

GCSE French & Spanish

Subject content

Theme 1: Identity and culture covers the following four topics with related sub-topics shown as bullet points:

Topic 1: Me, my family and friends

- Relationships with family and friends
- Marriage/partnership

Topic 2: Technology in everyday life

- Social media
- Mobile technology

Topic 3: Free-time activities

- Music
- Cinema and TV
- Food and eating out
- Sport

Topic 4: Customs and festivals in French-speaking countries/communities

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest covers the following four topics with related sub-topics shown as bullet points:

Topic 1: Home, town, neighbourhood and region

Topic 2: Social issues

- Charity/voluntary work
- Healthy/unhealthy living

Topic 3: Global issues

- The environment
- Poverty/homelessness

Topic 4: Travel and tourism

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment covers the following four topics:

Topic 1: My studies

Topic 2: Life at school/college

Topic 3: Education post-16

Topic 4: Jobs, career choices and ambitions

External Assessment: There are four exams, each worth 25% (Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing)

GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series.

Paper 1: Listening	Paper 2: Speaking
<p>What's assessed</p> <p>Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language</p> <p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier) 40 marks (Foundation Tier), 50 marks (Higher Tier) 25% of GCSE <p>(Each exam includes 5 minutes' reading time of the question paper before the listening stimulus is played.)</p> <p>Questions</p> <p>Foundation Tier and Higher Tier</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>What's assessed</p> <p>Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes</p> <p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-exam assessment 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 <p>Questions</p> <p>Foundation Tier and Higher Tier</p> <p>The format is the same at Foundation Tier and Higher Tier, but with different stimulus questions for the Photo card and different stimulus materials for the Role-play. The timings are different too:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	Paper 4: Writing
<p>What's assessed</p> <p>Understanding and responding to different types of written language</p> <p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour (Higher Tier) 60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier) 25% of GCSE <p>Questions</p> <p>Foundation Tier and Higher Tier</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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) 	<p>What's assessed</p> <p>Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes</p> <p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>Questions</p> <p>Foundation Tier</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>Higher Tier</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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

Internal Assessment:

There will be regular assessments of progress throughout the course. Following assessment, students are advised on which areas to focus their efforts.

Term 6 of year 10 students sit internal exams in all skills (covering theme 1).

November of y11 students sit internal exams and again in March of y11 students.

N.B. external speaking exams can be as early as April

Study suggestions

- All students must work their way through the topic vocabulary on [memrise.com](https://www.memrise.com)
- Most students should practise additional listening or reading comprehensions using their access to the electronic text book on [kerboodle](https://www.kerboodle.com); PLC links to BBC bitesize and GCSE pod
- Some students could watch films / programmes in French on All4 / Netflix etc