



# Sixth Form Preparation for Success

## Welcome to French

AQA French, specification code 7652

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### Introduction

The key to success at A Level French lies in being able to build on the communication skills that you have developed for GCSE and learning to use language more accurately in tasks such as essay writing, translation or the discussion of more abstract themes. The various tasks outlined below will provide you with the opportunity to begin to look at how you can improve your accuracy in French and begin to form opinions about some of the everyday subjects and issues that affect the world around us.

## Part I – Y11 into 12 French Specific Bridging Work

### To be completed May – September

Remember that prizes will be awarded for ‘exceptional’ work that demonstrates effort above expected!

#### a) Investigate places of interest

Clearly you are not going to be able to visit any French-speaking part of the world for the foreseeable future, so the next best thing is to delve into the multitude of online experiences that can give you at least a flavour of the exciting and invigorating environment that you are going to be studying.

1. Start with a brief introduction to the French-speaking world:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sE6eaxS1ZFY>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wlwTn61huA>

2. Followed by information of l’Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, the group of countries that work to promote the French language across the world:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46HFrpKJ-g>

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3. The French that is spoken across the world is not always the same. Find out about a project travelling the globe to celebrate the richness and diversity within the French-speaking world:

<http://www.caravanedesdixmots.com/>

4. The country with the greatest number of French speakers is the Central African Republic. Learn more about this fascinating country at:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hepl\\_J4-c5I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hepl_J4-c5I)

## **b) Wider reading**

1. Get a head start by reading and researching around any of the literary texts that you will have the opportunity to study as part of the A Level French course. You can choose from the following:-

- Molière : *Le Tartuffe*
- Voltaire : *Candide*
- Guy de Maupassant : *Boule de Suif et autres contes de la guerre*
- Albert Camus : *L'étranger*
- Françoise Sagan : *Bonjour tristesse*
- Claire Etcherelli : *Elise ou la vraie vie*
- Joseph Joffo : *Un sac de billes*
- Faïza Guène : *Kiffe kiffe demain*
- Philippe Grimbert : *Un secret*
- Delphine de Vigan : *No et moi*

2. Download a newspaper app such as *20minutes* onto your phone. Read at least two newspaper articles per week and attempt to translate some or all parts of the articles you have read into English.

3. Obtain a copy of the grammar book *Action Grammaire!: New Advanced French Grammar* by Phil Turk and Geneviève Garcia Vandale or *Mot à Mot* by Paul Humberstone (both available on Amazon) and work on any areas where you feel you need to consolidate your knowledge and understanding.

## **c) Compulsory tasks**

1. Visit <http://www.ecoledelarepublique.fr/article-liste-despaysfrancophones-66242232.htm> which contains a list of all of the countries in the world that have French as an official language. You need to choose one of the countries (other than France) and put together a detailed presentation in French to introduce the country. You will

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need to include as much relevant information as possible with particular emphasis on the following:-

- The political make-up of the country
- Its geography and recent history
- The cultural life of the country, including food, traditions and music
- An aspect of life in the country that you have found particularly interesting

2. Revise all GCSE grammar. You can use the following websites:-

<https://www.language-gym.com/#/>

<https://conjuguemos.com/>

[https://wn.com/Study\\_french](https://wn.com/Study_french)

<https://personal.colby.edu/~bknelson/SLC/>

<https://www.memrise.com>

#### **d) Stretch!**

Get interested in all things French!

1. Find out what is happening in the news via some of the French-speaking world's 24 hour news channels. Click on any reference to the word *Direct* in order to watch the programme live:-

[www.bfmtv.com](http://www.bfmtv.com)

[www.france24.com/fr](http://www.france24.com/fr)

[www.tv5monde.com](http://www.tv5monde.com)

[www.lci.fr](http://www.lci.fr)

[www.cnews.fr](http://www.cnews.fr)

[www.franceinfo.fr](http://www.franceinfo.fr)

[www.rtf.be/info](http://www.rtf.be/info)

[www.rts.ch/info](http://www.rts.ch/info)

[www.ici.radio-canada.ca](http://www.ici.radio-canada.ca)

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2. Watch *La Haine* and, if you can, *L'Auberge espagnole* and *Entre les Murs*. Failing that, look for any other film in French with English subtitles if possible. With France being the birthplace of modern cinema, the choice is endless! Let us know of any hidden gems that you discover.

3. Try watching a French language TV series. Many such as *Les Revenants*, *Baron Noir* and *Engrenages* are available on Netflix or Amazon Prime Video and for free in the Walter Presents area of All4.

4. Create a Spotify playlist of French language music (if current pop music is not your cup of tea, look for alternative French music or whatever type you like as there will be an equivalent in French).

5. Log onto the Kerboodle website (use the login provided by school). Get familiar with the course resources and with the topics that you will be studying from September: <https://www.kerboodle.com>

## **Part II - Year 12 Head Start! for completion June – September**

### **a) The A Level course**

Familiarise yourself with what you are going to be studying in A Level French by reading through the examination specification at:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/french/specifications/AQA-7652-SP-2016.PDF>

### **b) Our lessons**

Now that you have an overview of the whole course, here is what you can expect to study during the first half term in Year 12:-

#### ***Theme: La famille en voie de changement***

- *Describe and discuss trends in marriage and other forms of partnership*
- *Consider and discuss the merits and problems of different family structures*
- *Consider relationships between the generations and discuss problems that can arise*

A good idea at this stage is to start exploring the various topics you will study by becoming familiar with key vocabulary, a lot of which will be new to you and may appear quite complex. Think too about developing opinions and consider how you will later express these in French. Use the online versions of the A Level textbooks along with any other sources that you come across. Make a note of your findings and be prepared to share these with the class when lessons begin.

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### c) Your textbooks

We use Kerboodle's two A Level French textbooks, one for Year 12 and the other in Year 13. These will be provided for you but you may decide to purchase your own copies in order to be able to make notes in them.

You can access both books at any time online at: [www.kerboodle.com](http://www.kerboodle.com). Your username is usually your first initial followed by your surname and you will need to enter the school's Institution Code which is zv6. If you have any problems accessing the Kerboodle website please let us know and we can reset your password to match your username. Once you have successfully logged in you will be prompted to choose your own bespoke password.

### d) Additional tips and advice

1. Learn on the go! Download all the free versions of French apps that you can find onto your phone. They will be useful to practise vocabulary and some even offer exam-style reading comprehension questions. Well known language learning apps include Duolingo, Babbel, HelloTalk, Memrise and LyricsTraining.

2. One of the biggest requirements of stepping up to A Level is being able to master grammar. Revise and revisit as much grammar as you can with particular emphasis on:-

- conjugations (regular and irregular verbs) in the present, *passé composé*, imperfect and future tenses.
- when to use the *passé composé* and the imperfect tense.
- pronouns, particularly reflexive, direct and indirect object pronouns, and where they go in a sentence.
- the difference between *qui* and *que*.

3. A new area that you will be required to study at A Level French is literature and you will be expected to read a text and write about it in French. A good site to familiarise yourself with studying literature is [www.etudes-litteraires.com/](http://www.etudes-litteraires.com/)

4. The bridging work in part 1 contains an extensive list of useful French language websites and links. Another to consider and one which can help with developing your listening and reading skills is Radio France Internationale's website ([www.rfi.fr/fr](http://www.rfi.fr/fr)). The site contains a daily news programme under the title *En français facile* which comes with

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a transcript. To find it, click on *RFI Savoirs* on the homepage followed by *Learn and Teach French*.

5. Language learning is not just fun and highly rewarding but it can also be good for you! There is extensive research to show that the ability to speak more than one language improves cognitive function which comprises multiple mental abilities, including learning, thinking, reasoning, remembering, problem solving, decision making and attention. At McAuley we have been invited to take part in a project organised by the University of Cardiff which allows Sixth Form students to access university style themes and even lectures online. You can find out more, see a full timetable of events and explore a whole host of learning opportunities in French and other languages at <https://hwb.gov.wales/playlists/view/bbf64e57-3191-4a6d-94b3-f08b3dc5af69/en/3> or via the Twitter page @MFLmentoring.

6. Developing independent study skills is a key requirement in all A Level subjects and for French in particular. A significant part of your final speaking examination at the end of Year 13 will comprise an Independent Research Project and you will be expected to have chosen and begun working on your theme before completing Year 12. Now is the perfect time to start thinking about possible themes. The University of Cardiff project contains a number of possible ideas, but the possibility is pretty much endless. In previous years students have focused on themes such as famous French-speaking fashion designers and musicians as well as areas as diverse as the differences in the French spoken in the Canadian province of Québec, tourism and art. The key is to focus on an area in which you are interested, a subject about which you will be able to find sufficient information and ultimately be able to talk about confidently in French for an extended period of time.

7. Again with a view to developing your ability to study independently, research opportunities to work in French-speaking areas of the world or with multinational companies such as Nestlé, Total (petrochemicals), Bombardier (jet and rail manufacturing), Publicis (advertising), Accor (hotels), Capgemini (IT), Groupe PSA (Peugeot, Citroën, Opel, Vauxhall), Vivendi (broadcasting and entertainment), Danone (food production), Vinci (construction), L'Oréal and LVMH (Louis Vitton, Dior, Tiffany & Co.) which all have French as their main working language. Look for online resources that

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work for you and actively help you improve your language skills. Compare and share these with others. Look at the resources provided by organisations designed to promote the French language across the world such as the Alliance Française/Institut Français ([www.institut-francais.org.uk/](http://www.institut-francais.org.uk/)), L'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie ([www.francophonie.org](http://www.francophonie.org)), TV5 Monde ([www.tv5monde.com](http://www.tv5monde.com)) and the aforementioned Radio France Internationale ([www.rfi.fr/fr](http://www.rfi.fr/fr)). Remember that most international organisations such as l'ONU (United Nations), l'OIPC (Interpol), l'UE (European Union) and la FIFA (world football's governing body) use French as a principal working language.

Amusez-vous bien et à très bientôt !