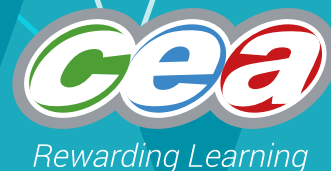


# FACTFILE: GCSE FRENCH LISTENING



## LISTENING

### Learning Outcomes

You should be able to:

- demonstrate understanding of different types of spoken language;
- follow and understand clear speech using familiar language;
- identify the overall message, key points, details and opinions in a variety of spoken passages;
- deduce meaning from a variety of spoken texts; and
- recognise and respond to key information, important themes and ideas in extended spoken text (including authentic sources, which may be adapted as appropriate) by being able to answer questions, extract information, evaluate and draw conclusions.

These lists are neither prescriptive nor exhaustive.

### Skills

Communication.  
Using ICT.  
Self-management.  
Working with others.  
Problem solving.  
Managing information.

### Preparation

Be aware of the specification requirements. There are three Contexts for Learning: each of them is equally important.

**Context 1: Identity, Lifestyle and Culture**

**Context 2: Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest**

**Context 3: School Life, Studies and the World of Work**

Develop a good knowledge of vocabulary and structures related to the topics in the Specification.

Learn vocabulary under topic areas as set out in the Vocabulary List in the French Specification

(Appendix 5) which is available on the CCEA website.

There is often a useful Vocabulary List summarising important words and structures at the end of a unit in your textbook.

To practise your listening skills use a variety of authentic French resources (radio/TV programmes/ songs/ films/podcasts and webcasts etc.) to listen to native speakers and improve your understanding skills.

In class, listen carefully to your teacher and to your French language assistant.

Use websites which offer a good variety of listening exercises at GCSE level in the specification topics to get used to a variety of registers and accents.

### Assessment Format

Be aware of the assessment format and grade boundaries of this component of the GCSE examination. Remember that you can take this exam at either Foundation Tier or Higher Tier.

**Foundation Tier:**

The Foundation Listening examination will last **approximately 35 minutes**.

The Foundation Listening examination has **two** sections, divided into **12** questions:

Section A is questions 1-8 and is assessed in English. It is worth 42 marks.

Section B is questions 9-12 and is assessed in French. It is worth 18 marks.

A Foundation Tier candidate begins by answering in English and concludes by answering in French.

**Higher Tier:**

The Higher Listening examination will last **approximately 45 minutes**.

The Higher Listening examination has **two** sections, divided into **12** questions:

Section A is questions 1-4 and is assessed in French. It is worth 18 marks.

Section B is questions 5-12 and is assessed in English. It is worth 42 marks.

A Higher Tier candidate begins by answering in French and concludes by answering in English.

Answer the questions in the specified language. In the exam, marks will not be awarded for answers in the wrong language.

**Practice**

Complete as many listening past papers as possible - this will help you become familiar with the style of questions used in the exam. Try to prepare for every listening practice session as though it were the exam.

Remember that in the exam you do not have control over the disk. The material will be repeated twice and you need to find the key information by the second repetition. Try not to become distracted or to lose focus on what you are hearing.

Each paper begins with a 5 minute reading period. Devise your own method so that you use this time wisely. You may wish to underline the question word or to annotate in English or in French.

Make sure that you understand the rubrics which are listed in the French Specification in Appendix 2.

Try to see what clues the title of the exercises can give you so that you can anticipate what topic you are going to hear. Each question has a title and a lead-in sentence. These will help you focus on the situation and may help you to predict the vocabulary that you might hear.

Attempt every question. Do not leave gaps. If necessary, make a good guess.

Always read the questions carefully and at least twice and ensure you understand what you are expected to answer. Avoid giving irrelevant information.

Look at the marks allocated to each question in the exam paper. This may give you a clue as to how much detail you have to include.

Do not focus on individual words. Try to get the gist of what is being said and then focus on the details. Make a note of key words and phrases that might help you with your answer.

Do not rush into answering the question; rather, listen to the end of the recording so that you hear all of the information in the question part before you answer the question set.

Ensure you answer in the language required.

Check your spellings both in French and in English.

When you have answered a question to your satisfaction and there is time left, use it to prepare for the next question.

**Revision**

Revise your notes to ensure that you have a very good knowledge of vocabulary and structures related to the topics in the Specification.

Remember that knowledge of grammatical structures is as important as knowledge of vocabulary. Revise tense formation and know what each tense sounds like.

Try to revise actively – do not just read over notes – write lists, make notes or posters, draw spider diagrams or word clouds, use online vocabulary quizzes and websites.

If you can gain access to transcripts, listen attentively to French while following the transcript – this will improve your ability to listen accurately.

Practise reading aloud at home and in class to gain confidence and fluency.

Go over listening exercises and past papers done in class, referring to the mark scheme as necessary.

Compile lists/notes/spider diagrams of vocabulary and topics as you revise them.

Consolidate your knowledge of basic vocabulary – numbers, dates, times, prepositions.

Revise vocabulary which is high frequency eg – question words, opinions, reasons, negatives,

linking words, time phrases, connectives, comparisons, qualifiers and quantifiers.

Due to the unique nature of language-learning, all skills are inter-connected so any material that you prepare for listening will help with speaking or reading or writing or translating.

