Ma Journée à l'École (My Day at School)

1. Amira eats her lunch with her friends in the canteen. (2 marks)

Working: Text states: 'je mange le déjeuner avec mes amis dans la cantine.'

1 mark for 'friends', 1 mark for 'canteen'.

2. Amira's favourite day is Friday because they have sports lessons. (2 marks)

Look for: Identifies Friday and links it to the reason (sports lessons).

Good: Her favourite day is Friday.

Better: Friday is her favourite day because they have sports.

Best: Amira's favourite day is Friday because she says, 'Le vendredi, c'est mon jour préféré car nous avons des cours de sport.'

What moves an answer up: Moving from simple identification to using direct evidence from the text improves the answer.

3. Amira thinks maths is difficult because she says 'je déteste les maths car c'est très difficile'. (2 marks)

Look for: Links the word 'difficile' to her dislike of the subject.

Good: She thinks it is hard.

Better: She thinks maths is difficult because she says it is very hard in the text.

Best: Amira explicitly states that she hates maths because it is very difficult ('car c'est très difficile').

What moves an answer up: Using the specific French phrase or a direct translation shows a deeper understanding of the text.

4. Amira seems like a friendly and social person because she enjoys eating lunch with her friends and chatting with them. (2 marks)

Look for: Identifies a personality trait and supports it with an action from the text.

Good: She is friendly because she has friends.

Better: She is social because she eats lunch with her friends and talks to them in the canteen.

Best: Amira is a social and positive person; she enjoys spending time with friends in the canteen and playing or chatting near the oak tree during break.

What moves an answer up: Connecting her social habits to a personality trait demonstrates inference skills.

5. Yes, Amira enjoys school. She says 'J'aime beaucoup l'école' and explains that she loves learning ('j'adore apprendre'). She also describes her teachers as kind and patient. (3 marks)

Look for: Clear 'yes' supported by at least two pieces of evidence.

Good: Yes, she likes school because she says she likes learning.

Better: Yes, she likes school because she says 'J'aime beaucoup l'école' and she likes her teachers.

Best: Yes, Amira clearly enjoys school. She states she loves learning and describes her teachers as 'très gentils et patients', which shows she has a positive experience.

What moves an answer up: Providing multiple pieces of evidence (learning, teachers) makes the argument more convincing.

What a secure answer looks like

A secure answer demonstrates the ability to locate specific information in the French text and translate it accurately into English.

If your child is stuck

Ask the child to look for 'cognates'—words that look similar in English and French, such as 'sport', 'football', or 'créatif'.

Common mistakes to watch for

Children may confuse 'le déjeuner' (lunch) with 'le petit-déjeuner' (breakfast) or assume 'difficile' means 'different' rather than 'difficult'.