



# GCSE FRENCH

## @HURSTMERE SCHOOL



# CONGRATULATIONS!

**WELL DONE** for considering a GCSE in French!

Knowing a second language means you're in the top **32%** of young people who can speak another language.

Remember: **94%** of the world does not speak English as a first language, and over **80%** doesn't speak English at all.



# CONGRATULATIONS!

Languages, such as French, are perfect for jobs in:

- **ICT** (e.g. app & web designers)
- **Media** (e.g. journalist, Netflix subtitler)
- **Sport** (e.g. sports management, reporters)
- **Global business** (e.g. international commerce, translators)
- **Tourism** (e.g. tour operators)
- **Marketing** (e.g. social media content creators)
- **Law** (e.g. interpreters)



# LESSONS

At GCSE, you will have five French lessons over two weeks. Typical lessons include:

- Translating & interpreting
- Listening practice
- Film & video analysis
- Reading authentic texts
- Vocabulary & writing practice
- Grammar development
- Speaking games & pair-work



# COURSE CONTENT

- Over two years, you will learn about three themes:
- Within those themes, you will learn these topics:

THEME 1: PEOPLE AND LIFESTYLE	THEME 2: POPULAR CULTURE	THEME 3: COMMUNICATION AND THE WORLD AROUND US
Identity and relationships with others	Free-time activities	Travel, tourism, and places of interest
Healthy living and lifestyle	Customs, festivals and celebrations	Media and technology
Education and work	Celebrity culture	The environment and where people live



# EXAM STRUCTURE

- Exams are Foundation (1 – 5) or Higher (4 – 9) – but there’s no “mixing and matching”
- All exams are at the end of Y11
- There are four exam papers:

PAPER 4:  
WRITING 25%

25%

PAPER 1:  
LISTENING

PAPER 3:  
READING 25%

25%

PAPER 2:  
SPEAKING



# EXAM STRUCTURE PAPER 1: LISTENING

## Foundation (1 – 5)

35 minutes

40 marks

### A: Listening comprehension

All questions and answers in English  
(32 marks)

### B: Dictation

Transcribing short sentences  
(8 marks)



## Higher (4 – 9)

45 minutes

50 marks

### A: Listening comprehension

All questions and answers in English  
(40 marks)

### B: Dictation

Transcribing short sentences  
(10 marks)



# EXAM STRUCTURE PAPER 2: SPEAKING

## Foundation (1 – 5)

9 minutes

+ 15 minutes preparation time

50 marks

A: Role play

(1 to 1½ minutes, 10 marks)

B: Reading aloud and short conversation

(≈35 words, 2 to 2½ minutes, 15 marks)

C: Photo card and longer conversation

(1 + 3 to 4 minutes, 25 marks)



## Higher (4 – 9)

12 minutes

+ 15 minutes preparation time

50 marks

A: Role play

(1 to 1½ minutes, 10 marks)

B: Reading aloud and short conversation

(≈50 words, 3 to 3½ minutes, 15 marks)

C: Photo card and longer conversation

(1½ + 4½ to 5½ minutes, 25 marks)



# EXAM STRUCTURE PAPER 2: SPEAKING

## A. Role play

In order to score full marks, you must include a verb in your response to each task.

- 1 Say what sort of person you are. (Give **one** detail.)
- 2 Say **one** activity you do with friends.
- 3 Say how often you see your friends.
- 4 Say **one** thing about your best friend.
- 5 Ask your friend a question about their age.



# EXAM STRUCTURE PAPER 2: SPEAKING

## B. Reading aloud and short conversation

French

**Mon acteur préféré est beau.**

**Ses films d'action sont très célèbres.**

**J'adore aussi regarder ses vidéos amusantes sur Internet.**

**Il habite au Canada, dans une grande maison.**

**Sa copine est une chanteuse française.**



# EXAM STRUCTURE PAPER 2: SPEAKING

## B. Reading aloud and short conversation

You will then be asked four questions in **French** that relate to the topic of **Celebrity culture**.

In order to score the highest marks, you must try to **answer all four questions as fully as you can**.

# EXAM STRUC...



...the thing about each photo.

- After you have spoken about the content of the photos, your teacher will then ask you questions related to **any** of the topics within the theme of **People and lifestyle**.

# EXAM STRUCTURE PAPER 2: SPEAKING

## C. Photo card and longer conversation

When you have finished talking about the photos for approximately one minute, you will have a conversation within the theme of **Communication and the world around us**. This can include **any or all** of the prescribed topics:

- Travel and tourism including places of interest
- Media and technology
- The environment and where people live



# EXAM STRUCTURE PAPER 3: READING

## Foundation (1 – 5)

45 minutes

50 marks

### A: Reading comprehension

All questions and answers in English  
(40 marks)

### B: Translation into English (~35 words)

(10 marks)



## Higher (4 – 9)

1 hour

50 marks

### A: Reading comprehension

All questions and answers in English  
(40 marks)

### B: Translation into English (~50 words)

(10 marks)



# EXAM STRUCTURE PAPER 4: WRITING

## Foundation (1 – 5)

1 hour 10 minutes  
50 marks

### Q1. Photo description

(5 sentences, 10 marks)

### Q2. 50-word response

(10 marks)

### Q3. 5 short grammar tasks

(5 marks)

### Q4. Translation into target language

(≈35 words, 10 marks)

### Q5. 90-word response

(Choice of two, 15 marks)



## Higher (4 – 9)

1 hour 15 minutes  
50 marks

### Q1. Translation into target language

(≈50 words, 10 marks)

### Q2. 90-word response

(Choice of two, 15 marks)

### Q3. 150-word response

(Choice of two, 25 marks)



# EXAM STRUCTURE PAPER 4: WRITING

## Q1 Photo description (Foundation only)

You see this photo on Instagram



What is in this photo?

Write **five** sentences in **French**.



# EXAM STRUCTURE PAPER 4: WRITING

## Q2 50-word response (Foundation only)

Some young French visitors are coming to your town.  
Write a short description of where you live.

Write approximately **50** words in **French**.  
You must write something about each bullet point.

Mention:

- the town
- the people
- the shops
- the weather
- what there is to do.



# EXAM STRUCTURE PAPER 4: WRITING

## Q3 Short grammar task (Foundation only)



0 3

Using your knowledge of grammar, complete the following sentences in **French**.

Choose the correct French word from the three options in the grid.

Write the correct **word** in the space, as shown in the example below.

### Example

Le concert .....**finit**..... à dix heures.

finis	finissent	finit
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0 3 . 1

La fille ..... un chien

a	as	ont
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[1 mark]



# EXAM STRUCTURE PAPER 4: WRITING

## Q4(F) / Q1(H) Translation

Translate the following sentences into **French**.

1. I have lots of friends.

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2. He buys a new mobile phone every year.

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# EXAM STRUCTURE PAPER 4: WRITING

## Q5(F) / Q2(H) 90-word response

You are emailing your French friend about your free time.

Write approximately **90** words in **French**.

You must write something about each bullet point.

Describe:

- what sort of programmes you watch on TV or online
- a recent celebration
- what you will do during the summer.



# EXAM STRUCTURE PAPER 4: WRITING

## Q3 150-word response (Higher only)

You are writing an article about celebrity culture.

Write approximately **150** words in **French**.

You must write something about both bullet points.

Describe:

- the positive aspects of being a celebrity
- when you watched your favourite celebrity recently.



# In summary, why study GCSE French?

- ✓ Ability to converse & interact with an additional **320 million people**, across **five continents**
- ✓ Open doors to the global jobs market
- ✓ Enrich international travel opportunities
- ✓ Widen your communication skills, within an increasingly connected world
- ✓ Improve your memory, increase your creativity and enhance your cognitive functioning





Want to know more? Email  
[m.goodwin@hurstmere.org.uk](mailto:m.goodwin@hurstmere.org.uk) or see  
Dr Goodwin or Mme Marchioni.



**BON COURAGE!**