the questions asked?
  o how well do you understand the questions asked?
- Production (12 points)
  o your fluency (are there too many hesitations and pauses in your speech?)
  o the accuracy and the length of your answers
  o your ability to carry on a conversation
- Accuracy (24 points)
  o the correctness of your French (vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation)
  o the richness and variety of your French (vocabulary, grammar, sentence structure)