



Comment franciser* ta vie ?



* franciser = to frenchify

How to prepare for French at A Level

You have a few weeks in which to really prepare for your A level in French. The leap from GCSE to A Level is significant. Do take advice from this document to help you prepare. Do buy the compulsory grammar book and make a start on the September chapter.

This booklet also contains links to a huge range of media, most of which is available for free online, to improve your French in a slightly less academic way.

Watch...

TELEVISION

- <http://www.tv5monde.com/> Watch this channel to gain access to the last episodes of all of their TV shows. Check out their French language learning section at <http://apprendre.tv5monde.com/> where you can watch clips and answer comprehension questions on what you have seen with accompanying grammar exercises.
- Download an app called *6play* on your iPad – search in the App Store for M6. This is a popular French TV channel. Not all programmes are available outside of France, but there is a good selection and these help with listening skills.
- www.Channel4.com has a fantastic selection of foreign language series (go to World Drama / Walter Presents) which you can watch in French with English subtitles. We recommend:
- [Watch Astrid: Murder in Paris | Stream free on Channel 4](#)
- If you have access to Netflix, 2 series of *Lupin*, starring Omar Sy, will have you gripped. If you like design and buildings, you may like *The Parisian Agency*.

MOVIES

There are many films available online and watching in French with English (or even French) subtitles is a great way to expand your language and improve your listening skills. I recommend having wordreference.com/french open to take note of new words you like. Here are some suggestions:

- Pourris Gâtés
- À la folie pas du tout
- Amélie
- Amour
- Au Revoir les Enfants
- Bienvenue à Marly-Gomont
- Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis
- Chocolat
- Cléo de 5 à 7
- Coco avant Chanel
- Delicatessen
- Entre les murs
- Être et avoir
- Hors de Prix
- Jean de Florette
- Il a déjà tes yeux
- La Famille Bélier
- La Vie en Rose
- Le diner de cons
- Les 400 Coups
- Les Choristes
- Les visiteurs
- Manon des sources
- Ne dis à personne
- Persepolis
- Qu'est-ce qu'on a fait au Bon Dieu
- Taxi
- Un long dimanche de fiançailles
- Un Sac de Billes

Listen...

The great thing about listening to the radio is that you can get on with something else at the same time. Listen live using *Radio France* or *Europe 1*. It sometimes takes a while to buffer so be patient. You can also find lots of French music on your streaming service of choice or on YouTube:

- Radio France (www.radiofrance.fr) • Europe 1 (www.europe1.fr)
- Le mou (v) (www.mouv.fr) (this is the French equivalent to Kiss FM or Capital)
- Europe 2 (www.europe2.fr)
- [Mrs Lyons' random French music selection](#) on YouTube can be a good starting point (and she loves new recommendations to add to it too).

Read...

Keep your own One Note or vocabulary book for new expressions you come across. You could order it alphabetically, by topic area based on what we are going to study or just use it as a diary and scribble away your French development in it.

NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES

Read a foreign language newspaper – Le Figaro is available in larger paper shops. Le Figaro has its own website <http://www.lefigaro.fr/> so that you can read the paper online. You do not have to read the paper cover to cover, just scan the headlines and pick out ONE article that grabs your attention.

This website is a more light-hearted newspaper which covers global stories as well as gossip.
<http://www.20minutes.fr>.

To catch up on the latest gossip and to see what the celebs are wearing, take a look at www.elle.fr.

And remember, that if there's something you're particularly interested in, there will be a French equivalent out there!

WEBSITES

Switch to French browsers such as www.google.fr. This way, you will read French every time you log on and it will become part of your everyday activity.

Look at the BBC website <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/tv> for links to French programmes available online.

Language skills: this website is free after 4pm and really comes into its own with its A level section. Watch news video clips, find theme related vocabulary and do listening and reading comprehensions. Find it here <http://zut.languageskills.co.uk/advanced/year12.html>

SOCIAL MEDIA

Subscribe to some French-language content on social media. Here are some suggestions.



@le_parisien
@comme1francaise
@learn_fr
@20minutes
@lemondefr
@inafr_officiel
@gadelmaleh
@frenchlanguage
@leszexperts
@francaisetvous
@apprendretv5
@lpjofficiel
@nrjhitmusiconly
@monsieurdream
@french_gov
@hugotoutseul
@normanfaitdesvideos
@afpfr
@lequipe
@france24_fr
@buzzfeedfrance



Cyprien
Les Questions Cons
CANAL+
Amnesty France
Comme Une Française
e-penser
France 24
Ina.fr
Jordi et Martin
Le Rire Jaune
Normanfaitdesvideos
Palmashow
Sara'h Officiel
videofranceinter
Squeezie



Duolingo
Memrise
Quizlet
RMUnify - A-Level
French
Linguascope for the
basics
Gospeaky
French in Action
BBC Ma France



Podcasts

French for Beginners
Le Journal en français
facile
Learn French
Coffee Break French
Learn French with Daily
Lessons
News in Slow French
UT: Français interactif

WEBSITES FOR RESEARCH

Once you actually start your A level in September, you will realise that you are almost completing a Sociology A level in French. It is fascinating and you will learn all about the history and culture of French speakers. Here are some websites bursting with information about France and Francophone countries. Always start your research with these websites as it is easy to get bogged down when looking for help on the internet.

If you are searching for information, try switching to the French www.fr.wikipedia.

Remember that anyone can write on Wikipedia so you must validate your research elsewhere and never quote from it! It is a good place to start though.

A French government run website: <http://www.gouvernement.fr/>

A website in English with some great links to various topics:

<http://french.about.com/>

British Council support available from <http://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org/> Keep your eyes peeled as they often have trips to France for free! You have to apply for them but they are an amazing opportunity to build your French skills. There is no better way to learn a language than by spending time in that country.

ONLINE DICTIONARY

A good online dictionary is www.wordreference.com



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RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

TOP TIP: Don't look up every word you are not sure of when reading an article/ book

Yes... you read that right. When you are reading articles etc, try not to look up every word as it will take you forever. Skim and scan the text to get the gist. Remember to use the context or the article, cognates and common sense to figure out what the article is saying. Pick out a couple of words that you like the look of, that you feel may be real hurdles to getting the idea of the text, look them up carefully and add them to your vocab booklet. The aim at this stage is to get the gist of the article, not be able to translate it completely. Translation is a whole different ball game and you will learn it soon enough.

You will be surprised how much more enjoyable reading will be if you really pay attention to this tip.

What should I know by now?

This is a common question asked by students about to start their A level. You should be able to:

TOPIC	CONTENT
Recognise and use a range of tenses with regular verbs.	Regular –RE, -ER, -IR verbs: Tenses: Present Passé Composé (perfect tense) Imperfect Near Future (form of aller + infinitive) Future (e.g. jouera) Conditional (e.g. jouerait)
Recognise and use a range of tenses with irregular verbs.	Common irregular verbs: être, avoir, aller, pouvoir, vouloir Tenses: (as for regular verbs) Present Passé Composé (perfect tense) Imperfect Near Future (form of aller + infinitive) Future (e.g. sera) Conditional (e.g. serait)
Give opinions with reasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of opinion expressions • Positive and negative reasons for opinions • To be able to agree and disagree