

Welcome to A-Level French!

Please complete the following three tasks, ready for your first day at New College.

1) Grammar task: your first task is to research and learn thoroughly the Present Tense in French and produce a poster or leaflet or set of flashcards.

a) You need to research and learn:

- Regular verb endings (er, ir and re verbs following a common pattern)
- Irregular verbs from the following list like faire, aller, avoir, pouvoir (verbs which do not follow the common pattern) – **IDEALLY, THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 50 IRREGULAR VERBS THAT YOU SHOULD BE LEARNING AND PRACTISING!**
- When to use the present tense
- When to use je, tu, il, elle, on, nous, vous, ils and elles.

You will be tested on the Present Tense in September, in the second or third lesson, in the form of a list of verbs which you will have to conjugate and translate ; for example:

aimer (tu) = tu aimes - you like

b) You also need to produce a poster or leaflet or set of flashcards to show off what you have learnt about the Present Tense.

You have been using the Present tense since you started learning French (je suis, j'ai, je m'appelle, je regarde) so you already have some information about it. For A-level however, you need to know it in much more depth before we progress to several other tenses.

c) There are some fantastic resources online in order for you to learn and practice the Regular and Irregular verbs but I highly recommend that you check out the YouTube tutorials '**Learn French with Alexa**' as a starting point. In addition, here are a few links to other You tube videos to help you find out more about it for you to make notes and produce your poster / leaflet / set of flashcards and also to practice them when you have all the notes you need.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OefiUD5ECR4&list=RDOefiUD5ECR4 - t=20>: songs to practice different verbs
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vnJ3NDt_liE : French with Pascal, explanation of er and ir verbs
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-pF1sYRZKc> : French with Pascal, explanation of irregular verbs
- <http://www.laits.utexas.edu/tex/> : interactive website which explain grammar rules and gives you exercises to do online
- <http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/Index.htm> : same as above

d) There are lots of online resources available for you to practice what you have learnt by simply doing a Google search like 'French present tense verb conjugation practice'.

2) **Film study preparation task: for your second task, please go to the link below to the AQA A-level French specification where it shows you the choice of A-level films. At the end of Year 12 we will be studying “La haine”. However, over the summer I would like you to choose one (it could be this one or a different one), watch it and make a leaflet / handout in French explaining:**

- plot
- setting
- main characters
- themes
- why you like it / don't like it

This needs to be handed to me in your first lesson and will show me your interest in the cultural awareness side of the course.

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/french-7652/subject-content/works>

There are other films you could watch, not on the AQA list such as:

- Intouchables (2011) Olivier Nakache et Eric Toledano
- Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis (2008) Dany Boon
- L'ascension (2017) – The climb on Netflix – Ludovic Bernard

3) **Preliminary Research of our Topics of Study relating to a French-speaking country**

A-level languages are not just about speaking the language to a high level; it is essential to build up cultural, historical and political knowledge about French speaking countries (not just France) as well as good research skills. Over the summer, for your third task, I would like you to spend some time on researching the following Topics and find out between 5-10 facts (percentages, statistics, dates, names of people, laws, regulations, etc) for each of the Topics. *This will be really useful for your Speaking Exams but remember to note down details in French relating to a French speaking country.*

Please find 5-10 facts for **each of** the following Topics in French about a French speaking country:

- Comment la famille a changé, les relations, le mariage et le divorce
- La technologie et les réseaux sociaux
- Le bénévolat
- Le tourisme dans le monde francophone et son importance
- La musique
- Le cinéma

So, to summarize, for your first week of study at New College Bradford...

- You have to produce **leaflets/posters/flash cards** on the present tense (which can be in French or in English)
- You have to produce your work in French about the French film that you have watched.
- You have to learn the present tense for a test
- You have to produce the 5-10 facts/statistics/figures etc on **each of** the Topics of Study.

Finally, I would strongly advise you to go on the AQA website and look at the syllabus for A level French so that you know what we are going to study over the next 2 years regarding topics and grammar as well as understanding what you will be examined on (3 exam papers):

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/french-7652/specification-at-a-glance>

One last very important thing: I want to support and encourage you throughout your studies and this starts straight away over the summer holidays. If you have any questions, worries, problems or concerns over the summer about the SiL or anything else relating to French at New College Bradford, please do not hesitate in emailing me so that I can help 😊 dave.steventon@nclt.ac.uk

Bonne chance et à la rentrée!