KS4 French (8652)

GCSE FRENCH: course overview

The 2-year KS4 curriculum covers **nine topics**, grouped into **three** overarching **Themes**. Examination content will cover all Themes.

Theme 1: People and Lifestyle

Topic 1:
Identity and Relationship with others

Topic 2:
Healthy living and Lifestyle

Topic 3:
Education and Work

Theme 2: Popular Culture

Topic 4:
Free-time activities

Topic 5:
Customs, Festivals and Celebrations

Topic 6:
Celebrity Culture

Theme 3: Communication and the World around us

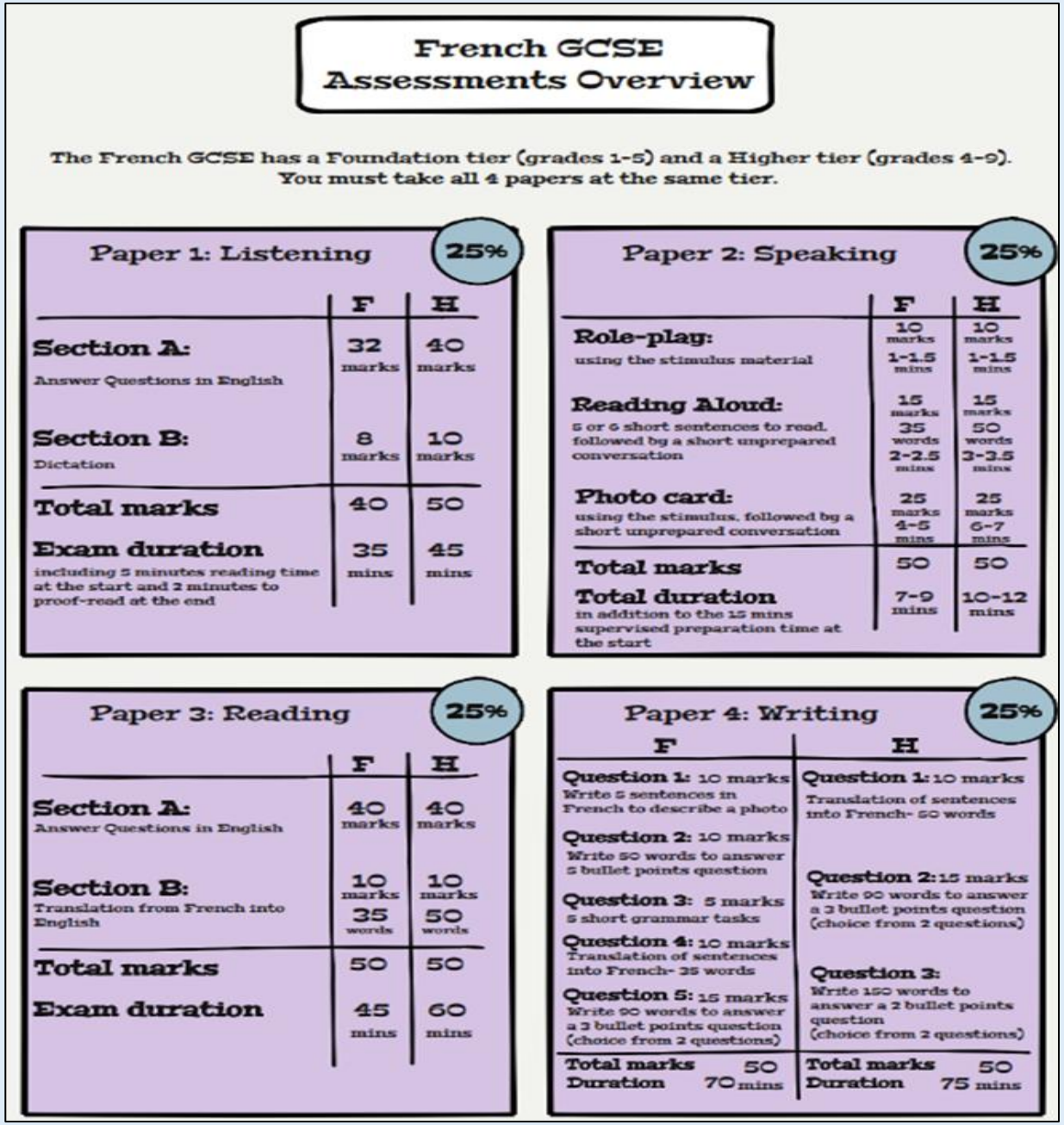
Topic 7:
Travel and Tourism, including Places of interest

Topic 8:
Media and Technology

Topic 9:
The Environment and Where people live

GCSE FRENCH: examination

- It is a linear exam, and students will sit an exam in each of the 4 skills at the end of year 11: listening, speaking, reading and writing.
- Each exam is worth 25% of the final grade.
- GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9).
- Students must take all four question papers at the same tier.



French GCSE Assessments Overview

The French GCSE has a Foundation tier (grades 1-5) and a Higher tier (grades 4-9). You must take all 4 papers at the same tier.

Paper 1: Listening — 25%

	F	H
Section A: Answer Questions in English	32 marks	40 marks
Section B: Dictation	8 marks	10 marks
Total marks	40	50
Exam duration including 5 minutes reading time at the start and 2 minutes to proof-read at the end	35 mins	45 mins

Paper 2: Speaking — 25%

	F	H
Role-play: using the stimulus material	10 marks 1-1.5 mins	10 marks 1-1.5 mins
Reading Aloud: 5 or 6 short sentences to read, followed by a short unprepared conversation	15 marks 35 words 2-2.5 mins	15 marks 50 words 3-3.5 mins
Photo card: using the stimulus, followed by a short unprepared conversation	25 marks 4-5 mins	25 marks 6-7 mins
Total marks	50	50
Total duration in addition to the 15 mins supervised preparation time at the start	7-9 mins	10-12 mins

Paper 3: Reading — 25%

	F	H
Section A: Answer Questions in English	40 marks	40 marks
Section B: Translation from French into English	10 marks 35 words	10 marks 50 words
Total marks	50	50
Exam duration	45 mins	60 mins

Paper 4: Writing — 25%

F	H
Question 1: 10 marks Write 5 sentences in French to describe a photo	**Question 1:** 10 marks Translation of sentences into French- 50 words
Question 2: 10 marks Write 50 words to answer 5 bullet points question	**Question 2:** 15 marks Write 90 words to answer a 3 bullet points question (choice from 2 questions)
Question 3: 5 marks 5 short grammar tasks	**Question 3:** Write 150 words to answer a 2 bullet points question (choice from 2 questions)
Question 4: 10 marks Translation of sentences into French- 35 words	
Question 5: 15 marks Write 90 words to answer a 3 bullet points question (choice from 2 questions)	
Total marks 50	**Total marks** 50
Duration 70 mins	**Duration** 75 mins

GCSE FRENCH: curriculum rationale

Grammar Overview

Noun phrases:

Formation of feminine and plural nouns

Infinitive used as a noun

Articles and determiners
- definite and indefinite articles
- partitive articles
- demonstrative, possessive and interrogative adjectives

Pronouns:
- subject pronouns
- singular direct object pronouns
- singular indirect object pronouns
- singular reflexive pronouns
- emphatic pronouns "moi /toi"
- relative pronoun "qui"

+ Higher Tier

Other determiner:
aucun

Pronouns:
- plural DOP
- plural IOP
- Y and EN
- plural reflexive
- all emphatic pronouns

Adjectival phrases:

Verb phrases

Negation

Interrogatives

Verbs
- Regular -ER, -IR and -RE verbs + spelling irregularities
- Most common irregular verbs: avoir, être, aller, faire
- Common irregular verbs following the same patterns as: venir, ouvrir, partir, prendre, traduire
- Other common irregular verbs following the same patterns as: boire, connaitre, courir, croire, écrire, recevoir, rire, suivre, voi (singular forms only)
- Impersonal verbs: il y a / il fait + adj. / il + weather / il faut + inf. / il est + time
- Modal verbs: devoir, pouvoir, savoir and vouloir
- Reflexive verbs (singular forms only)

Tenses and moods
- Present tense
- Perfect tense
- Near future
- Imperative
- Imperfect (singular forms only)
- Conditional (singular forms only) of vouloir

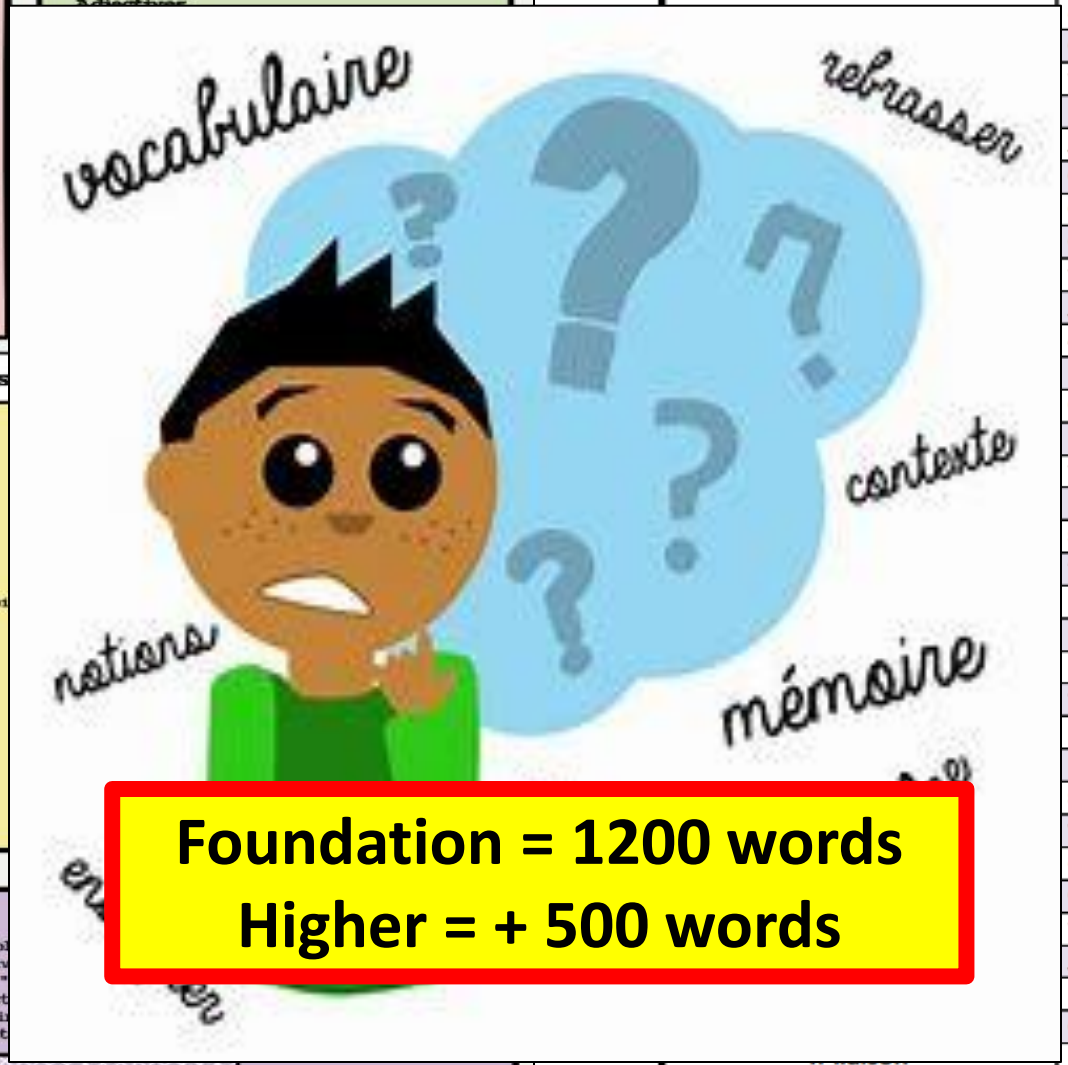
Adverbial phrases:

- adverbs
- position of adverbs
- use of regular and irregular comparative structures with adverbs

+ Higher Tier
Adverbs in superlative structures

- verbs fol
- infinitiv
- " en / à "
- contract
- indicati
- preposit

+ Higher Tier
- avant de + infinitive
- après avoir + past participle



Foundation = 1200 words
Higher = + 500 words

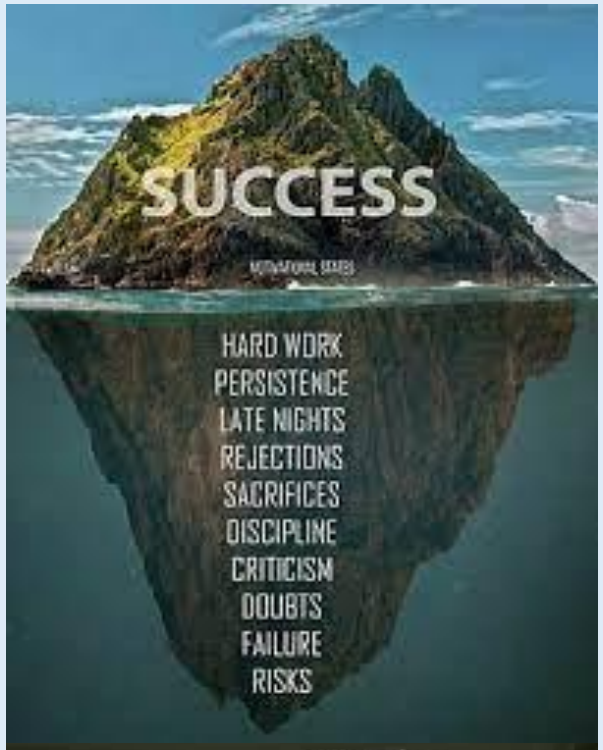
French GCSE Phonics Overview

Sound	Examples
silent final consonants: t, d, s, x	effort, bavard, sommes, ennuyeux
	anniversaire, raison, comprendre, rester
	chanson, sensible, sain, paresseux
	français, ça, cinéma, c'est
	hôtel, histoire, j'habite, homme
	jeunesse, jusque, je protège, girafe
	chose, marché, je choisis, chance
	espagnol, gagner, mignon, campagne
	question, qui, informatique, quelques
	thème, bibliothèque, théâtre, athlétique
	jeune, chaque, timide, frère
	Américain, il y a, Canada, arriver
	le, ce, de, petit
	deux, peu, vieux, lieux
	leur, plusieurs, sœur, œuf
	facile,physique, gym, public,
	Portugal, logement, porter, alors
	sauf, beau, trop, hôtel
	tu, rue, j'ai bu, j'ai vu
	nous, courses, courir,toujours
	moi, histoire, voyage, moyen
	région, fatigué, aller, vous mangez
	très, frère, fête, j'ai
	pain, matin, faim, important
	un, lundi, emprunter, parfum
	salon, marron, tomber, compétence
	vent, grand, temps, chambre
	application, construction, communication, information
	chien, je viens, ne...rien, bien
	famille, fille, brouillard, meilleur
	je travaille, ailleurs, taille, travail
	nos amis, les enfants, nous nous intéressons
	c'est ouvert, un petit animal, tout à coup
	un œuf, un bon ami, mon animal
x-liaison	les faux amis, les nouveaux appartements, les vieux écrans

GCSE FRENCH: KS4 Assessment

- Continual formative assessment in lessons
- Vocabulary tests – week A
- Torture tenses tests – week B
- Assessed pieces of writing
- End of module assessments
- End of year 10 PPEs

GCSE FRENCH: The path to success



Attitude to and behaviours for learning are essential.

The course content and exams are demanding, and you need to know the foundations of the language extremely well in order to succeed.

Ensure that you are on top of your learning NOW – both in class and at home – otherwise you may struggle to achieve the higher grades.

You will be expected to revisit key language that you learn in lessons in your own time to ensure that you can recall/ apply it in your final exams in year 11.

GCSE FRENCH: Home Learning

Vocabulary & translation – week A / Torture Tenses – week B

Thursday (10FRD) Friday (10FRC)

GCSE specification test 1: Unit 1 list 3 – character descriptions

Vocabulary	
happy	
naughty, nasty	
entendre	
paresseux, paresseuse	
annoying	
to get on (with)	
worried, anxious	
sérieux, sérieuse	
sembler	
sad	
nice	
sensible	
hard-working	
gentil, gentille	
chatty, talkative	
awful	
boring	
proud	
funny	
quality	

1. She is very clever/ but also/ a little shy. (3)
2. My mum's brother/ is stricter than/ my aunty. (3)
3. I think that/ being sensitive/ is the most/ important quality. (4)

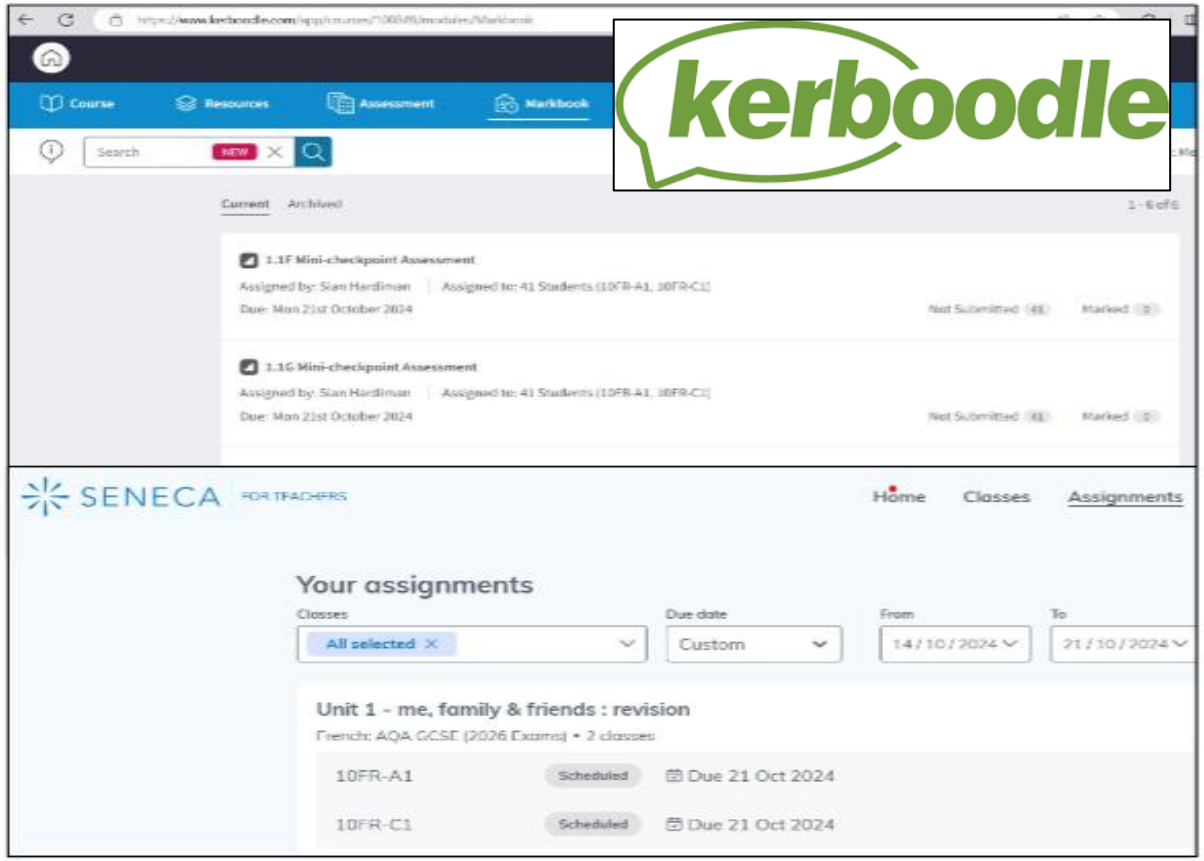
TORTURE TENSES 1C - IL/ELLE/ON

Infinitive	Present Tense	Perfect Tense	Future Tense
1. regarder =	Il/elle/on regarde	Il/elle/on a regardé	Il/elle/on va regarder
2. choisir =	Il/elle/on choisit	Il/elle/on a choisi	Il/elle/on va choisir
3. manger =	Il/elle/on mange	Il/elle/on a mangé	Il/elle/on va manger
4. attendre =	Il/elle/on attend	Il/elle/on a attendu	Il/elle/on va attendre
5. faire =	Il/elle/on fait	Il/elle/on a fait	Il/elle/on va faire
6. boire =	Il/elle/on boit	Il/elle/on a bu	Il/elle/on va boire
7. être =	Il/elle/on est	Il/elle/on a été	Il/elle/on va être
8. aller =	Il/elle/on va	Il/elle/on est allé (e)	Il/elle/on va aller
9. avoir=	Il/elle/on a	Il/elle/on a eu	Il/elle/on va avoir
10. s'amuser =	Il/elle/on s'amuse	Il/elle/on s'est amusé(e)	Il/elle/on va s'amuser

/30

Pass marks (80%):
16/20; 24/30

GCSE FRENCH: online resources



https://quizlet.com/class/32905985/materials

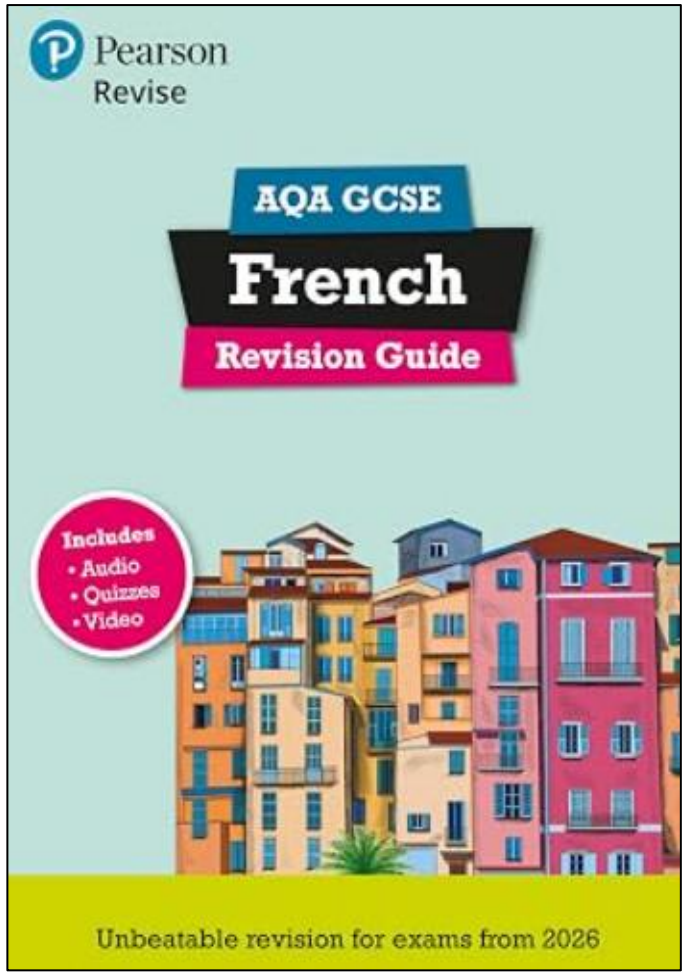
SENECA

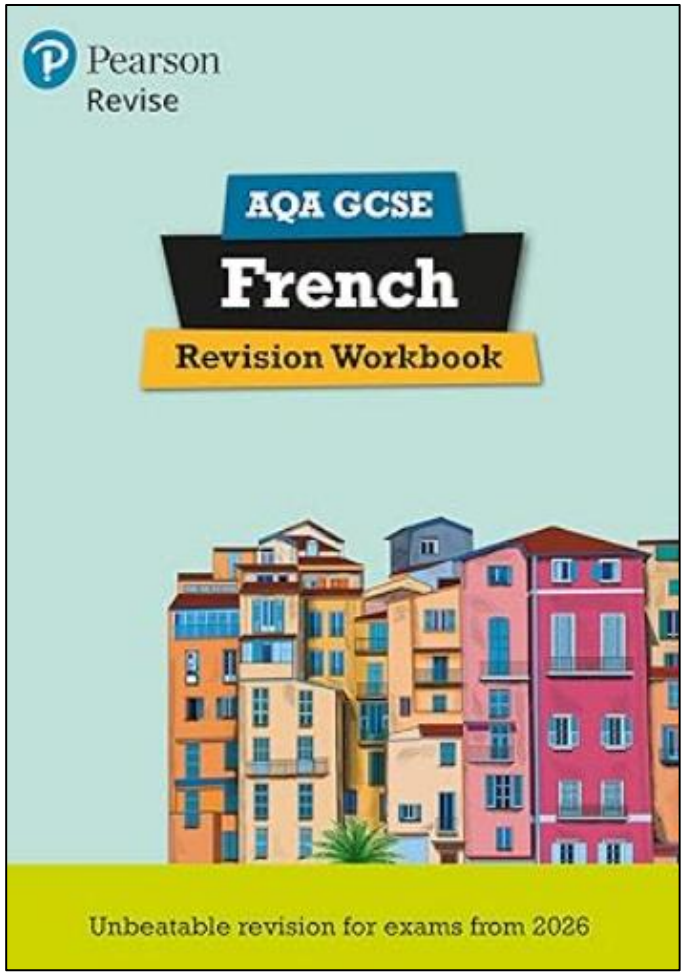
https://app.senecalearning.com/join-class-student-sign-up?classId=vlv2d5yreu

BBC BITESIZE

GCSE French - AQA (for exams from 2026) - BBC Bitesize

GCSE FRENCH: printed resources





Wisepay link is active – we can order for £3.75 per book, a 50% discount on the purchase price.

Both are recommended purchases as they work together.

GCSE FRENCH: intervention

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- Be resilient!
- Stay positive!
- Work hard!