



Gateway: French

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The Benefits of Learning French

Studying A Level French will not only enable you to learn the French language, but you will gain an in-depth insight into the cultural, social, political and artistic aspects of the French speaking country/countries you will study.

Follow these links to find out some of the benefits of learning French!

https://ted.com/talks/john_mcwhorter_4_reasons_to_learn_a_new_language?utm_source=tedcomshare&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=tedsread

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMmOLN5zBLY>

<http://www.thefrenchcorner.net/2014/09/30-reasons-to-learn-french.html>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/jobs-using-french-or-other-languages-1368771>

<https://www.fluentu.com/blog/french/jobs-that-require-french/>

http://faculty.kutztown.edu/dewey/why_french.htm

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationopinion/10126883/Why-learn-a-foreign-language-Benefits-of-bilingualism.html>

Demonstrate your learning

1. Go to the PiXL 'Rank IT' triangle and rank the benefits of learning French in order of importance for you.
2. What is the most startling or surprising fact you have discovered from your research?
3. Prepare a five minute presentation promoting the benefits of learning French. Create a PowerPoint and be prepared to deliver it to your classmates or as an assembly when you return to school.

Further research

Find out some basic facts about the geography, history, politics and culture of France and one other French-speaking country.

1. Use the PiXL 'Quizzing' template to show what you have learned.
2. Use the PiXL 'Boxing Up' activity to show your knowledge.



Prepare for A Level

It's important to start preparing for A Level French as soon as you've made the decision to study it. Here are five tasks that will help you familiarise yourself with the course and what it entails.

1. Find out about the Edexcel A level French course and exam.

2. Follow the link to the PiXL Edexcel exam board specific transition booklet and work through the activities. These will help you to gain an insight into the topics you will study, and you can start learning the topic specific vocabulary. **(You will need to ask your teacher to download these using their login and password)**

<https://pixl.huddle.net/workspace/21044136/files/#/folder/43766614/list>

3. Visit the Edexcel exam board website and download the specification and look at the specimen assessment material. Don't panic; it will look daunting at first.

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/demo/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/french-2016.html#tab-1>

4. Having a good grasp of French grammar is essential to the A level course. Download PiXL Independence booklets and work through the activities and learn everything you need to know. Go to students@pixl.org.uk. Your school has your login details.

5. Check out the PiXL Thinkit mats. They are jam-packed with useful language. **(You will need login and password information to access this.)**

<https://auth.pixl.org.uk/members/knowledge/A%20Level>

[https://auth.pixl.org.uk/members/#!/knowledge/GCSE/MFL French](https://auth.pixl.org.uk/members/#!/knowledge/GCSE/MFL%20French)



A Level Language Essentials

It's important to start Year 12 equipped with the essentials. Below are six tasks which aim to develop your knowledge of key verbs and more sophisticated language structures.

High Frequency Verbs

avoir	pouvoir
être	devoir
aller	vouloir
faire	savoir

Create a wall chart displaying these verbs in all their forms and in the following tenses:

- present tense
- perfect tense
- imperfect tense
- simple future tense
- conditional tense

Memorise these verbs thoroughly and test yourself regularly.

Sentence Starters

Ce qui me frappe le plus...What strikes me the most is...
 Ce que je ne peux pas supporter...What I cannot bear is...
 Je m'inquiète beaucoup car...I worry very much because...
 Ce qui est bien c'est qu'on peut...What's good is that you can...
 L'avantage c'est qu'il y a...The advantage is that there is...

Write 3 sentences using each of these sentence starters. Give your opinion on:

- Immigration and multicultural society
- Changes in society
- French culture

In
Fr
ne

response to a question on

Puisque ce sera difficile... - Since this will be difficult...
 Grâce à... - Thanks to...
 À cause de... - Because of...
 Dès ce moment, j'ai décidé de... - From that moment, I decided to...
 Pendant que j'étais là - While I was there.
 Malgré - despite
 À la suite de - As a result of/following

Write 3 sentences using each of these connectives.

Research other connectives online and create a list.

Learn about other linking words from

Write 3 sentences using each of these subjunctive mood sentence starters.

Follow the link to this website and complete some research on subjunctive mood.

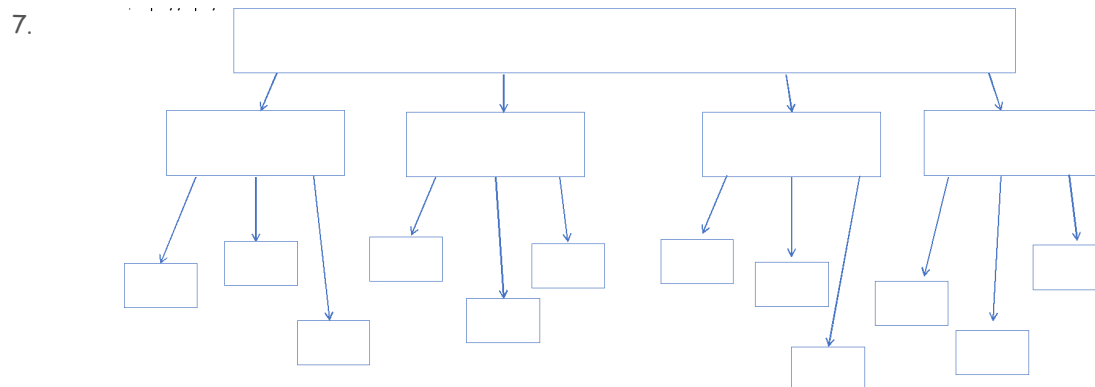
<https://www.frenchtoday.com/blog/french-verb-conjugation/understanding-french-subjunctive>

Il est nécessaire qu'on fasse ce qui est important dans la vie.
 It is necessary that we do what's important in life.
 Afin qu'on puisse... In order that you can...
 Il faut que je sois honnête... I must be honest
 Bien que je sache que ce n'est pas évident...
 Although I know it's not obvious...

You will study two literary texts (books) and a film.

Complete the tasks below before you start the course.

1. **Read** the book: *L'Étranger* by Albert Camus at least twice.
2. **Watch** these two films - we will study one of them: *Les Intouchables* and *La Haine*.
3. **Annotate** (make notes about) **the text** as you read. This will help you find important passages easily when you start writing an analysis. Translate words you don't know. Circle, highlight, or note anything that's confusing, important, surprising, or interesting.
4. In the same way **make similar notes** as you watch the film. Rely on subtitles at first and then watch without them.
5. **Write down the main** characters' names and a brief description of their personalities or major characteristics (in English and French).
6. Use the **organisation chart** below to deconstruct the book. Start with chapters and then do themes, characters, events, scenes and literary or cinematic devices.



Make a timeline of the major events that occur in the book, especially if the chronology is complicated or confusing. Keep multiple timelines if the story jumps back and forth between different plotlines.

8. Complete the ranking and prioritise activities below:

- Choose the three most important chapters/scenes in the book/film. Explain why you have chosen them.
- Rank the main themes of the novel/film in order of importance. Explain the rationale behind your decisions.

Choose the five most influential characters in the book/film and give reasons why.
Pick out three of the most powerful quotations in the book/scenes in the film which depict the main theme.



Useful Websites

Look at these websites. They will be invaluable during your A Level French course. Visit each one and make notes on their usefulness and purpose.

General help

<https://www.thoughtco.com/french-4133079>

Verb practice

<http://www.verb2verbe.com/TestInit.aspx>

Thesaurus

<http://www.crisco.unicaen.fr/des/>

Translator in context

<https://www.linguee.com/>

Translator in context

http://www.reverso.net/text_translation.aspx?lang=EN

French Pronunciation (Excellent preparation for speaking tests)

<http://www.acapela-group.com/text-to-speech-interactive-demo.html>

French AS and A2 Level Vocabulary

http://www.realfrench.net/vocab/index3.php?function=choose_list_cat&level=3&Submit=Choose+a+category+of+vocab+to+list

French AS and A2 Level Vocabulary

<http://www.frenchteacher.net/alevel/lexique.htm>

News on current events in France /World (in French)

<http://www.20minutes.fr/>

News on current events in France /World (in French and quite advanced)

<http://www.curiosphere.tv/>

News on current events in France /World (in French) (about AS level)

<http://www.monjtquotidien.com/>

Fantastic listening exercises to do online

<http://www.lafrancebis.com/>

French AS / A2 Level Help

<http://www.scool.co.uk/alevel/french.html>

- To improve and practise your language skills

www.duolingo.com/courses/fr log in for free and try (and improve) your skills

to find out about current cultural events – based in London

www.l'institut-francais.org.uk

To follow the news in France

You tube: France tv soutitré – this will enable you to follow with English subtitles.

Very short extracts of French life

You tube – film clips français (eg le confinement - film clips about lockdown in France).

Do you like French music?

[Youtube chansons 2020 avec paroles](#)

Listen and see the words.

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