

BRIDGING THE GAP

French AS Level



Summer Preparation Task Booklet

Name: _____

How to prepare for French at AS Level

You have a few weeks in which to really prepare for your A Level in French. The leap from GCSE to A Level is significant. This booklet contains links to a huge range of media, most of which is available for free online as well as tasks to complete before September. Little and often is better than cramming this all into the last two weeks of August! Try to build some of them into your daily routine...

Watch...

Television

Watch the latest news in French <http://www.tv5.org/> there is a special section for people who want to learn French <http://apprendre.tv5monde.com/> Or watch some cartoons in French at <http://www.mon-ludo.fr/>.

You can also access the TV using:

- Your own TV. If you get Euronews, you can put it into French by pressing the red button
- Look at <http://broadcast-live.com/television/french.html> This website gives you access to the TV stations that are streaming TV
- Another TV station is <http://www.france24.com/en/> which has a multitude of videos.
- BBC Website <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z9dqxnb>. If you have trouble bringing the website up, type in www.bbc.co.uk/education. Then select England GCSE and scroll down until you find Modern Foreign Languages. Behind both the Speaking and Listening tabs there are loads of great videos to watch that only last a few minutes and they are a great way to practice your listening skills.

<http://www1.rfi.fr/lfen/statiques/accueil.asp> is a website that does slow news bulletins and has the transcripts as well which may be worth adding as it has other listening practices as well

Sign up to Twitter

Sign up to Twitter for authentic text that you can quickly flick through. We follow all of these and recommend you do the same! They will help you pick up the language even when lazily browsing twitter.

TOP TIP: Sign up to Twitter and register to a feed that tweets a word or so a day

@TwitterFrance Bienvenue sur le compte officiel de Twitter en France !

@RTLFrance News & Informations de la première radio de France

@frenchlanguage Official Twitter account for Transparent Language French.

@TalkinFrench Learn french, the unborning way. Everyday 1 french word and 1 french expression on your twitter.

@ParleFrancais A tweetstream to help those learning French.

@learn10french Learn10 gives you a learning habit that's hard to kick. 10 new words: everywhere, every day

@FrenchWord2Day Learn a new French Word every day

@french_online Learn French online for free with our french language lessons and exercises.

Read...

Keep your own vocabulary book for new expressions you come across –. 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.

Newspapers and Magazines

Read a foreign language newspaper. You do not have to read the paper cover to cover, just scan the headlines and pick out ONE article that grabs your attention. You can buy French newspapers from larger paper shops but they all have online versions too.

Le Figaro <http://www.lefigaro.fr/>

La Liberation <http://www.liberation.fr/>

Le Monde <http://www.lemonde.fr/>

Le Nouvel Observateur has another good website: <http://tempsreel.nouvelobs.com/>

This website actually 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/>

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

<http://www.closermag.fr/> or <http://www.gossip.fr/>

Websites

<http://www.aga.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/french-7652/introduction> is the link to the specification for the current course.

Look at the BBC website <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/> for links to French learning activities and <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/tv/fchannels.shtml> for how to watch French TV on line.

Quizlet is a fantastic site for testing your vocabulary <http://quizlet.com/subject/french/>. There is also an app you can download to your smartphone.

<http://www.francais-extra.co.uk/xhtmlcss/index.html> has a lot of vocab games/activities.

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/ website

- When you are reading articles try not to look up every word. 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.
- You will be surprised how much more enjoyable reading will be if you really pay attention to this tip.

Grammar Practice

What should I know by now?

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

TOPIC	CONTENT
Recognise and use a range of tenses with regular verbs.	<u>Regular –RE, -ER, -IR verbs:</u> Tenses: Present Perfect Imperfect Future Conditional
Recognise and use a range of tenses with irregular verbs.	<u>Common irregular verbs:</u> avoir/etre/aller/pouvoir/vouloir Tenses: Present Perfect Imperfect Future Conditional
Other language points you should be fairly confident with	Word order Articles Adjective agreement Direct object pronouns
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

The following websites are also very useful interactive sites for grammar and language based activities.

- Languages online: 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.
- www.languagesresources.co.uk has a wide selection of activities/worksheets and resources both for grammar and comprehension.
- Lightbulb languages at <http://www.lightbulblanguages.co.uk/resources-fr-al.htm>
- <http://www.bonjourdefrance.co.uk/learn-french-online/grammar/choose-level> has a range of grammar activities
- http://www.realfrench.net/grammar/games.php?function=choose_single&ex=1 has tests on topic areas you can choose
- <http://www.laits.utexas.edu/tex/gr/index.html#ten> has an abundance of information on grammar points.

Tasks

Complete the task log as you do any work over the holidays. You may have one week in which you are extremely motivated and one when you are not but little and often is the key!

Do not leave it all until the end of August!

1. When you look at a website/ link on here, highlight it and note the date and what you thought about it.
2. Complete any of the past reading or listening questions in your pack.
3. Look out for any items in the English or French media relating to topics we will study – such as the Internet, advertising, healthy and unhealthy lifestyles, education so that you have points to make in a discussion and opinions to give.
4. Complete 2 exercises a week on languages online or another of the grammar websites. Each exercise takes less than 5 minutes. Note down the exercise you did and your score.
5. Read through the course overview so that you have an idea of what we will be studying.
6. If you find any other websites/ links/ twitter feeds that you think are worth sharing, note them down too.
7. And finally...Remember, you will take from the course what you put in. Students who put in plenty of independent work are always the most successful. Enjoy!

