

# French GCSE Student Guide

## Is this the right subject for me?

If you enjoy meeting and talking to people from other countries, finding out about their cultures and learning how language works, then studying GCSE French is an excellent choice for you!

## Why should I study a language?

Learning languages allows you to:

- Meet people from different countries and find out more about them
- Learn many skills which are useful in a wide range of careers, such as the ability to communicate clearly, be confident about speaking in public, use problem solving strategies and write coherently
- Add an international dimension to your choice of GCSE subjects, which is something many employers and higher education providers want
- Have greater opportunities to work and/or study abroad, or work for companies in the UK with international links
- Discuss your interests, ideas and opinions with other people who speak the language
- Learn more about countries where the language is spoken, and the people who speak it.

## What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?

If you have studied French before, you are well prepared to do this GCSE course, however you can also start it from scratch! If you have studied French before, you already know a lot of the vocabulary and grammar you will need for GCSE: you know how to talk about yourself, your family and friends, your hobbies, where you live, school, holidays, food and drink. You will build on this knowledge during your GCSE course, and move on to new topics. If you are starting this as a new language for GCSE you can be confident in knowing that, through your previous studies in other subjects, you have already built up a lot of valuable skills which will help you to learn a new language.

## What can I do after I've completed the course?

People with language skills and knowledge usually have an advantage over people without them. They stand out as talented and successful people, with broad and exciting horizons. Taking GCSE French means you will:

- Add an extra dimension to your personal skills profile which will impress anyone who reads your CV
- Be in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links or improve employability if you would like to work abroad
- Be able to work or study in a French-speaking country in later life
- Be able to study AS and A level French courses to further your knowledge of the language and culture
- Find it easier to learn other languages later if you want to.

## What will I learn?

GCSE French helps you explore a wide range of topics, from celebrations and festivals, through getting by as a tourist in France to international campaigns and events. You will learn about French culture through a range of interesting topics which will add to your understanding of the language and country.

## How will I be assessed?

You will take four exams worth 25% each. You can take foundation or higher level, and you will be given a grade between 1 and 9, with 9 being the highest.

<b>Listening and understanding in French</b>  <b>50 marks</b>	<b>Reading and understanding in French</b>  <b>50 marks</b>	<b>Writing in French</b>  <b>60 marks</b>	<b>Speaking in French</b>  <b>70 marks</b>
<p>This requires you to listen to recordings in French and answer questions on what you hear. Some of these questions will be multiple-choice and some will need you to write short answers in English and French.</p>	<p>The reading section will give you texts to read and questions to answer. Some of these questions will be multiple-choice and some will need you to write short answers in English and French. Texts will be from French sources such as emails, magazines and books. You will also need to translate sentences or a short passage from French into English.</p>	<p>In the foundation paper you will write about a photo, write a short passage and write a longer passage on one of a choice of two topics. In the higher paper you will write longer passages about two topics from a choice of four. At both levels there is also a translation exercise, from English into French.</p>	<p>In this part of the exam you will do a short role play with the examiner and talk about a photo. You will also talk about two of the topics you have studied.</p>

## Example questions

### An example of a multiple-choice question

C'était une expérience assez positive mais je voulais travailler dans un restaurant.

Question: Christine a ...

A	adoré le job.	[ ]
B	trouvé le job plutôt bien.	[ ]
C	détesté le job.	[ ]
D	trouvé le job très fatigant.	[ ]

Answer: B

### An example of a question where you need to write a few words

L'année dernière, le festival était dans le sud de la France, mais cette année, il va partir pour le nord.

Question: Where will the festival be held this year?

Answer: In the north of France.

## Next steps

Talk to your teacher about taking GCSE French.

Visit the Edexcel website ([www.edexcel.com/gcse2016](http://www.edexcel.com/gcse2016)) for more information about what you will be studying and how you will be assessed.