

GCSE French

Assessments

GCSE French has a:

Foundation Tier (grades 1-5)
and a Higher Tier (grades 4-9)

Students must take all four
question papers at the same tier

All question papers must be
taken in the same series.



Paper 1: Listening

What is assessed

Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language.

How it is assessed

- Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier)
- 40 marks (Foundation Tier), 50 marks (Higher Tier)
- 25% of GCSE

(Each exam includes 5 minutes' reading time of the question paper before the listening stimulus is played).

Questions

Foundation Tier and Higher Tier

- Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally
- Section B – questions in French, to be answered in French or non-verbally

Paper 2: Speaking

What is assessed

Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes

How it is assessed

- Non-exam assessment
- 7-9 minutes + preparation time (Foundation Tier), 10-12 minutes + preparation time (Higher Tier)
- 60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)
- 25% of GCSE

Questions

Foundation Tier and Higher Tier

The format is the same at Foundation Tier and Higher Tier, but with different stimulus questions for the Photo card and different stimulus materials for the Role-play. The timings are different too:

- Role-play – 15 marks (2 minutes at Foundation Tier, 2 minutes at Higher Tier)
- Photo card – 15 marks (2 minutes at Foundation Tier, 3 minutes at Higher Tier)
- General conversation – 30 marks (3-5 minutes at Foundation Tier, 5-7 minutes at Higher Tier)

Paper 3: Reading

What is assessed – Understanding and responding to different types of written language

How it is assessed

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

Questions

Foundation Tier and Higher Tier

- Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally
- Section B – questions in French, to be answered in French or non-verbally
- Section C – translation from French into English (min. 35 words at Foundation Tier, 50 words at Higher Tier)

Paper 4: Writing

What is assessed – Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes

How it is assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour and 15 minutes (Higher Tier)
- 50 marks (Foundation Tier), 60 marks (Higher Tier)
- 25% of GCSE

Questions

Foundation Tier

- Question 1 – message (student produces four sentences in response to a photo) – 8 marks
- Question 2 – short passage (student writes a piece of continuous text in response to four brief bullet points, approximately 40 words in total) – 16 marks
- Question 3 – translation from English into French (minimum 35 words) – 10 marks
- Question 4 – structured writing task (student responds to four compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 90 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 16 marks

Higher Tier

- Question 1 – structured writing task (student responds to four compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 90 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 16 marks
- Question 2 – open-ended writing task (student responds to two compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 150 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 32 marks
- Question 3 – translation from English into French (minimum 50 words) – 12 marks