

Parent Revision Surgery

GCSE French

Your guide to study support

Helping your child to be the best they can be



Exam Dates

- Speaking tests will take place at the end of April.
- Listening and Reading Tuesday 12th May
- Writing Friday
15th may



Revision Sessions

- Revision sessions take place on a Tuesday week 1.
- Revision sessions will address all exam themes and skills.
- Revision sessions will be split into foundation, higher (5-6) and higher (7-9).



GCSE French and German at Whickham School



Which topics are covered?

There are 3 main themes in GCSE French/German.

Theme 1: Identity and culture (Year 9)

Me, my family and friends, Technology in everyday life, Free-time activities, Customs and festivals

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest (Year 10)

Home, town, neighbourhood and region, Social issues (Charity, Health), Global issues (Environment, Poverty and Homelessness), Travel and tourism

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment (Year 11)

My studies, Life at school, Education Post-16, Jobs, career choices and ambitions

What can pupils do outside of lessons to practise and improve their understanding of French/German?

- Get someone to test them or listening to answers they have prepared for the speaking test (This is really helpful, even if you don't speak a language yourself!)
- Use websites/apps such as Quizlet, Memrise, Languagesonline and Seneca
- Past paper practice
- Make flashcards or mindmaps with vocabulary or answers to the key questions for each topic

How are pupils assessed in French and German?

Each skill is assessed by exams in year 11.
 GCSE French/ German has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9).
 Pupils must take all four question papers at the same tier. The exam board is AQA.
 Throughout the GCSE course, you will practise specimen and past papers and exam-style questions so that you are familiar and confident with the format.

| | | Foundation | Higher | |
|------------------|--|------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Listening | 25% of GCSE / Written exam | 35 minutes / 40 marks | 45 minutes / 50 marks | Variety of question types: True/false, multiple choice / answers in English and the foreign language |
| Speaking | 25% of GCSE grade / Conducted by teacher | 7-9 minutes / 60 marks | 10-12 minutes / 60 marks | Role play, photo card and general conversation questions based on topics covered in the course |
| Reading | 25% of GCSE grade / Written exam | 45 minutes / 60 marks | 1 hour / 60 marks | Variety of question types: True/false, multiple choice / answers in English and the foreign language |
| Writing | 25% of GCSE grade / Written exam | 1 hour / 50 marks | 1 hour 15 / 60 marks | Short translations and longer essay questions ranging from 40 – 150 words about topics you have covered in years 9-11. |

Top Tips for GCSE French / German revision

Listening

- Listen to music – French charts.
- Watch films / TV shows in French. Watch with subtitles.
- Past paper practice – complete full papers to get used to the timings.
- AQA workbook.
- Learn question words in French / German.
- Always read the questions first.
- Underline what the question is asking for, circle how many marks you get for each question.
- Use memrise / quizlet to learn vocabulary.

Speaking

- Prepare answers to the questions for each theme.
- Prepare role plays and photocards.
- Extend your answers, go beyond the bare minimum.
- Have a transferable toolkit – phrases you can use for any topic.
- Use flashcards.
- Record yourself.
- Make a study group with friends and practise!
- Practise speaking aloud!

Reading

- Read as much French / German as possible. Use exam papers, but also just articles / books that you are interested in, and look up some vocabulary.
- Learn question words in French / German.
- Always read the questions first.
- Underline what the question is asking for, circle how many marks you get for each question.
- Use highlighter to show where the answer is in the text, remember they come in order.
- Make sure your answer makes sense in English.
- Use memrise / quizlet to learn vocabulary.

Writing

- Make a revision sheet per topic. Use your revision guide / resources given in class to help.
- Have a 'transferrable toolkit' – lots of phrases you can adapt for any topic.
- Master past, present and future tenses.
- Learn at least 3 impressive opinion phrases.
- Make sure you know the non negotiable vocabulary.