

Year 12 French – an introduction

I am delighted that you have decided to continue with your French studies for A Level. In order to bridge the gap between the end of your GCSE studies and the start of the A Level course, I would like to suggest some ways to help you maintain and consolidate the excellent level of French with which you ended Year 11. Please find below a range of different activities for you to complete before the beginning of Year 12. For your A Level course it is essential that you are confident in your use of tenses and have a broad knowledge of the society, culture, customs, artists and musicians in France.

All the tasks are designed to develop your French skills and your knowledge of the francophone world (if you don't know what this is or where it is, your first task is to find out!).

There are some compulsory activities, marked **C**. You will need to complete **all** of these.

There are other optional activities, marked **O**. You will need to complete **at least 3** of these.

| Activity | C/O | Tick when completed ✓ |
|--|----------|--------------------------|
| <p>Review essential French grammar: <i>YOU MUST KNOW HOW TO FORM THE PRESENT, PERFECT, IMPERFECT, FUTURE AND CONDITIONAL TENSES. YOU MUST KNOW HOW TO CONJUGATE REGULAR –ER, -RE AND –IR VERBS PLUS THE FOLLOWING IRREGULAR VERBS:</i> être, avoir, faire, aller, venir, pouvoir, vouloir, devoir, sortir, savoir, prendre, dire.</p> <p>http://french.about.com/ (Use the search function on this site to review any part of French grammar. There is a lesson and then exercises to test yourself with.) http://languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/Index.htm - select a topic from the list available. Focus on the tenses above, including regular and common irregular verbs.</p> <p>Ensure you revise any other grammar points which you struggled with in Year 11</p> | C | |
| <p>Be up to date with French news. Read an article in French by accessing online newspaper websites, e.g.: e.g. http://www.lemonde.fr/, http://www.ljournalactu.com/, http://www.slate.fr/france. Select a different section of the news which interests you – economy, sports, culture or music. This will help you keep up to date with French current affairs</p> | C | |

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|--|---|--|
| <p>Listen to a French singer or group on Spotify or Youtube. Do some background research on the artist and write a short paragraph in English. What genre are they? Which instruments do they use?</p> | C | |
| <p>Watch French film clips on Youtube or stream them. Did you know that Netflix and Amazon Prime also have International Films? They quite often have French films on there which are subtitled in English: such as <i>Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis</i>, <i>L'arnacoeur</i>, <i>Coco Chanel</i>, <i>La Môme</i> – these will help you become accustomed with the work of French directors and give you an insight into French cinematography http://www.imdb.com/search/title?languages=fr%7C1&sort=movie_meter,_asc&title_type=feature (use this website to find a list of popular French films to watch)</p> | O | |
| <p>Introduce yourself to short stories in French: http://www.languageguide.org/french/readings/ (here you can read and listen to pronunciation at the same time) http://www.tremplinle.com/useful-links--resources.html (use this page to help you find a list of recommended French titles)</p> | O | |
| <p>Listen to French radio, select a station according to your interests: http://tunein.com/radio/French-Music-g143/ (You can find music, news or information programmes. Listen to a song or a news item and challenge yourself to work about what is being said)</p> | O | |
| <p>Research a tradition or custom from a French speaking country; does it surprise you how different this might be to the UK? Make a note of when, where and how it is celebrated. You will need to share this with the others in September.</p> | O | |
| <p>Challenge yourself to have a conversation with a native speaker (You could do this either in person through someone you know, or using an Internet site but remember to never give away your personal details and to stay safe!)</p> | O | |
| <p>Research a French painter, architect or sculptor. Make a note of any outstanding works – where and why is this person famous?</p> | O | |

... and lastly – keep a list of the dates on which you complete the activities over the holidays and bring this to your first lesson. It really will help you start off the term on the right foot. There will be a prize for the person who has evidence of completing the most activities on the list.

Bonnes vacances!