



# FRENCH

**Course: AQA Course Code A2 7652**

## WHAT ARE THE EXAMS LIKE?

### Paper 1: Listening, reading & writing

Weighting	What is assessed	Duration	Marks
50%	<b>Listening (30 marks)</b> All questions are in French <b>Reading (50 marks)</b> All questions are in French <b>Translation into English (10 marks)</b> Passage of minimum 100 words <b>Translation into French (10 marks)</b> Passage of minimum 100 words	150 mins	90

### Paper 2: Writing

Weighting	What is assessed	Duration	Marks
20%	<b>Choice of 2 questions on <i>Un Secret</i> (a novel by Philippe Grimbert)</b>  <b>Choice of 2 questions on <i>La Haine</i> (a film by Kassovitz)</b> You must show a critical appreciation of the concepts and issues covered in the work and a critical and analytical response to features such as the form and the technique of presentation.	120 mins	50

### Paper 3: Speaking

Weighting	What is assessed	Duration	Marks
30%	<b>Stimulus card (25 marks)</b> Choice of 2 cards with 5 minutes preparation time 5-6 minute discussion of card	21-23 mins	60
	<b>Individual Research Project (35 marks)</b> 2-minute pre-prepared presentation 9-10 minutes follow-up discussion	including mins prep time	

## WHICH TOPICS ARE COVERED?

The A-level French course builds on topics at GCSE and introduces new, more complex ones. Many of the topics are topical and link to what you may be studying in other subjects, such as Politics and History.

### Year 12 topics:

- Family (la famille en voie de changement)
- Cyberspace (La cyber-société)
- Voluntary work (Le rôle du bénévolat)
- Cultural heritage (patrimoine)

- French contemporary music (la musique francophone contemporaine)

- Cinema (le septième art)

### Year 13 topics:

- Diversity (les aspects positifs d'une société diverse)

- The marginalised (Quelle vie pour les marginalisés)

- Crime (Comment on traite les criminels)

- Young people and politics (Les ados, le droit de vote et l'engagement politique)

- Protests and strikes (Manifestations et grèves)

- Politics and immigration (Politique et immigration)

We also study a film 'La Haine' and a book 'Un Secret' in Year 13.



## WHAT BACKGROUND KNOWLEDGE WOULD BE USEFUL?

You do not have to be an expert in all of these topics. We recommend researching as many as you can, in English or French:

- Where French speaking countries are located in the world
- The culture of different French speaking countries e.g. music, film, food, literature, landmarks
- The political situation in different French speaking countries e.g. are they republics, dictatorships, democracies? What are the biggest issues in these countries? What is life like for young people?
- The French Revolution – causes and consequences
- L'Occupation and la resistance – France's involvement in the second world war.

Once you actually start your A-Level in September, you will realise that you are almost completing a Sociology A-Level in French. It is fascinating and you will learn all about the history and culture of French speakers across the world, not just in France.

## WHICH LANGUAGE SKILLS SHOULD I PRACTISE AND HOW?

### Grammar

You should revise what you have already covered at GCSE so that you are secure on it:

Recognise and use a range of tenses with <b>regular</b> verbs.	<b>Regular –AR, -ER and -IR verbs:</b> Imperfect Near Future (form of ir + infinitive) Future (eg. Será) Conditional (eg. sería)
Recognise and use a range of tenses with <b>irregular</b> verbs.	<b>Common irregular verbs: ser, estar, ir, tener, hacer</b> Tenses: Present Preterite Imperfect Near Future (form of ir + infinitive) Future (eg. Será) Conditional (eg. sería)
Give opinions and reasons	<b>A range of opinion expressions</b> Positive and negative reasons for opinions Use of impersonal verbs like <i>gustar</i> and <i>encantar</i>

If you feel confident with the GCSE content, you can start learning new tenses. The list of grammar you need to know at A-level can be found here: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/french-7652/subject-content/grammar>. We suggest starting with the future perfect, conditional perfect, pluperfect and subjunctive.

## WHERE TO PRACTICE MY GRAMMAR

### Languages online

[www.languagesonline.org.uk](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk)

### Seneca

[www.senecalearning.com](http://www.senecalearning.com) (you need to register first then search for French courses)

### BBC Bitesize

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z9mtsbk>

### TV5

<https://apprendre.tv5monde.com/fr>

## WHAT TO READ & LISTEN TO

The most important thing is that you listen to and read as much as French as you can, so explore the links below and find what suits you best. Keep your own vocabulary book for new expressions you come across. You could order it alphabetically, by topic area or just use it as a diary and scribble away your French development in it.

**ONLINE NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES**

<https://www.1jour1actu.com> - a website designed for children and teenagers. All their articles and podcasts are adapted so that they are accessible to all. Try reading an article or listening to a podcast once a week, you could take notes and try writing a summary.

[www.lemonde.fr](http://www.lemonde.fr)

<http://www.20minutes.fr>

<http://www.tv5monde.com/>

<https://www.newsinslowfrench.com/>

**OTHER WEBSITES**

<https://lyricstraining.com/fr/> (fun way to practise listening through songs)

<http://fr.ver-taal.com/> (vocabulary, grammar and listening exercises)

<http://zut.languageskills.co.uk/advanced/year12.html>

Following Hugo Décrypte on YouTube or Instagram is also a great way to stay up to date with French news.

**FREE E-BOOKS IN FRENCH**

Tintin en Amérique: <https://www.profartspla.info/images/tintin.pdf>

Asterix et Cléopâtre: <http://flo.vas.free.fr/Ast%E9rix%20et%20b%E9lix%20by%20florentfr62/Ast%E9rix%20-%2006%20-%20Asterix%20et%20Cleopatre.pdf>

Le tour du monde en 80 jours : <https://beq.ebooksgratuits.com/vents/Verne-tour-monde.pdf>

L'œil du loup: [http://ekladata.com/\\_wwQen5mAiP\\_5o6ANmzwp01MoP8.pdf](http://ekladata.com/_wwQen5mAiP_5o6ANmzwp01MoP8.pdf)

L'homme qui plantait des arbres: <http://cdi.merici.ca/2012-03-09/homme-qui-plantait-des-arbres.pdf>

Poil de carotte: [http://www.crdp-strasbourg.fr/je\\_lis\\_libre/livres/Renard\\_PoilDeCarotte.pdf](http://www.crdp-strasbourg.fr/je_lis_libre/livres/Renard_PoilDeCarotte.pdf)

Harry Potter à l'école des sorciers: [http://harrypotterdumae.free.fr/Telechargements/Rowling\\_J\\_K\\_HP01\\_Harry\\_Potter\\_et\\_la\\_Pierre\\_Philosophale.pdf](http://harrypotterdumae.free.fr/Telechargements/Rowling_J_K_HP01_Harry_Potter_et_la_Pierre_Philosophale.pdf)

**FRENCH RADIO**

Music

NRJ <https://www.nrj.fr/webradios?radioid=158>

Skyrock <https://skyrock.fm/>

News:

Franceinter <https://www.franceinter.fr/direct>

RTL <https://www.rtl.fr/direct>

**TOP TIP:** Don't look up every word you are not sure of when reading an article/ book, as it will take you forever. Skim and scan the text to get the gist. Remember to use the context or the article, cognates and common sense to figure out what the article is saying.

Pick out a couple of words that you like the look of, that you feel may be real hurdles to getting the idea of the text, look them up carefully and add them to your vocab booklet. The aim at this stage is to get the gist of the article, not be able to translate it completely. Translation is a whole different ball game and you will learn it soon enough. You will be surprised how much more enjoyable reading will be if you really pay attention to this tip.

**WHAT TO WATCH**

First, check out these tips on how to watch foreign language TV shows or films in a way that enables you to develop your language learning: <https://www.fluentin3months.com/movies/>

**Suggested programmes**

- Plus belle la vie
- The bureau
- Osmosis
- Engrenages

You can find more suggestions here:

<https://www.fluentu.com/blog/french/french-tv-series-to-learn-french/>

**Suggested films**

- La Haine (Mathieu Kassovitz, 1995)
- Au revoir les enfants (Louis Malle, 1987)
- L'auberge espagnole (Cedric Klapisch, 2002)
- Un long dimanche de fiançailles (Jean-Pierre Jeunet, 2004)

You can find more suggestions here:

<https://frenchflicks.com/read-49/items/watch-french-films-on-netflix-2019.html>



See the appendix at the end of this document for an extended list of suggested films and series along with a brief synopsis.

**Think about these questions when watching programmes and films:**

*Répondez en français:*

1. De quoi s'agit-il ?
2. Qu'est-ce que vous pensez du film/de la série ?
3. Est-ce que vous recommanderiez ce film/cette série ? Pourquoi (pas) ?

*Reflect*

- How much Spanish could you understand when you watched the TV programme / film? Which words or familiar phrases can you pick out?
- What might you do next time to improve on this?

## QUERIES

If you have any questions, please email Ms lafrate, Head of Modern Foreign Languages (MLF).

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## ONLINE COURSES

There are lots of free online courses that cover topics relevant to the French-speaking world, both in English and in French.

Our recommendations are:

- Cultures – Music of the francophone world: <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/languages/french/cultures/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>
- French language and culture: <https://www.edx.org/course/on-ramp-to-ap-french-language-and-culture>
- Find a full list of cultural and language courses and apps here: <https://www.fluentin3months.com/free-online-french-language-lessons/>

## APPENDIX

Where?	Title?	What?	What about?	Who?
	A season in France	Film	Abbas, a high school teacher in the Central Africa Republic, has fled his war-torn country with his two children. They now live in France, where Abbas works at a food market, while applying for political asylum. A French woman, Carole, falls in love with him and offers a roof for him and his family. When Abbas' application is rejected, they face a crucial decision.	13+
	La famille Bélier	Film	A girl, who lives with her deaf-mute parents, discovers that she has the gift of singing.	13+
	The bureau	Series	Within the French secret service, one department known as the DGSE manages the missions of all undercover operatives working under fake identities to identify intelligence sources. After 6 years undercover in Syria, agent "Malotru" is called back home. He will face the difficulty to forget his undercover identity, the disappearance of a colleague in Algeria & the training of a young girl.	15
	The African doctor	Film	Happily escaping a dictatorship, a Congolese doctor transplants his family to a small French village, where culture shock sets in for everyone.	U
	He even has your eyes	Film	When French-African couple Paul and Sali discover the longed-for baby they are about to adopt is white, family chaos and confrontation ensue.	PG
	Arctic heart	Film	Madly in love with a brilliant scientist studying an immunizing protein produced by penguins, a timid med student offers her body to his research.	Teen
	Osmosis	Series	In near-future Paris, two brilliant siblings unveil a high-tech implant designed to pair up soul mates. But the beta test yields unwelcome surprises.	15
	Divines	Film	A shrewd teenager and her wisecracking best friend plan to get rich or die trying by following in the footsteps of a flashy female drug dealer.	15
	Perfect love - Olivier DION & Emy LTR	Short film 2 episodes	In a future era, a young adult is using the app "Perfect love" to find a boyfriend. She was not expecting the complications involved with the process...	15
	Jour de pluie – Jhon Rachid	Short film	Mohamed and Raphaël are two housemates arguing about their background and during a rainy night in October. But an incredible time travel will happen and stop their fight...	15
	Le bug des 10 millions - Norman	Short film	A Youtuber is going to reach 10 millions of subscribers but it seems to be stuck to 9,999,999. With a scientist, he is going to try and fix the bug.	15
	Le déménagement - Cyprien	Short film	After a Facebook bug two strangers (one unhappy at his work place and one trying to succeed with his phone app) meet for a moving. They are going to change each other's lives.	15