



A Level French

(AQA)

Transition Booklet

Contents

Welcome!

Brief overview of how you will be tested

Details of the themes and sub-themes you will study, with activities and transition tasks

- Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends (in relation to any French-speaking country or countries)
- Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues (in relation to any French-speaking country or countries)
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking world (in relation to any French-speaking country or countries)
- Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world (in relation to any French-speaking country or countries)

Grammar – What you will need to know, with checklist and learning log

Text/Film (Writing) – Activities and transition tasks

Independent research project – Details of research project with some preparation activities

Useful websites

Bienvenue!

Congratulations on choosing to study French A Level. You have opened the door of opportunity! Studying French will enrich your life, giving you opportunities to travel abroad and to learn about different cultures and different ways of life. Studying a language will also enhance your life chances, as universities and employers tend to prefer candidates who can speak more than one language.

Did you know that linguists are better communicators and writers and have a better understanding of their own language too? Students who study languages do better in tests, and learning a language will improve the functionality of your brain and improve your memory skills.

French is one of the most influential languages in the world and is spoken as a native language in more than two dozen countries on five continents. Depending on your sources, French is either the 11th or the 13th most common native language in the world, with 72 to 79 million native speakers and another 190 million secondary speakers.

Studying A Level French will enable you to learn the French language and will also help you to gain an in-depth insight into the cultural, social, political and artistic aspects of the French speaking country/countries you will study.

This booklet will help you make the jump from GCSE to A Level. It's a big jump but don't be daunted, just get started!

Bonne Chance!

Be prepared! Familiarise yourself with how you will be tested.

There are 2 core themes in the A level specification:

- Social Issues and trends
- Political and artistic culture

In addition you will have to study either two texts or a text and a film.

Themes and sub-themes will be assessed in paper 1 & 3.

Texts or text and film will be assessed in paper 2.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing (including translations French to English and English to French)

Paper 2: Writing - One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification & Grammar

Paper 3: Speaking -Discussion of a sub-theme with the discussion based on a stimulus card (5 – 6 minutes) You will study the card for 5 minutes at the start of the test. Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9 – 10 minutes) of individual research project.

The choice of works (literary texts and films) offers opportunities to link with the themes.

Here is the link to the AQA A Level Course

<http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/french/specifications/AQA-7652-SP-2016.PDF>

NOTES

A Level French

Subject Knowledge: Themes and Sub-Themes

**Familiarise yourself with the topics you are going to study next year.
Translate the themes and sub-themes into English.**

Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends
(in relation to any French-speaking country or countries)

French	English Translation
<i>La famille en voie de changement)</i>	The changing nature of family
<i>-Grands-parents, parents et enfants – (soucis et problèmes)</i>	
<i>-Monoparentalité, homoparentalité, familles recomposées</i>	
<i>-La vie de couple – nouvelles tendances</i>	
<i>(La « cyber-société »)</i>	The 'cyber-society'
<i>-Qui sont les cybernautes?</i>	
<i>-Comment la technologie facilite la vie quotidienne.</i>	
<i>-Quels dangers la « cyber-société » pose-t-elle?</i>	
<i>(Le rôle du bénévolat)</i>	The place of voluntary work
<i>-Qui sont et que font les bénévoles?</i>	
<i>-Le bénévolat – quelle valeur pour ceux qui sont aidés?</i>	
<i>-Le bénévolat – quelle valeur pour ceux qui aident?</i>	

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Artistic culture in the French-speaking world
(in relation to any French-speaking country or countries)

French	English Translation
<i>(Une culture fière de son patrimoine)</i>	A culture proud of its heritage
<i>-Le patrimoine sur le plan national, régional et local</i>	
<i>-Comment le patrimoine reflète la culture</i>	
<i>-Le patrimoine et le tourisme</i>	
<i>(La musique francophone contemporaine)</i>	Contemporary francophone music
<i>-La diversité de la musique francophone contemporaine</i>	
<i>-Qui écoute et apprécie cette musique?</i>	
<i>-Comment sauvegarder cette musique</i>	
<i>(Cinéma: le septième art)</i>	Cinema: the 7th art form
<i>-Pourquoi le septième art?</i>	
<i>-Le cinéma – une passion nationale?</i>	
<i>-Evolution du cinéma – les grandes lignes</i>	

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Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world
(in relation to any French-speaking country or countries)

French	English Translation
<i>(Les ados, le droit de vote et l'engagement politique)</i>	Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment
<i>-Pour ou contre le droit de vote?</i>	
<i>-Les ados et l'engagement politique – motivés ou démotivés?</i>	
<i>-Quel avenir pour la politique?</i>	
<i>(Manifestations, grèves – à qui le pouvoir?)</i>	Demonstrations, strikes – who holds the power?
<i>-Le pouvoir des syndicats</i>	
<i>-Manifestations et grèves – sont-elles efficaces?</i>	
<i>-Attitudes différentes envers ces tensions politiques</i>	
<i>(La politique et l'immigration)</i>	Politics and immigration
<i>-Solutions politiques à la question de l'immigration</i>	
<i>-L'immigration et les partis politiques</i>	
<i>-L'engagement politique chez les immigrés</i>	

Grammar Log and Checklist

Grammar	Rate your knowledge and confidence level for each aspect of grammar. ↑ → ↓	Using a grammar book or the internet, research and do some work on the aspects of grammar you are not secure in. Use the space below to make notes and give explanations about each aspect of grammar.
Nouns: gender, singular and plural forms (as well as irregular plurals)		
Articles: definite, indefinite and partitive		
Adjectives: - agreement position - comparative - superlative - Use of adjectives as nouns (e.g. <i>le vieux, les Anglais</i>) - demonstrative (<i>ce, cet, cette, ces</i>) - indefinite (<i>chaque, quelque</i>) - possessive (<i>mon, ton, son etc.etc.</i>) - interrogative (<i>quel, quelle</i>)		
Numerals: -Cardinal (eg <i>un, deux</i>) Ordinal (eg <i>premier, deuxième</i>) Expression of time and date		
Adverbs: - comparative (<i>plus/moins... (de or que), aussi/autant... (de or que)</i>) - superlative (<i>le plus/moins</i>) - interrogative (<i>including combien (de), comment, où, pourquoi, quand</i>)		
Quantifiers/intensifiers (<i>including assez, beaucoup, moins, plus, la plupart, plusieurs, presque, tant, très, trop</i>)		
Pronouns: -personal -subject -object: direct and indirect -position and order -reflexive -relative: (<i>including qui, que, dont, le quel etc, auquel etc, ce qui, ce que</i>) -disjunctive/emphatic personal, as subject and object: <i>moi/moi-même, etc.</i> -demonstrative (<i>celui, celle, ceux, celles; and celui-ci/celui-là etc</i>) -indefinite (e.g. <i>quelqu'un, quelque chose</i>) -possessive (<i>le mien etc.</i>) -interrogative (<i>including qui, que, quoi</i>) -use of <i>y, en</i>		

<h1 style="text-align: center; color: red;">Grammar</h1>	Rate your knowledge and confidence level for each aspect of grammar. ↑ → ↓	Using a grammar book or the internet, research and do some work on the aspects of grammar you are not secure in. Use the space below to make notes and give explanations about each aspect of grammar.
Verbs: - conjugation of regular -er, -ir, -re verbs, modal verbs, principal irregular verbs, including reflexive verbs - agreement of verb and subject regular and irregular verbs - use of il y a -reflexive verbs -modes of address (<i>tu, vous</i>) -impersonal verbs (<i>il faut, il s'agit etc. etc.</i>) -verbs followed by an infinitive (with or without a preposition) -dependent infinitives (<i>faire réparer</i>) -perfect infinitive -negative forms -interrogative forms -inversion after adverbs -inversion after speech		
Tenses:		
present tense		
perfect tense (including agreement of past participle)		
imperfect tense		
future tense (near)		
future tense (simple)		
conditional		
future perfect		
conditional perfect		
pluperfect		
past historic (recognise only)		
subjunctive mood -present -perfect -imperfect (recognise only)		
-use of the infinitive, present participle (eg <i>en arrivant</i>) and past participle -verbal paraphrases and their uses (including <i>aller + infinitive, venir de + infinitive</i>) -passive voice: -all tenses		
-Subjunctive mood: present (common uses, for example, after expressions of possibility, necessity, obligation and after conjunctions such as <i>bien que</i>)		

<h1 style="color: red; text-align: center;">Grammar</h1>	Rate your knowledge and confidence level for each aspect of grammar. ↑ → ↓	Using a grammar book or the internet, research and do some work on the aspects of grammar you are not secure in. Use the space below to make notes and give explanations about each aspect of grammar.
Prepositions: all prepositions, both simple (eg <i>sous</i>) and complex (eg <i>au-delà de</i>)		
Conjunctions: Coordinating conjunctions (eg <i>et, ou, mais</i>) Subordinating conjunctions		
Negation: use of negative particles (eg <i>ne...pas, ne...personne, ne...que</i>) Use of <i>ne</i> with negative subjects (eg <i>Personne n'est venu</i>)		
Questions		
Commands		
Word order Inversion after speech		
Other constructions: time expressions with <i>depuis</i> and <i>il y a</i> comparative constructions indirect speech		
Discourse markers (eg <i>au contraire, en fait</i>)		
Fillers (eg <i>alors, bon</i>)		
<h2 style="margin: 0;">Grammar Notes</h2>		
<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 300px; width: 100%;"></div>		

Paper 2: Book/Film Writing: 2-hour exam with a question on the book and on the film

TASK

Task 1. During the holidays, read the first chapter of the book you will be studying. Look up key words as you go to ensure you are understanding and absorbing the text. Make notes on post-its as you go. It's hard-going at first but keep at it.

Un sac de billes de Joseph Joffo [Chapter 1](#)

RESOURCES

<p>Useful websites</p> <p>http://www.linguee.com/</p> <p>https://mfl.jimdo.com/resources/</p> <p>http://www.reverso.net/text_translation.aspx?lang=EN</p> <p>https://www.wordreference.com/</p> <p>https://www.verbix.com/</p> <p>http://languagesresources.co.uk/french%20resources%20_a%20level.htm</p> <p>http://zut.languageskills.co.uk/advanced/year12.html</p> <p>https://www.kerboodle.com</p> <p>https://relevantideas.weebly.com/</p>	<p>Useful opinion phases and expression</p>
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