



## Structure of Exam

### Subject content

Students study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based.

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

### Assessments

GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series.

#### Paper 1: Listening

##### What's assessed

Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language

##### How it's assessed

Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier)

40 marks (Foundation Tier), 50 marks (Higher Tier)

25% of GCSE

(Each exam includes 5 minutes' reading time of the question paper before the listening stimulus is played.)

##### Questions

##### Foundation Tier and Higher Tier

- Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally
- Section B – questions in French, to be answered in French or non-verbally



## Paper 2: Speaking

### What's assessed

Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes

### How it's assessed

- Non-exam assessment
- 7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + preparation time
- 10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) + preparation time
- 60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)
- 25% of GCSE

### Questions

#### Foundation Tier and Higher Tier

The format is the same at Foundation Tier and Higher Tier, but with different stimulus questions for the Photo card and different stimulus materials for the Role-play. The timings are different too:

- Role-play – 15 marks (2 minutes at Foundation Tier; 2 minutes at Higher Tier)
- Photo card – 15 marks (2 minutes at Foundation Tier; 3 minutes at Higher Tier)
- General conversation – 30 marks (3–5 minutes at Foundation Tier; 5–7 minutes at Higher Tier)



## Paper 3: Reading

### What's assessed

Understanding and responding to different types of written language

### How it's assessed

- Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour (Higher Tier)
- 60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)
- 25% of GCSE

## Questions

### Foundation Tier and Higher Tier

- Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally
- Section B – questions in French, to be answered in French or non-verbally
- Section C – translation from French into English (a minimum of 35 words for Foundation Tier and 50 words for Higher Tier)



## Paper 4: Writing

### What's assessed

Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes

### How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier)
- 50 marks at Foundation Tier and 60 marks at Higher Tier
- 25% of GCSE

## Questions

### Foundation Tier

- Question 1 – message (student produces four sentences in response to a photo) – 8 marks
- Question 2 – short passage (student writes a piece of continuous text in response to four brief bullet points, approximately 40 words in total) – 16 marks
- Question 3 – translation from English into French (minimum 35 words) – 10 marks
- Question 4 – structured writing task (student responds to four compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 90 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 16 marks

### Higher Tier

- Question 1 – structured writing task (student responds to four compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 90 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 16 marks
- Question 2 – open-ended writing task (student responds to two compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 150 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 32 marks
- Question 3 – translation from English into French (minimum 50 words) – 12 marks

<p><b>Exam Paper Links:</b></p> <p><a href="W:\Student Resources\MFL\MFL\GCSE papers and mark schemes for practice">W:\Student Resources\MFL\MFL\GCSE papers and mark schemes for practice</a></p> <p>AQA papers old exam papers (good for reading and listening)</p> <p>EDEXCEL Old exam papers (good for writing questions and long reading questions)</p>	<p><b>Useful Websites/Apps/Books:</b></p> <p><a href="https://www.vocabexpress.com/co/">https://www.vocabexpress.com/co/</a></p>
<p><b>How to revise:</b></p>	<p><b>Tips to Answer Common/Extended Questions:</b></p>
<p><b><u>Planning your study</u></b></p> <p>Make sure that you have <b>learned all the necessary words</b> after you complete each topic.</p> <p>You could draw a mind map or create a database on your PC. During the topic try to <b>learn ten new words a day</b>. Ask someone to test you on the words: you need to be able to spell the words properly so remember to write them down when being tested.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Try to complete <b>sample role-plays</b> and <b>conversations</b>, then make a recording of yourself. By <b>listening to the presentations</b> and <b>role-plays</b> as part of your revision plan, you will be able to boost your fluency. This is often more interesting and more beneficial than simply reading words on a page.</li> <li>• <b>Practise the questions</b> from your text books. This will build your confidence and enable you to anticipate the type of questions that will occur in the GCSE examination.</li> <li>• <b>Decide if you know the topic thoroughly</b> and if there are any weak areas: note them and look for ways to improve them in the next topic, e.g. use of adjectives, use of the past tense.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Preparing a Revision Programme</u></b></p> <p>You need to prepare a programme which allows you to focus on the weak areas: do not spend time revising the work that you know well. It may make you feel good, but it is unproductive and will do nothing to help you to move forward.</p>	<p><b><u>Four ways to improve your grade</u></b></p> <p><b>1. Listening and Reading</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ALWAYS read the question first carefully and highlight the question word so that you know the information that you are listening for. Use any visuals to help you to predict what you might hear.</li> <li>• Try to anticipate the answer and note down possible words to listen for.</li> <li>• Check numbers, dates and times very carefully.</li> <li>• In the <b>Listening test</b>, do not attempt to write phonetically, i.e. what you have just heard! Some candidates find this very confusing and ultimately end up writing about a completely different set of events.</li> <li>• In the <b>Reading examination</b>, read the questions before you read the passage.</li> <li>• Some words look like English words: you should try to work out their meaning.</li> <li>• It pays to think LOGICALLY in both the reading and listening papers. Sometimes you have to use your common sense to work out the answers from the information given.</li> <li>• Examiners will also test your knowledge of synonyms and related families of words. <i>Susanne aime bien lire</i> may become <i>Susanne adore la lecture</i>.</li> <li>• Ensure that you know synonyms and families of nouns and verbs. Make a list of synonyms, near-synonyms and word families and learn them carefully: e.g. <i>le voyage = le trajet</i>.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Speaking (Oral)</b></p>

Spend time on your presentations for the oral examination and look for ways to improve them.

- You need to be able to make use of previously learned language in another topic.
  - E.g. In the topic on family you have to be able to use adjectives to describe members of your family. - *Mon père est assez grand. Il a les cheveux courts et raides et les yeux marron. Il porte des lunettes et il a une moustache.*
  - In the topic on crime, you should be able to describe the criminal in the past tense. E.g. *Le voleur était assez grand. Il avait les cheveux courts et raides et les yeux bleus. Il portait des lunettes et une casquette.*

In the Speaking examination, there are two distinct test types.

- Firstly, role-play tasks – remember that your listening skills will also be tested here. In the role-play do NOT use complicated language structures: simple is best!
- In the conversation you will be able to discuss matters of personal or topical interest. You must also be able to justify opinions and discuss facts.
- You need to use present, past and future tenses. This is the time to use as many complicated structures as possible.
- Use a variety of verbs each time: try to use at least ten different verbs.
- Remember to speak clearly and to pronounce the words as well as you can.

### 3. Writing

- In the Writing tests you will be able to use and extend a great deal of the material prepared for the speaking examination.
- You must be able to write accurately and to structure your work logically and coherently.
- It is also important to note that at least 20% of the marks are allocated to knowledge and accurate application of grammar.
- There will be an emphasis on using appropriate structures and on achieving a high degree of accuracy.
- You need to learn your verb tables thoroughly: just as you learned your times-tables in mathematics!

### 4. Spelling

- It is important to spell accurately.
- If you are in any doubt about the spelling of a word, leave it out and find another way of expressing the idea.
- Always check carefully for accents and capital letters.