

# **French A Level Transition Booklet**

## **Notre Dame Catholic Sixth Form College**

This booklet has been prepared by MFL staff for you to read and the suggested activities contained in it will ensure that you get off to the best possible start in this subject area. It is very important that you read this booklet carefully over the summer. This will give you a clear understanding of what the course involves and what to expect next year.

Exam board: AQA

Paper 1: Listening, Reading & Writing

Paper 2: Writing (Film/Novel)

Paper 3: Speaking

Textbook: Hodder Education AQA A level French

Course Specification:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/french/specifications/AQA-7652-SP-2016.PDF>

# Activité 1: Le cursus

Read through the list of themes we will study and translate them into English. Use a dictionary to help if you need it.

<b>Aspects of French-speaking society – current trends</b> (in relation to any French-speaking country or countries)	
<b>French</b>	<b>English Translation</b>
La famille en voie de changement	The changing nature of family
1. Grands-parents, parents et enfants – soucis et problèmes	
2. Monoparentalité, homoparentalité, familles recomposées	
3. La vie de couple – nouvelles tendances	
La cyber-société	Cyber-society
1. Qui sont les cybernautes ?	
2. Comment la technologie facilite la vie quotidienne	
3. Quels dangers la « cyber-société » pose-t-elle ?	
Le rôle du bénévolat	The rôle of voluntary work
1. Qui sont et que font les bénévoles ?	
2. Le bénévolat – quelle valeur pour ceux qui sont aidés ?	
3. Le bénévolat – quelle valeur pour ceux qui aident ?	

<b>Artistic culture in the French-speaking world</b> (in relation to any French-speaking country or countries)	
<b>French</b>	<b>English Translation</b>
Une culture fière de son patrimoine	A culture proud of its heritage
1. Le patrimoine sur le plan national, régional et local	
2. Comment le patrimoine reflète la culture	
3. Le patrimoine et le tourisme	
La musique francophone contemporaine	Contemporary francophone music
1. La diversité de la musique francophone contemporaine	
2. Qui écoute et apprécie cette musique ?	

3. Comment sauvegarder cette musique ?	
<b>Cinéma : le septième art</b>	<b>Cinema: the 7<sup>th</sup> art form</b>
1. Pourquoi le septième art ?	
2. Le cinéma – une passion nationale ?	
3. Evolution du cinéma – les grandes lignes	

## Aspects in French-speaking society – current issues

(in relation to any French-speaking country or countries)

French	English Translation
<b>Les aspects positifs d'une société diverse</b>	<b>Positive features of a diverse society</b>
1. L'enrichissement dû à la mixité ethnique	
2. Diversité, tolérance et respect	
3. Diversité – une apprentissage pour la vie	
<b>Quelle vie pour les marginalisés?</b>	<b>Life for the marginalised</b>
1. Qui sont les marginalisés ?	
2. Quelle aide pour les marginalisés ?	
3. Quelles attitudes envers les marginalisés?	
<b>Comment on traite les criminels</b>	<b>How criminals are treated</b>
1. Quelles attitudes envers la criminalité?	
2. La prison – échec ou succès ?	
3. D'autres sanctions	

## Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world

(in relation to any French-speaking country or countries)

French	English Translation
<b>Les ados, le droit de vote et l'engagement politique</b>	<b>Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment</b>
1. Pour ou contre le droit de vote ?	
2. Les ados et l'engagement politique – motivés ou démotivés ?	
3. Quel avenir pour la politique	

Manifestations, grèves – à qui le pouvoir ?	Demonstrations, strikes – who holds the power?
1. Le pouvoir des syndicats	
2. Manifestations et grèves – sont-elles efficaces ?	
3. Attitudes différentes envers ces tensions politiques	
La politique et l'immigration	Politics and immigration
1. Solutions politiques à la question de l'immigration	
2. L'immigration et les partis politiques	
3. L'engagement politique chez les immigrés	

## Activité 2: Immersion

Choose at least three of the following activities to get used to being immersed in the language.

### Films:

Watch a French film (suggestions below – some contain bad language, adult themes!)

- Le Fabuleux Destin d'Amélie Poulain
- Les Choristes
- Intouchables
- Le jeu (Nothing to hide)
- 8 Rue de l'Humanité (Stuck together)
- L'ascension (The Climb)
- Mauvaises herbes (Bad Seeds)
- Qu'est-ce qu'on a fait au Bon Dieu (Serial (bad) weddings)
- Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis

### Netflix:

Watch a French-language series (suggestions below – some contain bad language, adult themes!)

- Dix pour cent (Call my agent)
- Lupin
- Les Combattantes (Women at war)
- Les 7 vies de Léa (The 7 lives of Léa)
- L'Agence (The Parisian Agency)
- Plan Coeur (The Hook-up plan)
- Osmosis

## Des sites web:

Familiarise yourself with some useful French websites. Try to visit one every day.

<https://fr.ver-taal.com/>

<https://www.languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/frenchindex.html>

<https://www.20minutes.fr/> (news)

<https://www.tv5monde.com/> (news)

<https://fr.euronews.com/> (news)

<https://www.lawlessfrench.com/> (grammar with activities)

<https://www.1jour1actu.com/videos> (short informative videos for young people)

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCENv8pH4LkzvuSV\\_qHlcslg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCENv8pH4LkzvuSV_qHlcslg) (C'est pas sorcier - science and discovery videos)

<https://coffeebreaklanguages.com/category/coffee-break-french/> (language videos)

<https://lefranchise.libsyn.com/> (podcasts with transcripts)

[www.innerfrench.com](http://www.innerfrench.com) (podcasts and videos)

<https://savoirs.rfi.fr/en/apprendre-enseigner/langue-francaise/journal-en-fran%C3%A7ais-facile> (activities based on news reports)

## Follow French news and culture sites on social media

eg. France24, tv5monde, rfi

Join Quizlet or Memrise and revise GCSE vocab or even start to practise A level vocab – just search for AQA A level French and one of the themes listed in Activité 1.

## Musique

This website has links to a large number of French radio stations.

<https://www.radio-en-ligne.fr/>

## Livres:

Try reading a (short) book in French. You might want to start with something you've read in English before (Harry Potter etc) or try a bilingual book with parallel texts in both languages. (Many libraries have a foreign languages section). Magazines are also good; choose things that are interesting to you. Take a look on:

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/s?k=parallel+french+book&crd=1SJFAV3L2CVKT&sprefix=parallel+french+book%2Caps%2C93&ref=nb\\_sb\\_noss](https://www.amazon.co.uk/s?k=parallel+french+book&crd=1SJFAV3L2CVKT&sprefix=parallel+french+book%2Caps%2C93&ref=nb_sb_noss) for ideas.

**TOP TIP:** Don't look up every word you are not sure of when reading an article/ book. Yes... you read that right! When you are reading articles etc, try not to look up every word as it will take you a long time. Skim and scan the text to get the gist. Remember to use the context of the text, cognates and common sense to figure out what the text is saying. Pick out a couple of words that you like the look of, that you feel may be real hurdles to getting the idea of the text, look them up carefully and add them to your vocab booklet. The aim at this stage is to get the gist of the text, not be able to

translate it completely. Translation is a whole different ball game and you will learn it soon enough.

## Activité 3: Lire et traduire

What are the dangers of cybersociety?

Read this text for background information:

Faut-il craindre un cyber-terrorisme ?

Après plusieurs attaques informatiques contre des sites français, la peur des cyber-attaques contre la France augmente. Selon le député Eduardo Rihan Cypel, des groupes terroristes pourraient utiliser des outils informatiques pour lancer de grandes attaques.

Ce danger est réel : en 2007, l'Estonie a été victime d'une cyber-attaque importante. Le pays est resté paralysé pendant plusieurs jours. Aujourd'hui, les conséquences d'une telle attaque seraient encore plus graves. Des experts imaginent des scénarios très dangereux : un train qui déraile, une centrale nucléaire qui explose à cause d'un virus.

Le gouvernement français prend cette menace au sérieux. Éric Freyssinet, un expert en cybercriminalité, explique que les terroristes ont de l'argent et peuvent acheter des cyber-armes. En plus, il ne faut pas beaucoup de personnes pour lancer une attaque. Quelques dizaines de personnes suffisent pour faire de gros dégâts.

La France se prépare : le ministère de la Défense recrute plus de spécialistes en cybersécurité. Il prévoit d'avoir 450 experts dans deux ans et investit un milliard d'euros dans la cyber-défense.

Éric Freyssinet souligne que se protéger le plus possible permet de limiter les dégâts. Pour l'instant, le plus grand risque vient des cyber-criminels qui veulent de l'argent, et non des terroristes. Mais la menace du cyber-terrorisme reste importante, et il faut rester vigilant.

Translate this text into English:

Cette année, les risques de cyberattaques n'ont jamais été aussi hauts, selon une nouvelle enquête. En moyenne, les entreprises françaises ont fait face à ce problème plus de 29 fois en 2018. Le risque le plus répandu est un logiciel hostile qui bloque des fichiers personnels pour demander une rançon à leurs utilisateurs. Par contre, le vol de données personnelles, inquiétant pour beaucoup d'internautes, ne concerne qu'un commerce sur dix.

## Activité 4: Recherche

Choose a personal area of interest related to France or a French-speaking country and prepare a short presentation or information sheet. Examples might be a festival, person (current or historical), landmark etc.

## Activité 5: Grammaire

Complete this self-assessment of grammatical terms in French. This is the A level grammar list, so you aren't expected to know some of these points yet! We would advise you to revise verbs in the present tense, perfect tense, imperfect tense and future tense, both regular verbs (-er, -ir, -re verbs) and the key irregulars (avoir, être, faire, aller, prendre, mettre, dire, écrire). You can find the conjugations of these on <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/conjugation/french> - type the verb into the search box. The grammar section on the Collins French site is also useful.

	DONT KNOW	NEED TO LEARN	QUITE CONFIDENT	FULLY CONFIDENT
Nouns: gender, singular and plural forms				
Articles: definite (le, la...), indefinite (un, une), partitive (du, des)				
Adjectives: agreements (fem, pl...)				
Position/word order				
comparative and superlative (plus que, moins que, le plus.)				
comparative and superlative irregular (meilleur...)				
Use of adjectives as nouns (le vieux, les Anglais)				
Demonstrative (ce, cet, cette, ces)				
Indefinite (autre, chaque, même, quelque)				
Possessive (mon, ma, mes, etc)				
Interrogative and exclamatory (quel, quelle, quels, quelles)				
Numerals : Cardinal (un, deux)				
Ordinal (premier, deuxième)				
Expression of time and date				
Adverbs: Formation of adverbs ending in -ment				
comparative and superlative				
interrogative (combine de, comment, où, pourquoi, quand)				
Pronouns: Personal: subject, including <i>on</i>				

Object: direct and indirect (le, la, lui leur)				
Disjunctive/emphatic personal, as subject and object: moi/moi-même				
Position and order				
Reflexive				
Relative (qui, que, dont, lequel, auquel, ce qui, ce que)				
Demonstrative (celui, celle, ceux, celles ; and celui-ci/celui-là)				
Indefinite (including quelqu'un, quelque chose)				
Possessive (le mien etc)				
Interrogative (including qui, que, quoi)				
Use of y, en				
Verbs: Conjugation of regular -er, -ir, -re verbs				
Modal verbs				
Principal irregular verbs				
Reflexive verbs				
Agreement of verb and subject				
Use of <i>il y a</i>				
negatives (no, nunca, jamás...)				
Modes of address (tu, vous)				
Impersonal verbs (falloir, pleuvoir)				
Verbs followed by an infinitive (with or without a preposition)				
Dependent infinitives (faire réparer)				
Perfect infinitive				
Negative forms				
Interrogative forms				
Present tense				
Perfect (including agreement of past participle)				
Imperfect				
Future				
Conditional				
Future perfect				
Conditional perfect				
Pluperfect				
Past historic				

Use of the infinitive, present participle (en arrivant) and past participle				
Verbal paraphrases and their uses (aller+infinitive, venir de +infinitive)				
Passive voice : Present tense & other tenses				
Subjunctive mood : present				

I hope this guide helps you to keep up with your French. It is very important that you do 20 to 30 minutes every day so you don't forget your French. Vocabulary and grammar are key to success at A-level. Make sure you are confident with GCSE grammar and vocabulary.

In order to keep track of what you do every day, you could track your work in a table like this:

Week commencing	Source/ website	Comments
20 <sup>th</sup> July	Monday - Intouchables (film)  Tuesday - Grammar  Wednesday - Listening Innerfrench  Thursday - Vocab Quizlet Friday - Research and translation	Monday - What a funny film - I watched it in French with English subtitles. I wrote a critique for my parents and friends about the film.  Tuesday - I revised present tense regular and irregular verbs - I need to go over the irregulars again.  Wednesday - At first listening was difficult but I used the transcripts to help me. I love the trailers of films and adverts on this website!  Thursday - I managed to do all unit 1 vocab again - I got 75%.  Friday- I did some research on French gastronomy. I wrote a list of vocab and interesting facts / I translated an article about my favourite French artist Claude Monet.