

# GCSE French

**Examination board**  
AQA

**Course code**  
8658

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8658>

**Synopsis:** The course aims to develop students' ability to understand language in both written and spoken form within a variety of different contexts. In addition, there is an emphasis on developing students' own communication in both speaking and writing. Much of the course focuses on developing a range of language learning skills which are the key to successful comprehension and communication. The four key skills which are developed and assessed are listening, speaking, reading and writing. Learning also centres on developing learners' vocabulary and understanding of grammar. The development of skills and grammar is focused around different themes which reflect students' own experiences and the cultures of countries where French is spoken.



**Year 10:** During the first year, students cover the following key topic areas: talking about friends and family, food and celebrations, describing one's daily life, free-time activities and technology, talking about the area where you live and discussing holidays and travel. It is within these topics that students develop their skills and understanding of grammar.

**Year 11:** In the second year, students study the following topic areas: talking about school, discussing work and career plans, the environment and other world issues. During year 11, students will refine their examination skills in the four areas which are tested in the final examinations.

## Specification

### Key Topic Areas

#### **Identity & culture**

- Topic 1: Me, my family and friends
- Topic 2: Technology in everyday life
- Topic 3: Free-time activities

#### **Local national, international & global areas of interest**

- Topic 1: Home, town, neighbourhood and region
- Topic 2: Social issues
- Topic 3: Global issues
- Topic 4: Travel and tourism

#### **Current and future study and employment**

- Topic 1: My studies
- Topic 2: Life at school/college
- Topic 3: Education post-16
- Topic 4: Jobs, career choices and ambitions

## Assessment :

This is a linear course which means that all assessment takes place at the end of year 11.

### **Paper 1 Listening (External)**

**40 marks (Foundation Tier – 35 minutes), 50 marks (Higher Tier – 45 minutes) 25% of GCSE**

#### **Foundation Tier and Higher Tier**

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

**Paper 2 Speaking (Internally conducted / externally assessed)**

**7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + preparation time / 10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) + preparation time**

**60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier) 25% of GCSE**

**Foundation Tier and Higher Tier**

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

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

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

**Paper 3: Reading (external)**

**Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation Tier) 1 hour (Higher Tier)**

**60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier); 25% of GCSE**

**Foundation Tier and Higher Tier**

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 for Foundation Tier and 50 words for Higher Tier)

**Paper 4 Writing (external)**

**Written exam: 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier)**

**50 marks at Foundation Tier and 60 marks at Higher Tier; 25% of GCSE**

**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

**Textbook and revision guide**

| <b>Book title</b>   | <b>ISBN</b>   |
|---|---------------|
| CGP AQA French Revision Guide   | 9781782945376 |
| AQA studio GCSE Vocabulary book – sold in multi-packs (can be bought from school) |               |
| Studio for AQA GCSE French higher textbook  | 9781446927199 |
| Studio for AQA GCSE French foundation textbook                                    | 9781292117751 |

**Online resources** [www.pearsonactivelearn.com](http://www.pearsonactivelearn.com)

## Further study opportunities

| A-level   |
|---|
| AS/A Level French   |
| University  |
| Degree in French<br>Degree in Modern Languages (universities often offer the opportunity to take up another language)<br>Degree in linguistics<br>Combining French with another degree subject<br>Teaching qualification<br>TEFL qualification (teaching English as a foreign language)<br>Students who study a language qualification post 18 will be able to apply for courses which offer the opportunity to study / work abroad |

## Further information

A website giving more information about the benefits of studying languages

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/lcahm/departments/languages/undergraduate/why-languages.aspx>

If you have any queries regarding the study of GCSE French please do not hesitate to contact the Head of Subject, Miss J.Dunne at;

J.dunne@cardinalgriffin.staffs.sch.uk

