

# GCSE French Examination Information

## Subject Content:

Assessment is set in the context of these three themes.

- **Theme 1:** People and lifestyle
- **Theme 2:** Popular culture
- **Theme 3:** Communication and the world around us

Subject	Exam board	Exam Board Specification Title	Link to specification
GCSE French	AQA	FRENCH (8652)	<a href="#">Specification</a>

## Assessment:

Paper 1: Listening
<b>What's assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Understanding and responding to spoken extracts comprising the defined vocabulary and grammar for each tier</li><li>• Dictation of short, spoken extracts</li></ul>
<b>How it's assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation tier), 45 minutes (Higher tier)</li><li>• 40 marks (Foundation tier), 50 marks (Higher tier)</li><li>• 25% of GCSE</li><li>•</li></ul> Recording controlled by the invigilator with built-in repetitions and pauses.

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Each exam includes 5 minutes' reading time at the start of the question paper before the listening material is played and 2 minutes at the end of the recording for students to check their work

## Questions

- **Section A** – listening comprehension questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally (32 marks at Foundation tier and 40 marks at Higher tier)
- **Section B** – Dictation where students transcribe short sentences, including a small number of words from outside the prescribed vocabulary list (8 marks at Foundation tier and 10 marks at Higher tier)

## Paper 2: Speaking

### What's assessed

- Speaking using clear and comprehensible language to undertake a role-play
- Carry out a reading aloud task
- Talk about visual stimuli

### How it's assessed

- Non-exam assessment (NEA)
- 7–9 minutes (Foundation tier) + 15 minutes' supervised preparation time
- 10–12 minutes (Higher tier) + 15 minutes' supervised preparation time
- 50 marks (for each of Foundation tier and Higher tier)
- 25% of GCSE

### Questions

The format is the same at Foundation tier and Higher tier, but with different stimulus materials for the role-play and the reading aloud task. For the photo card task, the same photos are used at both tiers.

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- Role-play – 10 marks (recommended to last between 1 and 1.5 minutes at both tiers)
- Reading aloud task and short conversation – 15 marks (recommended to last in total between 2 and 2.5 minutes at Foundation tier and between 3 and 3.5 minutes at Higher tier)
- Reading aloud task: minimum 35 words of text at Foundation tier and 50 words at Higher tier
- Short unprepared conversation
- Photo card discussion – 25 marks (recommended to last between 4 and 5 minutes in total at Foundation tier, and between 6 and 7 minutes in total at Higher tier)
- Response to the content of the photos on the card (recommended to last approximately 1 minute at Foundation tier and approximately 1.5 minutes at Higher tier)
- Unprepared conversation (recommended to last between 3 and 4 minutes at Foundation tier and between 4.5 and 5.5 minutes at Higher tier)
- Question types: multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response, extended prose

## Paper 3: Reading

### What's assessed

- Understanding and responding to written texts which focus predominantly on the vocabulary and grammar at each tier
- Inferring plausible meanings of single words when they're embedded in written sentences
- Translating from French into English

### How it's assessed

- Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation tier), 1 hour (Higher tier)
- 50 marks (for each of Foundation tier and Higher tier)
- 25% of GCSE

### Questions

- **Section A** – reading comprehension questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally (40 marks)

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- **Section B** – translation from French into English, minimum of 35 words at Foundation tier and 50 words at Higher tier (10 marks)

## Paper 4: Writing

### What's assessed

- Writing text in the language in a lexically and grammatically accurate way in response to simple and familiar stimuli
- Translating from English into French.

### How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 10 minutes (Foundation tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher tier)
- 50 marks (for each of Foundation tier and Higher tier)
- 25% of GCSE

### Questions

#### Foundation tier

- Question 1 – student produces five short sentences in response to a photo (10 marks)
- Question 2 – student produces a short piece of writing in response to five compulsory bullet points, approximately 50 words in total (10 marks)
- Question 3 – student completes five short grammar tasks (5 marks)
- Question 4 – translation of sentences from English into French, minimum 35 words in total (10 marks)
- Question 5 (overlap question) – student produces a piece of writing in response to three compulsory bullet points, approximately 90 words in total. There is a choice from two questions (15 marks)

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## Higher tier

- Question 1 – translation of sentences from English into French, minimum 50 words in total (10 marks)
- Question 2 – student produces a piece of writing in response to three compulsory bullet points, approximately 90 words in total. There is a choice from two questions (15 marks)
- Question 3 – Open-ended writing task (student responds to two bullets, producing approximately 150 words in total). There is a choice from two questions (25 marks)