

FACTFILE:

GCSE FRENCH

READING



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Learning Outcomes

You should be able to:

- understand and respond to different types of written language;
- understand details within texts using high frequency familiar language;
- identify the overall message, key points, details and opinions in a variety of written passages;
- deduce meaning from a variety of written texts (from a range of specified contexts including short narratives, authentic material and unfamiliar material);
- recognise and respond to key information, important themes and ideas in extended written text and authentic sources;
- demonstrate understanding by being able to scan for particular information, organise and present relevant details, draw conclusions in context and recognise implicit meaning where appropriate; and
- translate sentences from French into English.

These lists are neither prescriptive nor exhaustive.

Skills

Communication.
Using Mathematics.
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 on the French 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.

Read for interest – magazines, newspapers, advertisements, short articles online. To practise your reading skills use a variety of authentic French resources (TV programmes, films, songs with subtitles,) as well as online articles, news headlines, social media in French etc.

Use websites which offer a good variety of reading exercises at GCSE level in the specification topics to get used to a variety of texts, topics and language.

Practise your reading skills with a variety of relevant exercises such as tick the correct answer, complete gaps, answer in French or English, find the meaning of different words, identify a range of tenses within a passage, find synonyms etc. All these activities will help you to expand your

vocabulary and knowledge of the topic.

Translate short texts and sentences in French related to the specification topics into English.

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 Reading examination will last **50 minutes**.

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

- Section A is questions 1-8 and is assessed in English. It is worth 36 marks. Question 8 asks you to translate sentences from French to English.
- Section B is questions 9-12 and is assessed in French. It is worth 24 marks.

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

Higher Tier:

The Higher Reading examination will last **60 minutes**.

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

- Section A is questions 1-4 and is assessed in French. It is worth 24 marks.
- Section B is questions 5-12 and is assessed in English. It is worth 36 marks. Question 5 asks you to translate sentences from French to English.

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 past papers as possible – this will help you to become familiar with the style of questions used in this exam.

Make sure that you understand the rubrics which are listed in the 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 read about. Each question has a title and a lead-in sentence. These will help you focus on the situation and may help you recall the

vocabulary that you might encounter.

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

It may help to write a) b) c) etc in the margin against the area of the text where you see the answer.

Take punctuation into account, as it may change the meaning of a sentence.

Do not become distracted or lose focus on what you are reading.

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

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

Try to get the gist of what you are reading and then focus on the details. While reading, make a note of key words and phrases that might help you with your answer.

Use all the time given for the paper. Practise time management. Remember to leave enough time for the most challenging questions.

Ensure that you answer what the question requires. Avoid irrelevant information.

Ensure you answer in the language required.

Check your spellings both in French and in English.

Ensure you use the verb tense required.

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 looks like.

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

Go over reading exercises, translation work and past papers completed in class, at home and online.

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

Learn word families.

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 all material that you prepare for reading will help with listening or speaking or writing or translating.

