

## Welcome to A-Level French!

Please complete the following three tasks, ready for your first day at New College.

- 1) **Grammar task: your first task is to research and learn thoroughly the Present Tense in French and produce a poster or leaflet or set of flashcards.**

### You need to research and learn:

- Regular verb endings ( er, ir and re verbs following a common pattern)
- Irregular verbs like faire, aller, avoir, pouvoir .... ( verbs which do not follow the common pattern)
- When to use the present tense
- When to use je, tu, il, elle, on, nous, vous, ils and elles.

**You will be tested on the Present Tense in September, in the second or third lesson, in the form of a list of verbs which you will have to conjugate and translate ; for example:**

aimer ( tu) = tu aimes - you like

**You also need to produce a poster or leaflet or set of flashcards** to show off what you have learnt about the Present Tense.

You have been using the Present tense since you started learning French ( je suis, j'ai, je m'appelle, je regarde ....) so you already have some information about it. For A-level however, you need to know it in much more depth before we progress to several other tenses.

**Here are a few links to You tube videos to help you find out more about it for you to make notes and produce your poster / leaflet / set of flashcards and also to practice them when you have all the notes you need.**

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OeflUD5ECR4&list=RDOeflUD5ECR4 - t=20>: songs to practice different verbs
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vnJ3NDt\\_lIE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vnJ3NDt_lIE) : French with Pascal, explanation of er and ir verbs
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-pF1sYRZKc> : French with Pascal, explanation of irregular verbs
- <http://www.laits.utexas.edu/tex/> : interactive website which explain grammar rules and gives you exercises to do online
- <http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/Index.htm> : same as above

2) **Film study preparation task: for your second task, please go to the link below to the AQA A-level French specification where it shows you the choice of A-level films. At the end of Year 12 we will be studying “ La haine”. However, over the summer I would like you to choose one (it could be this one or a different one), watch it and make a leaflet / handout in French explaining:**

- plot
- setting
- main characters
- themes
- why you like it / don't like it

**This needs to be handed to me in your first lesson and will show me your interest in the cultural awareness side of the course.**

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/french-7652/subject-content/works>

There are other films you could watch, not on the AQA list such as:

- Intouchables ( 2011) Olivier Nakache et Eric Toledano
- Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis ( 2008) Dany Boon
- L'ascension ( 2017) – The climb on Netflix – Ludovic Bernard

### 3) **Research of a French-speaking country**

**A-level languages are not just about speaking the language to a high level; it is essential to build up cultural, historical and political knowledge about French speaking countries (not just France) as well as good research skills. Over the summer, for your third task, you are going to choose ONE French-speaking country (not France) to research from this list: Canada, Québec, Belgium, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Haiti, Madagascar or Senegal.**

You are going to find out about **some** of the following aspects of your chosen country:

- population size
- geographical location and features (e.g. mountainous, on the coast, climate etc)
- any important historical events in the recent past (last 50 years) (e.g. wars, independence, etc)
- what is the current political situation in your chosen country (e.g. name of leader and party, left / right-wing and how long have they been in power)
- details of famous people in the French-speaking world from your chosen country (e.g. singers, actors, models, musicians, sports stars etc)
- what is your country famous for (e.g. food, dances, traditions, sports etc)

- what places of interest are there (e.g. World Heritage Sites, important tourist destinations, major cities etc)
- is same-sex marriage legal and the adoption of children by same-sex couples
- what are the average literacy levels in the population and numbers in higher education
- is immigration to this country an issue or have people tended to leave this country
- are there any significant social problems in this country (e.g. high levels of crime, poverty, corruption etc)

This list just gives you some ideas about the sort of information you may find useful during the course but don't attempt to find out everything! Some suggestions here apply to some countries more than others.

**You will need to make notes from your research (in French) and then select what you consider to be the most relevant and then learn those facts from memory.**

So, to summarize:

- You have to produce **2 leaflets**: one on the present tense ( which can be in French or in English) and one on the film you have watched ( in French).
- You have to learn the present tense and the facts/ figures etc on your chosen French speaking country for an assessment during your first week.

**Half of your initial assessment mark will be the quality of your writing about your chosen country (the other half will be the Present Tense verb test) which will be done in the first week in September in class. You will have 30 minutes to write from memory about your chosen country and give some personal response to your findings.**

Finally, I would strongly advise you to go on the AQA website and look at the syllabus for A level French so that you know what we are going to study over the next 2 years regarding topics and grammar as well as understanding what you will be examined on ( 3 exam papers ):

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/french-7652/specification-at-a-glance>

**Bonne chance et à la rentrée!**