

L'introduction du français au niveau A-Level.



Summer Term
2020

How to prepare for French at A Level

Over the summer term, we want to give you plenty of opportunities to keep your French up and help you feel prepared for the A Levels. Therefore, we have set up the following programme for you to follow over the next few weeks:

1. **Speaking with Louise** (French language assistant) – you have been emailed a 30-minute timeslot with another Charters student to do speaking practise on Teams. If you cannot attend your session, please make sure that you email Louise l.toulorge@chartersschool.org.uk and the people in your group in advance to let them know. There must be two students present for the lesson to go ahead. Louise is NOT allowed to conduct a speaking session with just one student due to safeguarding rules. These lessons will only take place up until half term as that is when Louise's contract ends for the school year. (Non-Charters students: unfortunately, it will not be possible for you to do the speaking sessions with Louise until you join in September)
2. **Weekly grammar tasks** – these are outlined on the spreadsheet mentioned below and I will send you a link to the resources on SharePoint.
3. **Self-study work** - 1+ hour of tasks (you can do a mixture of activities) of your choice from the options that follow in the rest of this booklet.

I have set up a spreadsheet on SharePoint for you to fill in what you have been doing each week. I will email you an individual link so that you can access this. I will check your records every couple of weeks to see how you're doing and you're welcome to email me e.deacon@chartersschool.org.uk or Miss Brown h.brown@chartersschool.org.uk if you need any help/have any questions.

Examples of tasks for self-study

1. Watch a film and write a summary in French of the plot
2. Watch a film and write a couple of paragraphs in English analysing the style/themes in the film (see MOVIES section for help)
3. Watch a French news article and summarise it in English.
4. Find an article in French linked to one of the themes we will be studying in Y12 – translate or summarise it in English.
5. Read an online news article and create a vocabulary list of the key words you didn't know.
6. Revise some vocabulary for one of the Y12 themes on www.quizlet.com or even create your own quizlet to revise some of the new vocabulary you have learnt.
7. Choose a Francophone country and prepare a short presentation on an aspect of culture
8. Revise a tense on www.languagesonline.co.uk and note your results as evidence.

Self-study inspiration

THEMES WE STUDY IN YEAR 12

- Changes in family structures, attitudes towards marriage, couples and the family.
- The education system and problems facing students today.
- Working life, attitudes to work, the right to strike and equality of the sexes.
- Changes in music and its impact on popular culture.
- Freedom of expression in the media, written and online press and its impact on society and politics.
- Festivals and traditions of France and francophone countries.

TELEVISION

- <http://www.tv5monde.com/> Watch this channel to gain access to the last episodes of all of their TV shows. Check out their French language learning section at <http://apprendre.tv5monde.com/> where you can watch clips and answer comprehension questions on what you have seen with accompanying grammar exercises.
- Download an app called *6play* on your iPad – search in the App Store for M6. This is a popular French TV channel. Not all programmes are available outside of France, but there is a good selection and these help with listening skills.

Programmes on Netflix* Make sure you put audio in original French with English subtitles
Chef's Table, France (Food + Travel show)
Nailed it, France (Cooking documentary)
Wakfu (Animated TV show)

MOVIES

Films on Netflix* Make sure you put audio in original French with English subtitles
The African Doctor
He Even Has Your Eyes
10 Jours En Or
A Mighty Team
I Lost My Body
Journey to Greenland
Bad Seeds
The Climb

Divines

Paris is Us

Twice Upon a Time

Films on Amazon Prime* Make sure you put audio in original French with English subtitles

Ernest and Celestine

Astérix: The Mansion of the Gods

Hold Your Breath

Films on ClickView

The following films can be found on ClickView. Charters students should be able to log in using your school email address and normal password. Non-Charters students may not be able to access this yet.

Intouchables (the film we study at A level) <https://clickv.ie/w/qk9m>

No et Moi (the book we study at A level) <https://clickv.ie/w/Ag9m>

Taxi <https://clickv.ie/w/lg9m>

Taxi 2 <https://clickv.ie/w/Tg9m>

Taxi 3 <https://clickv.ie/w/hh9m>

Coco avant Chanel <https://clickv.ie/w/vh9m>

Le Petit Nicolas <https://clickv.ie/w/Pg9m>

Belleville Rendez-vous <https://clickv.ie/w/Sg9m>

Astérix aux jeux olympiques <https://clickv.ie/w/Zg9m>

Astérix et l'Obélix : Mission Cléopâtre <https://clickv.ie/w/ah9m>

Les Choristes <https://clickv.ie/w/eh9m>

Les Visiteurs <https://clickv.ie/w/mh9m>

Ne le dis à personne <https://clickv.ie/w/sh9m>

Other popular A level films :

- La Haine, dir. Matthieu Kassovitz (1995)
- Au Revoir les Enfants, dir. Louis Malle (1987)
- Chocolat, dir. Claire Denis (1988)
- Cléo de 5 à 7, dir. Agnès Varda (1962)
- La Vie en Rose, dir. Olivier Dahan (2007)
- Les Choristes, dir. Christophe Barratier (2004)
- Les 400 Coups, dir. François Truffaut (1959)

Watch your chosen films with subtitles, and try to consider the techniques the director uses, for example: how is it filmed? What can you say about the camera position/movement, lighting, music/soundtrack? Are there any slowed down/sped-up sequences, close-ups, special effects? How would you describe the language/dialogue used by characters? What is the overall message or statement made by the film? What are the questions it raises?

LISTEN TO THE RADIO

The great thing about listening to the radio is that you can get on with something else at the same time. Listen live using the *Radio France* or the *Europe 1*. It sometimes takes a while to buffer so be patient.

- Radio France (www.radiofrance.fr)
- Europe 1 (www.europe1.fr)
- Le mouv (www.mouv.fr) (this is the French equivalent to Kiss FM or Capital)
- Europe 2 (www.europe2.fr)

VOCABULARY

You could do 15 minutes of vocabulary revision each week as part of your self-study. Keep your own vocabulary book for new expressions you come in your own vocabulary book. You could order it alphabetically, by topic area based on what we are going to study or just use it as a diary and scribble away your French development in it.

Some people prefer to practise their vocabulary in a more interactive way and there are lots of online learning resources that you could use. At Charters, we tend to use www.quizlet.com. I have uploaded vocabulary for all of the Y12 modules onto a Quizlet group for us.

Join the Y11 to 12 vocabulary group on Quizlet here: <https://quizlet.com/join/U5BAR2e4S>

Another useful vocabulary learning website is www.memrise.com

NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES

Read a foreign language newspaper – Le Figaro is available in larger paper shops. Le Figaro has its own website <http://www.lefigaro.fr/> so that you can read the paper online. You do not have to read the paper cover to cover, just scan the headlines and pick out ONE article that grabs your attention.

This website gives you access to newspapers all over the world. Here is the link to a range of French papers. <http://www.mediatico.com/en/newspapers/europe/france/national/>

This website is a more light-hearted newspaper which covers global stories as well as gossip. <http://www.20minutes.fr>. Also try <http://www.20minutos.fr/tv/>. This is the TV Channel for this newspaper.

In France there is also a news website for young people: www.l-eco.fr. It has sections on the Internet and Mobile Technology; Science and Wildlife; Education; Culture; Sport; Society and Health. A glance today contained articles about Facebook, video games and bullying to name but a few.

Another website that we often use during sixth form French lessons is www.1jour1actu.com as it explains lots of different topics in a 'child-friendly' way which will make it easier for you, as non-native speakers, to understand.

To catch up on the latest gossip and to see what the celebs are wearing, take a look at www.elle.fr.

WEBSITES

Switch to French browsers such as and <http://fr.yahoo.com/> or www.yahoo.fr as well as www.google.fr. This way, you will read French every time you log on and it will become part of your everyday activity.

Look at the BBC website <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/tv> for links to French programmes available on line.

Language skills: this website is free after 4pm and really comes into its own with its A level section. Watch news video clips, find theme related vocabulary and do listening and reading comprehensions. Find it here

<http://zut.languageskills.co.uk/advanced/year12.html>

WEBSITES FOR RESEARCH

Once you actually start your A Level in September, you will realise that you are almost completing a Sociology A Level in French. It is fascinating and you will learn all about the history and culture of French speakers. Here are some websites bursting with information about France and Francophone countries. Always start your research with these websites as it is easy to get bogged down when looking for help on the internet.

If you are searching for information, try switching to the French www.fr.wikipedia. Remember that anyone can write on Wikipedia so you must validate your research elsewhere and never quote from it! It is a good place to start though.

A French government run website:
<http://www.gouvernement.fr/>

A website in English with some great links to various topics: <http://french.about.com/>

British Council support available from <http://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org/> Keep your eyes peeled as they often have trips to France for free! You have to apply for them but they are an amazing opportunity to build your French skills. There is no better way to learn a language than by spending time in that country.

On-line dictionary

A good on-line dictionary is: <http://www.wordreference.com/>



TOP TIP: Don't look up every word you are not sure of when reading an article/book

Yes... you read that right. When you are reading articles etc, try not to look up every word as it will take you forever. Skim and scan the text to get the gist. Remember to use the context or the article, cognates and common sense to figure out what the article is saying. Pick out a couple of words that you like the look of, that you feel may be real hurdles to getting the idea of the text, look them up carefully and add them to your vocab booklet. The aim at this stage is to get the gist of the article, not be able to translate it completely. Translation is a whole different ball game and you will learn it soon enough.

You will be surprised how much more enjoyable reading will be if you really pay attention to this tip.

What should I know by now?

This is a common question asked by students about to start their A level. You should be able to:

TOPIC	CONTENT
Recognise and use a range of tenses with regular verbs. See examples in brackets using the regular ER verb <i>jouer</i> - to play	Regular –RE, -ER, -IR verbs: Tenses: Present (je joue) Passé Composé (j'ai joué) Imperfect (je jouais) Near Future (je vais jouer) Simple Future (je jouerai) Conditional (je jouerais)
Recognise and use a range of tenses with irregular verbs. See examples in brackets using the irregular ER verb <i>aller</i> - to go	Common irregular verbs: être, avoir, aller, faire, pouvoir et vouloir. Tenses: Present (je vais) Passé Composé (je suis allé) Imperfect (j'allais) Near Future (je vais aller) Future (j'irai) Conditional (j'irais)
Give opinions with reasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A range of opinion expressions• Positive and negative reasons for opinions• To be able to agree and disagree

Links to Grammar Practice Exercises

- Languages on line: The Grammar Revision resources on www.languagesonline.org.uk are great as you can then select what tense you want to revise, read the explanations and complete the exercises. You can do these as often as you like and it gives you a percentage. Another useful tactic is to translate the examples and exercises into English to ensure you understand the meaning of each tense.



...er choose to practice your grammar or work through some of the AS Resources.

Another useful site is the 'Grammar' section of the online platform 'Lingolia' → <https://français.lingolia.com/en/>

If you find that you struggle with a particular verb or group of verbs, try testing yourself with the 'Verb Conjugator' → <https://français.lingolia.com/en/grammar/conjugator>

- Conjuguemos: a great website for practicing your verb conjugations. Find it here: <https://conjuguemos.com/>



Click here to access the French verb exercises.

- Language skills: this website is free after 4pm and really comes into its own with its A level section. Practice your verbs, pronouns, do practice translations and

review other grammar points. Find it here

[http://zut.languageskills.co.uk/advanced/year12.html.](http://zut.languageskills.co.uk/advanced/year12.html)

REFERENCES:

Internet

www.languagesonline.org.uk

www.s-cool.co.uk/a-level/french

<http://french.about.com>

www.verb2verbe.com

www.alevelfrench.com

www.frenchexams.org

www.lepointdufle.net

www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french

general site with an A Level section & GCSE revision (grammar very good)

good site with lots of materials & downloads (need to register but free)

a really good general site for grammar

site which translates any verb in any form (F>E & E>F)

click on: **move up to A Level transition**

interactive revision materials

a very comprehensive search engine for French grammar

interesting site especially the **French slang** section

Reference books

Élan grammar workbook

Oxford

Easy learning French grammar

Collins

Practice in French grammar

Nelson Thomas

Help yourself to French grammar

Longman

