

# FACTFILE: GCSE FRENCH



## Writing 4

### CONTEXT 1: IDENTITY, LIFESTYLE AND CULTURE



## Culture, customs, festivals and celebrations



### Introduction

Here are some key points to help you study for this topic.

### Learning Outcomes

You should be able to:

- communicate in writing for a variety of purposes;
- write short texts, using simple sentences and familiar language to convey meaning and exchange information;
- translate sentences from English to French to convey key messages accurately and to apply grammatical knowledge of language and structures in context;
- produce clear and coherent extended text to present fact and express ideas and opinions for different purposes and different settings;
- make accurate use of a variety of vocabulary and grammatical structures;

- manipulate the language, using and adapting a variety of structures and vocabulary with accuracy and fluency for new purposes (including using appropriate style and register);
- make independent and creative use of the language to identify key points, express and justify their thoughts and points of view.

### Skills

- Can you describe a party you attended?
- Can you give key dates about important celebrations?
- Can you use a variety of tenses to talk about a celebration?
- Can you express an opinion about a festival or celebration?

### Preparation

Preparing for Writing about Festivals and Customs can be made very easy by following a few simple steps:

- Compile a list of useful vocabulary that is not common in other subject areas and do a look, cover and spell exercise.
- Prepare some important subject specific verbs (to celebrate, to decorate, to offer, to give, to receive, to dance) in a number of tenses and learn them. You could use an online app to practise and test yourself.
- Think about vocabulary you could recycle. For example prepare a small paragraph about presents you received for a special occasion and this could be used to describe a birthday celebration or a Christmas celebration.

- Familiarise yourself with one typically French custom: for example, how do French people celebrate Christmas? Is it different? What is your opinion? By engaging and giving opinions, development and justification, you will increase your marks.

## Practice

Write about what you enjoy about parties. Read the bullet points and answer each point in full.

1. **C'est quand ton anniversaire? Qu'est-ce que tu as fait pour fêter ton dernier anniversaire?**
2. **Qu'est-ce que tu vas faire cette année pour fêter Noël?**
3. **Qu'est-ce que tu portes pour aller à une fête?**
4. **Qu'est-ce que tu fais normalement pendant une fête?**
5. **Quelle est ton jour férié préféré et pourquoi?**

**When preparing this piece of writing you should aim to write about 40–50 words per bullet point.**

**In order to gain top marks you should...**

- To gain the best marks you could develop your answer by giving your **age, the date of your birthday and your opinions** about the two or three things you describe in bullet point one. Remember to write in the **past tense**.
- Writing in the **future tense**, explain what you will do, will decorate and will receive for Christmas. To develop your answer, you could give details about what **another member of your family will do**.
- Talk about a typical outfit you would choose to go to a party. Be creative and use **plenty of adjectives** to describe the colour and style of the clothing and say whether **you liked it or not**. To gain top marks, you could **suggest what a friend thought** of your outfit.
- Explain what you **like the most about parties** and talk about **some typical things** you like to do. In order to gain higher marks, perhaps tell what happened at a recent party as well, **giving examples in the past tense**.
- Giving your **personal opinion**, make sure you give an example of a festival or public holiday you enjoy. To gain higher marks, **perhaps try to include information about what you would like to do** at the next festival using the **conditional tense**.

## Revision

**Once you have prepared a piece of written work, here are three top tips for effective revision.**

- Can you write at least one sentence in the past, present and future about your birthday and Christmas? If not, this would be a good place to start.
- Make a list of time phrases and relate them to festivals and customs.
- See if you can make four sentences relating to Easter, Birthday, Halloween and Christmas using the phrases **Je pense que, Je crois que, J'estime que and A mon avis**.

