

GCSE French

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 in listening, reading and writing.

Jan / Feb of y11 students take a speaking exam.

March of y11 students sit internal exams in listening, reading and writing.

N.B. external speaking exams can be as early as March / 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](https://www.bbc.com/bitesize) and GCSE pod
- Some students could watch films / programmes in French on All4 / Netflix etc