

We seek to use lively minds, to work hard, to develop all our talents and to grow through sharing, to be the best version of ourselves



**A LEVEL
FRENCH
TRANSITION
MATERIAL**

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Bonjour!

We are delighted that you have chosen to study French A-level. Studying French will not only give you an A-level qualification, but a skill for life. It will give you the opportunity to communicate with many people in the French-speaking world across Europe, Africa and beyond. It will open up the possibilities of a wide variety of careers and you will be highly regarded by future employers. Furthermore, you will have the exciting opportunities to discover lots of new cultures.

Language learning should be fun, so in this booklet, we have given you some ideas for websites and podcasts, which you might like to start exploring over the summer. We would also recommend you try listening to some French music. Stromae is often a good starting point for students! You might also try watching a film in French. You might want to start with your favourite children's film, dubbed into French, or you might prefer to try a modern classic French film, such as *Les Intouchables* or *Amelie*, or even *400 Cents Coups* (if you like black and white classics!). The key thing is to follow your interests and enjoy your independent language learning!

In the second half of the booklet, we have included some grammar exercises, on tenses – to help you to begin the term with confidence. It would be great if you could try and complete these over the summer and bring them to your first lessons in September.

Bonnes vacances et à Septembre

Le département français à CGS!

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FREE FRENCH WEBSITES/APPS

FRENCH GRAMMAR & REVISION

www.languagesonline.org.uk

lots of grammar & exercises)

www.frenchinaclick.com

basic grammar revision

www.lepointdufle.net

a very comprehensive search (menu is in French but many of the exercises are in English) really useful site, from quite basic to AL so good general revision/learning site – all exercises are self-marking or interactive

www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french

interesting (Yr7 onwards) site

www.synonymes.com

a good search engine for synonyms

GAMES & VOCAB

www.quia.com/shared/french

various language games

www.memrise.com

vocab revision

www.transparent.com/word-of-the-day/today/french.html

a new word a day

www.quizlet.com

vocabulary for all levels

EXAM BOARD (@ CGS)

www.aqa.org/subjects/french

A Level (7652) syllabus & past papers

FRENCH TV & RADIO CHANNELS

(FOR MOST OF THESE YOU NEED TO REGISTER FOR FREE)

www.tf1.fr

good general fun channel (click **REPLAY** for iplayer)

www.france2.fr

lots of shows (a bit like ITV1) but the news is good

www.rtf.be

Belgian TV with lots of listening/articles

www.mtv.fr

French MTV songs/interviews

www.tv5monde.org

(serious) channel but good for AL type listening. Also a great section on the French language (click: **langue française** then click: **découvrir le français** for all sorts of games & exercise for foreigners leaning French)

www.rtl.fr

good music/news station in French (to listen online click: **RTL en direct**)

FRENCH MAGAZINES/NEWSPAPERS

www.elle.fr

fashion magazine

www.premiere.fr

film/cinema magazine

www.voici.fr

gossip magazine

www.lemonde.fr

the French equivalent of the Times (good but French quite challenging, especially for AL)

FRENCH LISTENING/READING

www.1jour1actu.com

French news aimed at French kids

www.rfi.fr

French radio - click: apprendre le français, click journal en français facile for slower version of the day's new (+ a transcript in French)

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www.ilini.com
www.lejdd.fr/top50
www.20minutes.fr

Listening passages + exercises (free subscription)
Articles on the top 50 most famous French people
accessible articles (general & world news)

PODCASTS

www.newsinslowfrench.com
www.coffeebreaklanguages.com
www.innerfrench.com/podcasts
www.onethinginafrenchday.com

slow news clips for learners (choose your level)
some free podcasts for learners
a range subjects on longer podcasts
small daily observations

THERE ARE MANY OTHERS – FIND ONES WHICH REFLECT YOUR INTEREST –
MUSIC, CINEMA, FOOTBALL, MAKEUP...

DICTIONARIES ONLINE

www.wordreference.com
www.reverso.net
www.collinsdictionary.com

a good, reliable site
equally good, with extensive examples
good dictionary site

DON'T USE GOOGLE TRANSLATE AS IT IS VERY UNRELIABLE AND YOU WON'T
BE ABLE TO RELY ON IT IN AN EXAM!

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GRAMMAR REVISION

THE PRESENT TENSE

The present tense describes what is happening now, at the present time or what happens regularly.

Je vais à l'école ce matin.

I am going to school this morning.

Il vend des glaces aussi.

He sells ice cream as well.

Elle joue au tennis le samedi.

She plays tennis on Saturdays.

In the present tense, most verbs use a regular pattern, depending on whether the ending of the infinitive ends in **-er**, **-re** or **-ir**.

	Chanter (to sing)	Attendre (to wait)	Choisir (to choose)
I	Je chante	J'attends	Je choisis
You (singular)	Tu chantes	Tu attends	Tu choisis
He/she/one	Il/Elle/On chante	Il/Elle/On attend	Il/Elle/On choisit
We	Nous chantons	Nous attendons	Nous choisissons
You (plural)	Vous chantez	Vous attendez	Vous choisissez
They	Ils/Elles chantent	Ils/Elles attendent	Ils/Elles choisissent

Fill-in the grid (irregular verbs)

INFINITIF	ANGLAIS	PRESENT
Aller	To go	Je
Avoir		J'
Boire		Tu
Croire		Je
Dire		

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		On
Ecrire		J'
Etre		Je
Faire		Il
Lire		On
Mettre		Je
Ouvrir		On.....
Partir		Elle
Prendre		Nous.....
Recevoir		Vous
Savoir		Ils
Sortir		Elles
Venir		Nous
Voir		Vous (pl)

THE PERFECT TENSE

The perfect tense is used to describe what happened in the past, an action which is completed and is not happening now.

It is made up of two parts: either *avoir* or *être* in the present tense, and a past participle.

Samedi dernier, j'ai chanté dans un concert. (Last Saturday, I sang in a concert.)

Hier, ils sont allés à La Rochelle. (Yesterday, they went to La Rochelle.)

Regular verbs form the past participle as follow:

-**er** verbs change to -**é** eg. *travailler* becomes *travaillé*

-**re** verbs change to -**u** eg. *attendre* becomes *attendu*

-**ir** verbs change to -**i** eg. *finir* becomes *fini*

Many verbs have irregular past participles.

Many verbs form the perfect tense with *avoir*. This includes many common verbs which have irregular past participles, such as:

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<i>Avoir</i>	<i>eu</i>	<i>Faire</i>	<i>fait</i>
<i>Boire</i>	<i>bu</i>	<i>Mettre</i>	<i>mis</i>
<i>Comprendre</i>	<i>compris</i>	<i>Pouvoir</i>	<i>pu</i>
<i>Connaître</i>	<i>connu</i>	<i>Prendre</i>	<i>pris</i>
<i>Croire</i>	<i>cru</i>	<i>Savoir</i>	<i>su</i>
<i>Devoir dû</i>		<i>Voir</i>	<i>vu</i>
<i>Dire</i>	<i>dit</i>	<i>Vouloir</i>	<i>voulu</i>
<i>Etre</i>	<i>été</i>		

About thirteen verbs, mostly verbs of movement like *aller* and *partir*, form the perfect tense with *être*. You need to learn them. The picture on the next page might help you to memorise them:

Fill-in the sentences with the complete form of the perfect tense

Ex. J' **ai pris** un café dans le restaurant du musée. (prendre)

1. Sophie et Charlotte _____ une glace dans un jardin public au centre de Paris. (manger)
2. André _____ à Montmartre, où il _____ le Sacré Cœur. (aller/voir)
3. Moi, j' _____ l'Arc de Triomphe, où j' _____ le tombeau du soldat inconnu. (visiter/voir)
4. Lise _____ du shopping dans un grand magasin et elle _____ des cartes postales. (faire/acheter)
5. Dans un centre d'art moderne, Jean et Christophe _____ l'escalier jusqu'au café, où ils _____ une limonade. (monter/boire)
6. Nous _____ le métro à Marne-la-Vallée, et nous _____ la journée à Disneyland Paris. (prendre/passé)

THE IMPERFECT TENSE

The imperfect is used to describe something that used to happen frequently or regularly in the past eg. *Quand j'étais petit, j'allais chez mes grands-parents tous les week-ends.* (When I was small, I **used to** go to my grandparents' every weekend.)

It is also used for description in the past, particularly of weather eg. *J'étais en vacances. Il faisait beau.* (I was on holidays. The weather was fine.)

It is also used to translate 'was... ing' and 'were...ing', as an interrupted action eg. *Que faisiez-vous quand j'ai téléphoné?* (What were you doing when I phoned?)

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La fête de fin d'année – fill in the gaps

Loïc et Christophe ont organisé la fête et **c'était** vraiment super ! Tous nos amis _____ là. Heureusement, il _____ un temps splendide, le soleil _____, et nous _____ manger dans le jardin. Tout le monde _____ un short ou quelques filles _____ une jupe courte ou une robe. Le buffet _____ délicieux et il y _____ un grand choix de boissons. Les glaces _____ les plats les plus populaires et on _____ choisir entre quatre parfums : vanille, fraise, chocolat ou citron.

THE FUTURE TENSE

The future tense is used to describe what will (or will not) happen at some future time:

L'année prochaine, je passerai mes vacances à Paris. (Next year I'll spend my holidays in Paris.)

The future tense must be used after *quand* if the idea of future tense is implied.

*Je lui dirai de vous téléphoner **quand** il rentrera.* (I'll ask him to phone you when he gets home)

To form the future tense of regular **-er** and **-ir** verbs, you just add the endings to the infinitive of the verb:

<i>Travailler</i>	<i>je travaillerai</i>	<i>Partir</i>	<i>nous partirons</i>
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To form the future tense of regular **-re** verbs, you take the final **-e** off the infinitive and add the endings:

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Some common irregular verbs have a different future stem – can you remember what they mean?

ALLER + INFINITIVE : You can use the present tense of the verb *aller* followed by an infinitive to talk about the future and what you are going to do:

Qu'est-ce que vous allez faire ce week-end? (What are you going to do this weekend ?)

Underline and translate all of the verbs in the future tense

Le monde à l'avenir.

Le monde à l'avenir, comment sera-t-il ? On vivra plus longtemps, mais est-ce qu'il y aura assez de nourriture pour tout le monde ? Est-ce qu'on fera plus pour protéger la planète ? Si le nombre de voitures continue à augmenter, les routes deviendront impossibles. Est-ce qu'on inventera de nouveaux moyens de transport ? Est-ce que beaucoup de personnes feront des voyages dans l'espace ?

On verra plus de gadgets électroniques, ça c'est certain ! On n'enverra plus de lettres ni de cartes postales par la poste, on fera toutes les communications par internet.

On dit que même les maisons seront intelligentes. Les ordinateurs, cachés dans les murs, feront tout pour les habitants. Ils sauront préparer des repas et pourront ouvrir et fermer les fenêtres.

Est-ce qu'on ira toujours à l'école, où est-ce qu'on devra apprendre ses cours par l'internet ?

Le monde à l'avenir sera certainement très différent !

THE CONDITIONAL TENSE

The conditional tense is used where 'would' or 'should' are used in English. It is a polite and less abrupt way of asking for something.

*Je **voudrais** partir maintenant.*

I **should like** to leave now

***Pourriez-vous** m'aider?*

Could you help me?

*J'**aimerais** aller au Québec.*

I '**d love** to go to Quebec.

It is used to say what would happen if a particular condition were fulfilled/

*Si j'**avais** beaucoup d'argent, je **ferais** le tour du monde.* (If I had a lot of money, I'd **travel** round the world.)

To form the conditional :

Future stem + imperfect endings

Je	voudr ais	I should like
Tu	voudr ais	You would like
Il/Elle/On	voudr ait	He/She/One would like
Nous	voudr ions	We would like
Vous	voudr iez	You would like
Ils/Elles	voudr aient	They would like

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Answer the questions. Que ferais tu... (what would you do?)

1. Si tu voyais un voleur dans le jardin?

2. Si la télévision tombait en panne?

3. Si tu avais oublié de faire tes devoirs de français?

4. Si tu voulais acheter un nouveau dictionnaire?

5. Si tu gagnais mille livres dans un concours?

6. Si ta voiture tombait en panne en pleine campagne?

7. Si tu devais choisir quatre matières à étudier pour les A-levels?

RECOGNIZING TENSES

Recognizing time frames and verb tenses is a sign of skill in language learning and is vital if you wish to reach the higher grades.

Reminder:

Je révise = I revise/ I'm revising

Je vais réviser = I'm going to revise

J'ai révisé = I revised
to revise/I was revising

Je réviserai = I shall revise/ I'll revise

Je révisais = I used

Je réviserais = I would revise

Show you can recognize time frames by translating these sentences.

1. Ce matin j'ai fini mon petit déjeuner à huit heures.
2. En général je préfère le rugby au football.
3. Demain matin je vais aller retrouver ma copine en ville.
4. Il y a 10 ans j'allais à l'école primaire.
5. Pendant les vacances j'ai logé dans une auberge de jeunesse.

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6. Je n'ai pas fini mes devoirs hier soir.
7. Le weekend prochain je regarderai le nouveau film de James Bond.
8. En ce moment je fais un exercice de grammaire.
9. Demain soir je vais surfer sur Internet.
10. Quand j'étais petit je regardais trop de télévision.
11. L'année prochaine j'aurai 17 ans.
12. Normalement nous faisons une promenade à la campagne.
13. Si j'avais plus d'argent, j'irais à Paris.
14. Demain après-midi nous allons partir à 2 heures.
15. Ils ont terminé leur examen à 3 heures.

We will also revise question formation, pronouns (direct and indirect), adjectives, prepositions and qui/que in the first few weeks – use the websites suggested above, to revise these topics. At A-level, we will expect you to always do extra practise beyond the classroom, as part of your independent learning!