

Welcome to A-Level French!

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

- Grammar task:** your first task is to research and learn how to conjugate the following verbs in the '**I/You (singular)/He, She, it / We / You (plural) / They**' forms in **several tenses**. You should produce posters, leaflets or sets of flashcards.

Regular 'er' Verbs

e.g., *Parler* = to speak/talk

Regular 'ir' Verbs

e.g., *Finir* = to finish

Regular 're' Verbs

e.g., *Vendre* = to sell

IRREGULAR Verbs

Aller = to go

Avoir = to have

Être = to be

Pouvoir = to be able to (can)

Devoir = to have to (must)

Vouloir = to want

Faire = to do/make

Task 1a: You need to research and learn:

- All of the above verbs in their '*Je (j') / Tu / Il, Elle, On / Nous / Vous / Ils, Elles*' forms.
- All of the above verbs in the
 - Present
 - True/Simple Future ('will')
 - Perfect (Past) with '*Avoir*' and '*Être*'

You will be tested on your knowledge of these verbs and tenses in September, in the second or third lesson. You will be expected to conjugate the verbs into the various tenses appropriately. You will have covered these common and essential verbs and basic tenses already between Year 7 and Year 11. See below for examples of what your test will look like:

Test Question Examples :

- Hier, la télévision (regarder = I watched)*
Answer : *Hier,.....J'ai regardé... la télévision (regarder = I watched)*
- D'habitude, mes parents très occupés (être = (they) are)*
Answer : *D'habitude mes parents ,.....(ils) sont... très occupés (être = (they) are)*

Task 1b: You also need to produce posters, leaflet or sets of flashcards to show off what you have learnt about all the verbs in the different tenses; Present - True/Simple Future ('will') - Perfect (Past) with 'Avoir' and 'Être'.

You have been using these basic tenses since you started learning French 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.

- a) There are some fantastic resources online in order for you to learn and practice the Regular and Irregular verbs in various tenses but I highly recommend that you check out the YouTube tutorials '**Learn French with Alexa**' as a starting point to help you find out more about it for you to make notes and produce your poster / leaflet / set of flashcards and also to practise them when you have all the notes you need.
- b) In addition, there are so many other excellent websites and online resources which you could explore, simply by doing a **Google** search for what you need, e.g., 'French present tense verb practice'.
- c) Here are some links to a great website that has lots of Tutorials and practice exercises for you to test yourself. You can find all sorts of useful things relating to French grammar simply by using the '**search the site**' tab in the right-hand corner.

https://www.tolearnfrench.com/french_lessons/present (Present Tense)

<https://www.tolearnfrench.com/cgi2/myexam/liaison.php?liaison= futur> (Future Tense)

<https://www.tolearnfrench.com/cgi2/myexam/liaison.php?liaison= passe> (Passé Composé Past Tense)

2) Useful Recurring A Level Verbs: During your A Level French studies you will encounter many new verbs which will be extremely useful as they often appear in the texts we do in lessons and also in the exams. They sometimes cause problems for students and can often be specific to topics that you will study.

Task: 2a: From the list of verbs below, select 15 of them and create a sentence in **French** using that particular verb and also translate each sentence into English.

Task: 2b: Learn all these verbs for a written vocabulary test; **French into English**. The translation in **bold in the most common** translation when there are 2 meanings of the same verb. **You must know both meanings.**

- Attendre = to wait, to wait for
- Avoir du mal à = to find it difficult to, to have difficulty doing
- Compter = **to include, to have (boast)** / to count
- Conduire à/ mener à = to lead to, result in
- Décevoir = to disappoint
- Défendre = **to forbid, to refuse, to not allow** / to defend
- Demander = to ask, to ask for
- Dénoncer = to report, to tell on, to inform on / to denounce, to condemn
- Déranger = to bother, to disturb, to interrupt / to upset
- Exiger = to demand
- Expérimenter = **to experience, to feel** / to experiment
- Ignorer = to be unaware of, to know nothing about / to ignore
- Importer = **to matter, to be important** / to import
- Interpréter = **to perform, to sing, to play (a role)** / to interpret
- Manquer = to miss / to lack
- Mettre en place (la mise en place) = to implement, to put in place
- Mettre l'accent sur / mettre en évidence = to highlight, to draw attention to
- Nuire à / endommager = to harm, to damage
- Plaindre = to pity, to sympathise with
- Prétendre = to claim
- Réaliser = to fulfil, accomplish, achieve / to carry out, to undertake
- Remettre en cause = to question, to challenge
- Revendiquer (une revendication) = to demand, to claim
- S'attendre à = to expect
- Se plaindre **de** / (une plainte) = to complain about, to moan about
- Sensibiliser = to raise awareness
- Supporter = to bear, to put up with, to stand, to cope with
- Surpeupler (la surpopulation) / bonder = to overcrowd
- Toucher = **to affect, to concern** / to touch
- Viser à = to aim to

As well as this vocab test, you will also have a **short paragraph to translate into English** which uses some of these verbs and common regular and irregular verbs in the past, present and future time frames.

3) Preliminary Research of our Topics of Study relating to 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, I would like you to spend some time on researching the following Topics and find out between 5-10 facts (percentages, statistics, dates, names of people, laws, regulations, etc) for each of the Topics. *This will be really useful for your Speaking Exams but remember to note down details in French relating to a French speaking country.*

Please find 5-10 facts for each of the following Topics in French about a French speaking country:

- Comment la famille a changé, les relations, le mariage et le divorce
- La technologie et les réseaux sociaux
- Le bénévolat
- Le tourisme et le patrimoine dans le monde francophone et son importance
- La musique
- Le cinéma

So, to summarise, for your first week of study at New College Pontefract...

- You have to learn the verbs and tenses for the Initial Assessment which will take place in the second or third lesson (verb conjugations, meaning of the listed verbs and translation into English of a paragraph).
- You have to produce **leaflets/posters/flash cards** on general **Regular** verbs and those **specific Irregular** verbs in the specified tenses (to be handed in in the first lesson).
- You have to create 15 French sentences using the **Recurring A Level Verbs** and translate them into English (to be handed in in the first lesson).
- You have to produce the 5-10 facts/statistics/figures, etc on each of the Topics of Study (to be handed in in the first lesson).

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/french/a-level/french-7652/specification/specification-at-a-glance>

Bonne chance et à la rentrée !

Valérie Bell

(Teacher of French)