

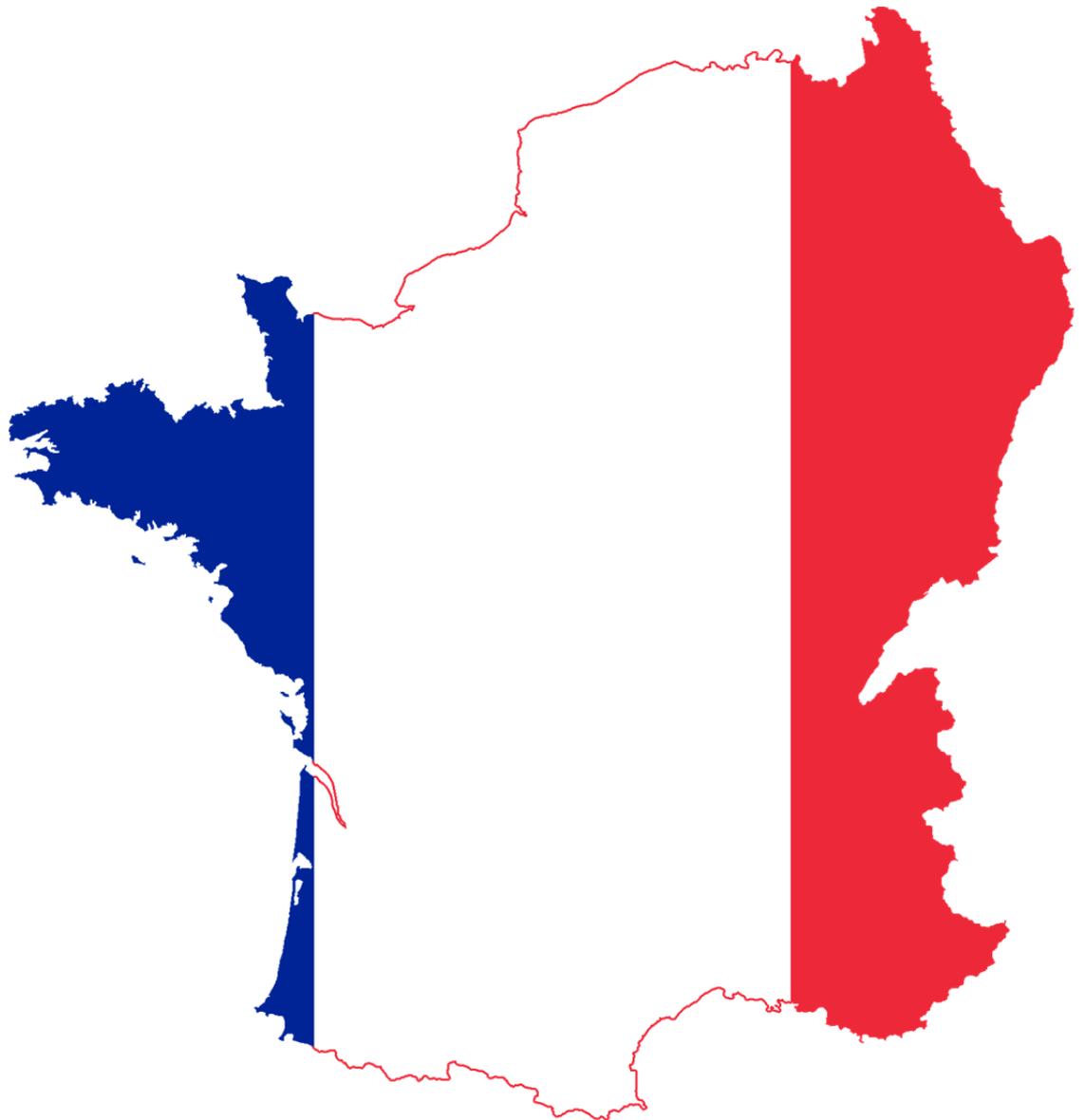


Park Hall Academy

MFL Department

GCSE French (AQA: 8658)

Pupil Overview



## Contents:

1. Introduction - why choose GCSE French.
2. Course layout and assessment.
3. Subject content.
4. Key vocabulary.
5. Revision tips and techniques.



## Introduction - Why should you chose GCSE French?

The chances are, if you have been given this booklet by your teacher, you have already chosen to take GCSE French. Well done for making a fantastic choice! This booklet will talk you through the important bits of the course and all of the key information you need to know!

Taking a language is more important than ever in today's multi-cultural society and many business, colleges and universities will snap you up if you have a qualification in a language!

French a really useful language for lots of different jobs including: teaching, translation, fashion and journalism alongside many others!

Use this booklet to help support you with the course and work hard, it will be hard work but if you put in 100% you will do well!

## Course Layout and Assessment.

Your GCSE course will follow the timeline below and you will be assessed on a range of different skills throughout. You will have a mini and main assessment each half term and regular grammar and vocabulary knowledge tests.

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
<b>Teaching</b>	<p><b>Theme 1 Identity and Culture</b></p> <p>Me my family and friends/customs festivals in French speaking countries.</p>	<p><b>Theme 2 Local and Global areas of interest</b></p> <p>Hometown neighbourhood and region/social issues</p>	<p><b>Theme 3 Current/Future study or employment</b></p> <p>My studies and life at school/college</p>	<p><b>Theme 1 Identity and Culture</b></p> <p>Free time and technology</p>	<p><b>Theme 2 Local and Global areas of interest</b></p> <p>Global issues and travel and tourism</p>	<p><b>Theme 1 Identity and Culture</b></p> <p>Film Module - Les Intouchables</p>
<b>Assessment</b>	Reading and Translation to English.	Writing and Translation to French.	Role Play and Speaking	Listening and Dictation	Mock Speaking	Mock exam: Listening Reading Writing

## Year 11

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1
Teaching	Theme 3 Current/Future study or employment  Education post- 16/jobs/careers ambitions.	Revision of Theme 1	Revision of Theme 2	Revision of Theme 3	Exam Technique and preparation.
Assessment	Listening and dictation	Mock exam: Listening Reading Writing	Writing and translation into French.	Speaking Mock	Exam Prep

## Subject Content

As you can see, the course is split into different 'Themes' and within these themes there are different topics. Although you will be studying a different theme and topic each half term, it is important to keep revising all work you have done before so you don't forget it! Your teacher will help you to do this with different activities and tests within lessons.

## Skill Elements

The final exams for this course will be in the summer term of year 11.

You will be examined in four areas:

1. Reading and translation to English.
2. Writing and translation to French.
3. Listening and dictation.
4. Speaking.

Each exam is worth 25% of your final mark and you will be graded from 1-9 (1 being the lowest and 9 being the highest)

You won't sit all of your papers at the same time; your speaking exam will be a couple of weeks before the others.

## The Speaking Exam (25% of overall grade)

There are **three parts** to your speaking exam and this will be **conducted by your teacher**. It will be recorded and then sent off to the exam board to check the marks.

Before you start, you will get **12 minutes** to prepare for the first **two sections** of the exam. You are not able to keep these notes for the third part of the exam.

### Part One: Role Play (2 mins.)

You will get a card with a scenario on it, it will have five bullet points on it. Three of these will be notes on what to say in French, ! means you will be asked an unknown question and ? means you have to ask a question about the words next to it. **The role play will tell you if you must use tu but otherwise use vous.**

## Part Two: Photo Card (3 mins.)

Before the exam you will receive a photo card and three questions about it. You will be asked these three questions plus two more that you haven't seen before.

## Part Three: Conversation (5-7 mins.)

You and your teacher will have a conversation, in French. The conversation will be based on **the theme that you have chosen** and the other theme that **hasn't been covered on the photo card**. You are expected to ask your teacher one question.

Without language, one cannot talk to people and understand them; one cannot share their hopes and aspirations, grasp their history, appreciate their poetry, or savour their songs.

Nelson Mandela

## Top tips for the speaking exam!

- Use your full range of language (tenses/talking about others/opinions and reasons).
- If you're unsure of a word you want to use, replace it with another you know, e.g. swap snooker for hockey or nephew for brother.
- If you are really struggling ask for help (in French). You won't get any marks for any vocabulary you are given but it will help you to develop your work.

**“FRENCH IS A LANGUAGE THAT MAKES THOSE WHO SPEAK IT BOTH CALM AND DYNAMIC.”**

**BERNARD PIVOT**

© Lifehack Quotes

The Reading Exam (25% of overall grade)

You will either take higher or foundation in the reading exam. If you take higher your paper will be one hour long and you have access to the higher grades. If you are sitting foundation, your paper will be 45 minutes long and you will have access to the grades 1-5.

The reading exam will be split into three parts.

Section A: comprehension in English about French texts.

You will be given a selection of texts in French and asked questions about them in English. For this part of the paper you should answer in English.

## Section B: comprehension in French about French texts.

This section will be a little more difficult as the texts and the questions will be in French **but** if you revise all the key question words you shouldn't have a problem!

## Section C: Translation from French to English.

Here, you will be given a short passage in French which you will be expected to translate to English without a dictionary. You need to make sure you translate all of this text as you get marks for each bit you do accurately.

**“A man who  
knows two  
languages is  
worth two men.”**

*French Proverb*

## Top tips for the reading exam!

- **Read** the questions very carefully - **what is it asking you to do?**
- **Don't give up** if you don't understand something. Use the **context** to help you! Are there any **cognates?**
- Keep an eye on the **time** - there is lots to do so go at a decent speed! If you're having trouble with a question **go back to it later.**
- The **translation is worth the most marks** on the paper so make sure you leave plenty of **time** to tackle it!
- Make sure you **answer every question** - lots of questions are multiple choice so if you are unsure have an educated guess!
- **Before** you begin to translate, read the whole text - **get the gist** for what it is saying.
- Translate one sentence at a time and look back to check it makes sense!
- Look out for **adverbs** (hier/demain/le weekend) that might **suggest a change in tense.**

THOSE WHO KNOW  
NOTHING OF  
FORGIEIN  
LANGUAGES  
KNOW NOTHING  
OF THEIR OWN.

-JOHANN WOLFGAN VON GOETHE

## The listening exam (25% of overall grade)

You will either take higher or foundation in the listening exam. If you take higher your paper will be 45 minutes long and you have access to the higher grades. If you are sitting foundation, your paper will be slightly shorter and you will have access to the grades 1-5.

The listening exam is split into two sections.

### Section A: French listening to English answers.

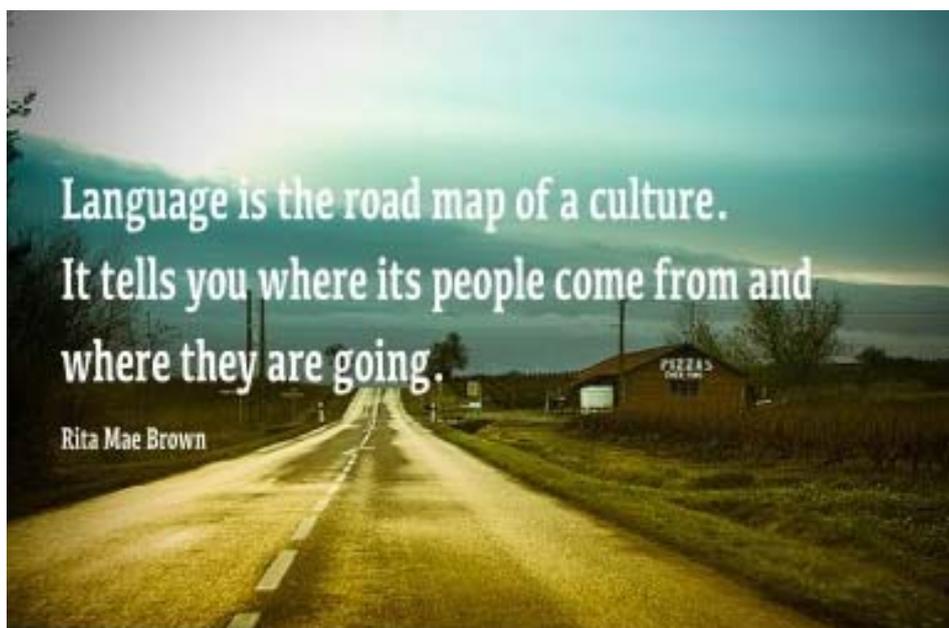
You will hear a range of spoken French and will answer questions in English about what you have heard.

### Section B: French listening to French questions.

You will hear a range of spoken French and will answer questions in French about what you have heard.

## Top Tips for the listening exam!

- **You have five minutes reading time** at the start of the exam. Use this to **read through the paper** and work out what you are being asked to do. **In particular, the questions in section B** which are in French.
- **Make notes** whilst you are listening to the recording, you will hear each track twice with a pause in between.
- **Listen right to the end**, even if you think you have the answer - sometimes **the person will change their mind!**
- **Don't panic** if you do not understand everything, listen carefully and **pick out the vocabulary you need** to answer that particular question.



## The writing exam (25% of overall grade)

You will either take higher or foundation in the writing exam. If you take higher your paper will be 1 hour 15 minutes long and you have access to the higher grades. If you are sitting foundation, your paper will be slightly shorter and you will have access to the grades 1-5.

The writing exam will be split into 3 parts with each part being worth a different number of marks. Make sure you spend more time on the higher mark questions.

### Section A: Structured task (16 marks)

Here, you will have two tasks to choose from. You will be asked to write **about 90 words in French** based on **four bullet points**. You **must include** information on **each bullet point** and **give opinions**.

## Section B: Open-ended task (32 marks)

Here, again, you will **have two tasks to choose from**. You will need to write about **150 words in French** based on **two bullet points**. You have much more creative license here so **show off!**

## Section C: Translation (12 marks)

Here, you will be given an English text which you must translate into French without a dictionary. Make sure you have translated everything from the text - you'll lose marks if you miss anything!



## Top tips for the writing exam!

- Read through **all instructions thoroughly** and spend time **planning**,
- Tick off the bullet points as you go - use them as a check list,
- Write the **best answer** you can using the French you know - **it doesn't matter if it isn't true** (no one will check).
- Check your work thoroughly - even small mistakes can cost marks! Look at verb endings, tenses, adjectives and tenses.
- For translations, read the whole text first so you know what it is about.
- Don't translate things literally, check word order and other tricky French language patterns!
- Once you are happy with it, go back through and check you have included everything from the original text.

## Key Vocabulary

**Without knowing the basic vocabulary expected of you it is impossible for you to pass the exam.** Spend time learning vocabulary regularly alongside your homework to take the pressure off at the end of the course!

Your teacher will have given you a vocabulary book with all the words you need to know!

Alongside topic vocabulary, make sure you know command words and question words such as the ones on the next page. You will not be able to answer questions written in French without them.

<u>Le français</u>	<u>L'anglais</u>
Décrivez	Describe
Ecrivez	Write
Ecrivez environ <b>40</b> mots en français	Write about 40 words in French.
Ecrivez environ <b>90</b> mots en français. Répondez à chaque aspect de la question.	Write about 90 words in French. Respond to each aspect of the question.
Ecrivez environ <b>150</b> mots en français. Répondez aux deux aspects de la question.	Write about 150 words in French. Respond to both aspects of the question.
Mentionnez	Mention

<u>Le français</u>	<u>L'anglais</u>
Combien ?	How many ?
Comment ?	How ?
Est-ce que ?	Is ?
Où ?	Where ?
Quand ?	When ?
Pourquoi ?	Why ?
Que ?	What ?
Quel/quelle ?	Which ?
Qu'est-ce que ?	What ?
Qu'est-ce qui ?	What ?
Qu'est-ce c'est ?	What is it ?
Qui ?	Who ?
Quoi ?	What ?

## Revision tips and techniques!

Make sure you **revise regularly** so that the knowledge you need is **embedded** from early in the course. This will mean that when you come to your exams you won't be panicking and will have a chance to **revise rather than relearn**.

## Here are some tips we have found work really well with French revision!

1. Be organised! Make a plan and make sure you cover everything on the specification.
2. Vocabulary: Put the topic title in the middle of the page and see how much you can remember. Go back through this and group the words into nouns, adjectives verbs etc.
3. Grammar: Don't be scared of grammar, you know it and how to use it! Look back through each topic and go through the different grammar aspects. Ask your teacher to go through things with you that you don't understand.
4. Adapt: Adapt your knowledge - could your reasons go across more than one topic? For grammar revision chose a verb and see how many tenses you can put it in,

5. Choose: Choose a paragraph from your book or a textbook - how many different grammatical features (tenses/adjectives/nouns etc.) can you pick out?
6. Listen: Regularly to French people speaking. Tune into a French radio station or put your favourite film into French when you watch it.
7. Speak: The more you do it the less scary it will be and the better you will become!
8. Practise - it makes perfect!

