

Opening doors to a brighter future

Welcome to A Level French!

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

There are 2 tasks:

1. Research and learn the Present Tense in French

You will have learned the Present Tense since Year 7 and should know the formation and endings of -er, -re and -ir verbs as well as common irregular verbs like avoir and être. If you do not know this already, you have to research it and learn it. You are also expected to research and learn the formation of irregular verbs in the present tense.

You need to research and learn:

- How do you form the Present Tense
- What the present tense translate as (I do, I am doing)
- Verb endings for regular verbs (-er, -ir, -re)
- Irregular verbs and how they are conjugated
- What do “ je, tu, il, elle, on, nous, vous, ils and elles “ mean.

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 do like

tenir (ils) = ils tiennent - they are holding/ they hold/ they do hold

You will also be asked, in this test, to write or translate a paragraph in French in the present tense. You finally need to produce a poster/ leaflet/ set of flashcards to show off what you have learned about the Present Tense.

You must know irregular verbs and how to conjugate them in the present tense. You are expected to know the following verbs:

Avoir, être, faire, aller, venir, tenir, s'appeler, prendre, mettre, devoir, pouvoir, vouloir, offrir, partir, sortir, savoir, ouvrir, dire, voir, dormir, croire, boire, partager, essayer.

Here are a few links to help you find out more about it and more importantly practise and learn it:

<https://www.lawlessfrench.com/grammar/present-tense/> : this website explains the present tense and below the explanations you can click on links to regular, irregular and stem changing verbs.

There are also exercises.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z6dx382/revision/3>: explanations and exercises

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbx4RDJhNUE> : conjugation of irregular verbs and how to pronounce them.

Opening doors to a brighter future

I would advise that you test yourself with verb grids to make sure you know these verbs before you start the A level course. It is easy to make verb grids. Here is an example:

	Je	Tu	Il/elle/on	nous	vous	Ils/elles
voir						
croire						
aller						

2. 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 second task, you can choose ONE French-speaking country (not France) to research from this list: Belgium, Congo, Senegal, Quebec, Cameroon, Monaco, Haiti, Guadeloupe, Ivory Coast.

You could produce a piece of writing (around 250 words), a scrap book, a PowerPoint or Prezzi (or something similar) to show off your findings which should be in French. Please avoid cutting and pasting from the internet or google translate! You are going to find out about some of the following aspects of your chosen country (not all):

- 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, dictatorships 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 celebrities 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)
- 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. Please make sure this work is ready to be handed in during the first lesson.

Bonne chance et à la rentrée!