

FACTFILE:

GCSE FRENCH

CONTEXT 3:

SCHOOL LIFE, STUDIES

AND THE WORLD OF WORK



My studies and school life

Learning Outcomes

You should be able to use French relating to this topic to:

- understand and respond to different types of spoken language (Listening);
- communicate and interact effectively in speech (Speaking);
- understand and respond to different types of written language (Reading); and
- communicate in writing (Writing).

These lists are neither prescriptive nor exhaustive.

Some aspects of this topic include:

- School subjects.
- School life (building, people and school routine).
- Classroom vocabulary.
- Verbs associated with this topic.
- Opinions and justifications.

You might also refer to your daily routine (Factfile on Free time, leisure and daily routine) as well as physical and personality descriptions (Factfile on Myself, my family, relationships and choices).

Preparation

Ensure that you have a very good knowledge of **vocabulary** and **grammar and structures** related to the topic of My studies and school life.

Vocabulary

All page numbers in this section refer to the Specification.

- See page 82 for vocabulary of school subjects.
- See pages 82-83 for vocabulary of school life (building, people and school routine).
- See pages 83-84 for vocabulary of the classroom.

- See pages 84-85 for vocabulary of verbs associated with this topic.
- See pages 95-96 for vocabulary of opinions and justifications.

Remember that this is the Core Minimum Vocabulary List – you should always learn other relevant vocabulary that you encounter as you study this topic.

Refer to the **Support** section of the CCEA GCSE French website. Then choose the **Activity** tab. There are three Activity Sheet folders which link to this topic. Each folder contains a PowerPoint presentation with key topic vocabulary and a worksheet to help you practise the key vocabulary.

They are:

- School Life Activity Sheet.
- School Subjects Activity Sheet.
- Uniform Activity Sheet.

Grammar and Structures

1. Revise **regular and irregular verbs** as you prepare this topic, particularly in the present tense.

You will find many useful regular verbs in the list on pages 84-85 of the Specification

- Remember the basic rule that, where a verb begins with a vowel or the letter 'h', then je is shortened to j'. You need this rule for the verb étudier (to study) – j'étudie. Sometimes this verb can be difficult to say (Try saying: JAY-TOO-DEE). Instead of using J'étudie, you can also use Je fais (=I do).
- Revise the verb écrire (to write)

Present	Perfect	Future
J'écris	J'ai écrit	J'écrirai
Tu écris	Tu as écrit	Tu écriras
Il écrit	Il a écrit	Il écrira
Nous écrivons	Nous avons écrit	Nous écrirons
Vous écrivez	Vous avez écrit	Vous écrirez
Ils écrivent	Ils ont écrit	Ils écriront

- Remember that, although commencer and manger behave mainly like regular -er verbs, there is a key difference with the nous form:
Nous commençons and nous mangeons. In commençons, the cedilla is added to the c to soften it: likewise in mangeons, the e is added to soften the sound.
- Remember that the verbs apprendre (to learn) and comprendre (to understand) are conjugated like prendre (to take):

Present	Perfect	Future
Je prends	J'ai pris	Je prendrai
Tu prends	Tu as pris	Tu prendras
Il prend	Il a pris	Il prendra
Nous prenons	Nous avons pris	Nous prendrons
Vous prenez	Vous avez pris	Vous prendrez
Ils prennent	Ils ont pris	Ils prendront

2. There are some **faux amis** (false friends) associated with this topic:

- Passer un examen = to sit or to take an exam. See below for an example.
Je passerai mes examens à la fin de cette année scolaire (= I will take my exams at the end of this school year).
- If you want to say that you have passed an exam, there are three ways to express this in French. You can use avoir OR être reçu à OR réussir à
J'ai eu mon examen OR J'ai été reçu(e) à mon examen OR J'ai réussi à mon examen.
- If you need to say that you have failed an exam, there are two ways to express this in French. You can use rater OR échouer à
J'ai raté mon examen OR J'ai échoué à mon examen.

3. Revise **pronouns** and **word order**.

J'étudie le français. Je l'étudie depuis cinq ans.

J'étudie la biologie. Je l'étudie depuis trois ans.

J'étudie les maths. Je les étudie depuis douze ans.

In each of the sentences above, the noun (the subject studied) has been replaced by a pronoun and the pronoun is placed before the verb.

Je parle au professeur. Je lui parle.

Je parle à la directrice. Je lui parle.

Je parle à mes amis. Je leur parle.

In each of the sentences above, the noun phrase (à + the person or people) has been replaced by a pronoun and the pronoun is placed before the verb.

Check your textbook or ask your teacher for further examples of this grammatical point.

Revision

You can test yourself using some of the Specimen Assessment Materials (SAMs) and also some material from the Specification.

Questions:

Listening:

Foundation Listening – see SAMs pages 8-9 question 5 and page 17 question 12.

Higher Listening – see SAMs page 24 question 4 and pages 27-28 question 7.

The recording for the Listening is available on the CCEA website. If you cannot access the recording, you will find the Transcript for the questions in the SAMs, pages 133-140 for Foundation Listening and pages 145-151 for Higher Listening.

Speaking:

Role-play – see SAMs page 50 Situation M.

(The teacher script of this role-play can be found in the SAMs on page 170.)

Role-play – see SAMs page 54 Situation Q.

(The teacher script of this role-play can be found in the SAMs on page 174.)

Conversation – see the Specification pages 46-47 for sample questions for this topic.

Reading:

Foundation Reading – see SAMs page 64 question 7, page 65 question 8 and page 66 question 9.

Higher Reading – see SAMs page 74 question 1.

Writing:

Foundation Writing – see SAMs page 100 question 4c.

Higher Writing – there are no Higher Writing questions on this topic in the Specification but a Higher Tier candidate can attempt the Foundation writing question. Just remember to aim for 130-150 words for a Higher Tier response!

Answers:

You can check your answers to Listening and Reading questions which are included in the SAMs.

Foundation Listening mark scheme: pages 129-132. Higher Listening mark scheme: pages 141-144.

Foundation Reading mark scheme: pages 181-184. Higher Reading mark scheme: pages 185-188.

You will need to ask your teacher or a French speaker to check your answers for the role-play, the speaking questions and any written work that you produce.

