



WINCHESTER
COLLEGE

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION FRENCH SYLLABUS

INTRODUCTION

We would like schools to teach the topics and grammar listed below.

AIMS

The aims are for pupils to acquire a sound knowledge of French grammar and an extended vocabulary repertoire whilst developing their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills in order to use the language effectively. The aforementioned knowledge and skills will also aid the subsequent study of other languages.

SYLLABUS CONTENT

Topics

- Language of the classroom
- Numbers (date, time, numbers and prices)
- Descriptions (self, family, friends and pets)
- Home life (house, daily routine and chores)
- School life (school, daily routine and work)
- Meeting people
- Activities (free time and holiday)
- Travel and transport
- Eating and drinking
- Health (good health and health problems)
- Home town and geographical surroundings
- Finding the way (asking for directions and understanding tourist information)
- Shopping
- Pocket money
- Weather
- Special occasions

Grammar

Conjugation	<p>Present (regular + irregular) Reflexive verbs Recent past (<i>venir de</i> + infinitive) Near future (<i>aller</i> + infinitive) Perfect (passé composé, with <i>avoir</i> and <i>être</i>) Imperfect Choosing between the perfect and the imperfect Imperative Simple future Conditional Modal verbs and verbs + infinitive</p>
	Negative (ne...pas, ne...jamais, ne...rien, ne...plus, ne...personne)
	Asking questions (<i>est-ce que</i> , interrogatives and inversion)
	Idioms (<i>avoir</i> expressions and <i>faire</i> expressions)
Nouns	Genders and plurals of regular and irregular nouns
Articles	Definite and indefinite articles Partitive articles Quantity + <i>de</i> Negative + <i>de</i>
Adjectives	Agreement of regular and irregular adjectives Position of regular and irregular adjectives Demonstratives Possessives Comparatives Superlatives
Adverbs	Adverbs ending in <i>-ment</i> Irregular adverbs
Pronouns	Subject pronouns Reflexive pronouns Relative pronouns <i>qui</i> and <i>que</i> Direct and indirect object pronouns Disjunctive pronouns
Prepositions	Common prepositions
Conjunctions	Common conjunctions <i>Depuis</i> + present <i>Pendant</i> + past
Numerals	Cardinals (1-1000) Ordinals (1-16) Dates 12-hour and 24-hour clocks

SCHEME OF ASSESSMENT

Speaking (15%, 30 marks, 15 minutes)

The examiner will conduct and record the speaking examination. The recording will be sent to Winchester College for assessment and marking. Instructions will be printed in English. There will be a role play and a general conversation.

Role play (14 marks, 5-minute preparation)

There will only be one role play; it is important that its content is unknown to the candidate until the preparation time. No dictionaries or reference materials are allowed during the preparation. The candidate may make notes during his preparation time, which he may refer to during the examination. The examiner may rephrase the questions if the candidate does not understand them.

General conversation (16 marks)

It will be the same ten questions for all candidates; it is important that they are unknown to the candidate until the examination. The candidate should be encouraged to add as much detail to his answers as he can and to use a wide variety of tenses. The examiner may rephrase the questions if the candidate does not understand them.

Listening (25%, 50 marks, 20 minutes)

Instructions will be given in English. There will be five short recordings. There will be two sections; three exercises in section A and one exercise in section B. The exercises will include a multiple choice, a table completion, a gap fill and questions to answer in French.

Reading (25%, 35 marks, 35 minutes)

Instructions will be given in French for section A and section B, and in English for section C. There will be one exercise in section A, one exercise in section B and two exercises in section C. The exercises will include a multiple choice, questions to answer in French and questions to answer in English.

Writing (35%, 100 marks, 35 minutes)

Instructions will be given in English for section A and section B, and in English and French for section C. There will be three conjugation exercises in section A, one grammar and vocabulary exercise in section B and one essay in section C. The candidate will be required to show a knowledge of the past, present and future tenses in all sections, as well as the conditional in the section C. The candidate will be rewarded for accurate use of a wide range of vocabulary and grammar.

APPENDIX I

SPEAKING

Speaking: role play (14 marks)

There are seven tasks for a total of fourteen marks. Each task is marked as follows:

Task successfully completed	2
Task completed with ambiguity	1
Task not completed	0

Speaking: general conversation (16 marks)

There are ten questions for a total of sixteen marks. The overall performance is marked as follows:

Category	Mark	Descriptor
Excellent	15 16	Good accent and fluency. Engaging and accurate. Information developed and presented with confidence. Past, present and future used confidently. Not necessarily faultless.
Very good	13 14	Good pronunciation, some errors but clear message. Good amount of information conveyed. Good variety of tenses.
Good	10 11 12	Language more accurate than inaccurate. Reasonable amount of information conveyed. Confident in basic tenses.
Satisfactory	7 8 9	Simple language. Simple information conveyed. Little more than present tense.
Poor	4 5 6	Limited vocabulary. Little information conveyed. Examples of present tense used correctly.
Very poor	1 2 3	Very little language worthy of credit. Very little information conveyed. Pronunciation barely understandable.

APPENDIX II

WRITING

Writing: essay (45 marks)

Conjugation (15 marks)

Up to a maximum of 15 marks, one mark is awarded for the first occurrence of each verb conjugated correctly in a given tense and subject (noun or pronoun). For example:

- *Je suis + je suis* = 1 mark.
- *Je suis + tu es* = 2 marks.
- *Je suis + j'étais* = 2 marks.

Content and communication (15 marks)

One mark awarded for each relevant communication point.

Each of the 5 tasks must be covered:

- If 1 of the tasks is missing, the maximum mark is 12.
- If 2 of the tasks are missing, the maximum mark is 9.
- If 3 of the tasks are missing, the maximum mark is 6.
- If 4 of the tasks are missing, the maximum mark is 3.

Lists are awarded a maximum of 2 marks:

- Lists of 1-3 items = 1 mark. Lists of 4+ items, 2 marks.

Accuracy and quality of language (15 marks)

13 14 15	Wide range of structures; long, fluent sentences. Highly accurate, though not necessarily faultless. Wide range of vocabulary fully appropriate to the task.
10 11 12	Attempts a range of structures with a good degree of success. More complex language usually error-free. Variety of relevant vocabulary.
7 8 9	In control of simple structures. Varied success with more complex structures. Accuracy fairly consistent. Errors may occur with more ambitious language. Sufficient vocabulary to add some interest to the writing.
5 6	More than basic structures. The work is more accurate than inaccurate. Straightforward vocabulary.
3 4	Basic structures. Some examples of correct language. Meaning usually conveyed. Basic vocabulary.
1 2	A few phrases or short sentences are accurate enough to be comprehensible.