

A Guide to GCSE French

This guide is for students, parents and carers. It outlines: Information about the GCSE course; the topics on each examination paper and where students can find revision resources; and ends with examination tips specific to this subject.

Course Title and Exam Board

Exam board	AQA	
Course title	French GCSE	
Course structure and assessment	<p>Examinations in reading, writing, speaking and listening. The course is 100% exam at the end of year 11 There are three themes of vocabulary, each of which is broken down into several topic areas</p> <p><u>3.1.1 Theme 1: Identity and culture</u> Topic 1: Me, my family and friends Topic 2: Technology in everyday life Topic 3: Free-time activities Topic 4: Customs and festivals in French-speaking countries/communities</p> <p><u>3.1.2 Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest</u> Topic 1: Home, town, neighbourhood and region Topic 2: Social issues Topic 3: Global issues Topic 4: Travel and tourism</p> <p><u>3.1.3 Theme 3: Current and future study and employment</u> Topic 1: My studies Topic 2: Life at school/college Topic 3: Education post-16 Topic 4: Jobs, career choices and ambitions</p> <p>Students take either Higher or Foundation in all 4 skills which has already been decided with their teacher based on target grade and mock GCSE exam results.</p>	
Key dates	Listening	23.5.23
	Speaking	Dates TBC between 17.4.23 and 15.5.23
	Reading	23.5.23
	Writing	5.6.23

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GCSE Examinations

Paper	Marks	Duration	Weighting	Topics on this paper
1 – Listening Foundation	40	35m	25%	Any vocabulary from all 3 themes.
1 – Listening Higher	50	40m	25%	
2 – Speaking Foundation	60	7-9	25%	Any vocabulary from all 3 themes
2 – Speaking Higher	60	10-12	25%	
3 – Reading Foundation	60	45m	25%	Any vocabulary from all 3 themes
3 – Reading Higher	60	60m	25%	
4 – Writing Foundation	50	60m	25%	Any vocabulary from all 3 themes
4 – Writing Higher	60	75m	25%	

Course Components (a more detailed explanation of skills and topics)

Examination Paper 1 – Listening

Questions are in French and responses may be in French or English depending on what is asked in the question.

Examination Paper 2 – Speaking

Students have preparation time directly before the exam.

Role-play – 15 marks (2 minutes at Foundation; 2 minutes at Higher)

Photo card – 15 marks (2 minutes at Foundation; 3 minutes at Higher)

General conversation – 30 marks (3–5 minutes at Foundation; 5–7 minutes at Higher)

Examination Paper 3 – Reading

Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally

Section B – questions in French, to be answered in French or non-verbally

Section C – translation from French into English (a minimum of 35 words at Foundation and 50 words at Higher)

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Examination Paper 4 – Writing

FOUNDATION TIER:

Question 1 – message (student produces four sentences in response to a photo) – 8 marks

Question 2 – short passage (student writes a piece of continuous text in response to four brief bullet points, approximately 40 words in total) – 16 marks

Question 3 – translation from English into French (minimum 35 words) – 10 marks

Question 4 – structured writing task (student responds to four compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 90 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 16 marks

HIGHER TIER

Question 1 – structured writing task (student responds to four compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 90 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 16 marks

Question 2 – open-ended writing task (student responds to two compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 150 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 32 marks

Question 3 – translation from English into French (minimum 50 words) – 12 marks

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Where are the revision resources?

Revision topics	What resources to use (website links, student: drive titles of folders/documents; books recommended etc.)
Paper 1 - Listening	Student P: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mock exam papers and audio files (H&F) - Mark schemes and answers (H&F)
	Websites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Memrise – for listening to vocabulary - Quizlet – for listening to vocabulary
Paper 2 - Speaking	Student P: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roleplay samples (H&F) - Photocard samples (H&F) - General Conversation questions (H&F) - Model answers and mark scheme analysis - Worksheets for speaking strategies
Paper 3 – Reading	Student P: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mock exam papers (H&F) - Mark schemes and answers (H&F) - Worksheets for reading strategies - Worksheets for practicing reading
	Websites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Memrise – for studying vocabulary - Quizlet – for studying vocabulary
	Revision guide available from the Finance Office
Paper 4 - Writing	Student P: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mock exam papers (H&F) - Mark schemes and answers (H&F) - Worksheets for writing strategies - Model answers and mark scheme analysis
	Websites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Memrise – for studying vocabulary and practicing spelling - Quizlet – for studying vocabulary and practicing spelling - Language Gym – for conjugating verbs in all tenses

Three Examination Tips Specific to this Subject

- Practise vocabulary as often as possible – doing 5-10 minutes of Memrise or Quizlet per day and building it into your daily routine is more effective long-term than doing 1 hour per week of vocabulary work
- Practise planning answers to the writing questions, and remember you must be able to understand the question and MUST answer all of the bullet points that are on the question or you will lose marks.
- Aim to involve the target language in your everyday life – this could be watching TV shows with target language audio and English subtitles, listening to radio or music from France, watching Youtubers who speak French, or putting up posters or post-it notes around the home with vocabulary on. Seeing and hearing the target language on a daily basis is extremely valuable.