

A Level French



Lead contacts – Miss Kirby-Smith and Mr Bourne

pkirby-smith@samuelward.co.uk / abourne@samuelward.co.uk

Course content:

Subject content:

Centred on 5 content areas:

- Social issues and trends
- Political and Artistic Culture
- Grammar
- Works (a book and a film)
- Individual Research Project (as part of the speaking exam)

Assessments:

You will be assessed on the following skills:

Listening / Reading / Writing / Speaking over 3 exams.

Useful Resources

Watch...

TELEVISION

- If you have Netflix or Amazon Prime, try searching for “French language films” or “French language TV”. Many English language films/programmes also have a French audio or subtitle option.
- <http://www.tv5monde.com> Watch this channel to gain access to the latest episodes of all of their TV shows. They also have a 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.
- <https://www.tf1.fr/programmes-tv> You need an account to watch videos from this channel but signing up is free and just requires an email address and a French postcode (use 44400 – this is where Mr Farrell used to live!). You can then access a variety of series on their ‘Replay’ section.
- <https://www.6play.fr/> This is another popular French TV channel. This is also available as an app to download (6play). Not all programmes are available outside of France but there is still a good selection of things to watch.
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/tv/> The BBC website has some useful links to French TV programmes online as well as tips for how to get the most out of it.

FILM

As well as those available with subscriptions like Netflix, there are also a range of French films available to rent, buy or view for free on YouTube, or of course you can order a DVD online.

Here are some film suggestions you may like to try:

- o La Vie en Rose
- o Intouchables – the original version of the recent American re-make: The Upside
- o Amélie
- o Les Choristes
- o Les 400 coups
- o Bienvenue chez les Ch’tis
- o Au Revoir les Enfants

INTERNET

- www.youtube.com Search for videos on topics that interest you and see if you can find any channels to subscribe to. YouTube is also a great research tool and there are lots of informative videos in English on things like French politics, culture or geography.
- <https://www.1jour1actu.com/> This site aims to explain the world to French children, one question at a time. Because it is aimed at children, the videos are short, full of pictures to help the explanation and relatively accessible – though they do talk quite fast, but you should be able to slow the video down if you need to.

Listen...

RADIO

- Listening to French radio is a great way to expose yourself to more French easily. Have it on in the background while you are doing something else!
 - o Radio France (www.radiofrance.fr)
 - o Europe 1 (www.europe1.fr)
 - o Le mouv (www.mouv.fr) (this is the French equivalent to Kiss FM or Capital)
 - o Europe 2 (www.europe2.fr)
- Download an app to stream a whole range of French radio stations. My particular favourite is called “France Radio” which offers hundreds of different stations to choose from. It also has a ‘sleep timer’ so you can play it as you go to bed and it will turn off automatically after a set period of time.

MUSIC

- Look up current French artists in the French music charts and listen to some of their music on YouTube. The suggested videos down the side or underneath are often a good way of discovering new music – and don’t forget to ask others for their recommendations.
- www.lyricstraining.com Use this website to listen to French music while improving your listening skills. Listen to a song with the accompanying YouTube video and fill in the missing words in the lyrics underneath. There are 4 difficulty levels and two settings – multiple choice mode or typing mode.

OTHERS

- Don't forget that many language learning websites including BBC bitesize have specific listening materials aimed at school-age learners. Rather than completing GCSE style comprehension questions, why not use the audio files in a different way – try to transcribe the passage you are listening to in French.
- <https://www.newsinslowfrench.com/> This podcast is also available as an app – just search for 'News in slow French'. Although you need a subscription to access all material, there is a section for free content which contains a new podcast each week. Read... NEWSPAPERS AND MAGAZINES
- <http://www.lefigaro.fr/> Like many French newspapers, Le Figaro is available to read online. You don't have to read the full paper cover to cover, just try to find one article that grabs your attention.
- <https://www.fluentu.com/blog/french/learn-french-news/> This blog post contains a bit more information about 6 of the most popular French newspapers with links to the online versions of each one.
- <http://www.20minutes.fr> This is a more light-hearted newspaper which covers gossip as well as global news stories. There is also a video section <https://www.20minutes.fr/dossier/video>
- www.l-eco.fr This is a news site aimed at young people. There are many different sections including Internet and Mobile Technology, Education, Science and Wildlife, Culture and Sport.
- For the latest gossip and to catch up on the most recent celebrity fashion trends try www.elle.fr

OTHER WAYS TO READ

- Change the language on your phone to French – eventually you will be reading in French without even realising it (and it's a great way to get a head-start on the technology topic)
- Set your default internet search engine to www.google.fr instead of the English version.
- Use a different search engine such as <http://fr.yahoo.com/> . Setting this as your homepage will make you read French every time you log on and it will become an easy part of your daily routine.
- Keep your own vocabulary log. Have an entire exercise book or notebook dedicated to this that you have with you every time you read, watch or listen to something in French.

Surf...

OTHER USEFUL WEBSITES

- <http://zut.languageskills.co.uk/advanced/year12.html> The Language Skills website is free after 4pm and has a great section dedicated to A-level learners with videos, grammar, vocabulary and lots more.
- www.memrise.com – invaluable for learning French vocabulary. The site is designed in such a way that if you stick with it and use it regularly, reviewing past vocabulary items as well as learning new vocabulary, it automatically sticks in your long-term memory.
- <http://wikipedia.fr/> Use the French version of Wikipedia when researching topics. It makes picking up the vocabulary much easier! Bear in mind though that anybody can edit Wikipedia so don't take everything you read as fact! Still a good starting point though.
- www.wordreference.com A really useful online dictionary. Don't forget to use the conjugate tool for online verb tables too!
- <http://www.gouvernement.fr/> The French government website
- www.twitter.com If you haven't got a Twitter account, I would suggest signing up for one. Start by following Emmanuel Macron (@EmmanuelMacron). Because of the character limit, you never have too much to read!
- <http://french.about.com/> A website in English for all things French – including very clear, concise grammar explanations.

Transition Grammar Task 1.

1 Complete these sentences by adding a verb that makes sense. Make sure you add the correct ending.

- a Je _____ la télé tous les soirs.
- b J' _____ souvent de la musique.
- c Nous _____ les cours à seize heures.
- d Ils _____ aux questions du professeur.
- e Vous _____ en ville ou à la campagne?

2 Fill the gaps in the clues to find words to complete the crossword. Then spot the only answer in the crossword that is not a verb in the present tense.

1			2			3
4						
5						

Horizontalement

- 1 Ils _____ à la cantine du collège. (7)
- 4 En hiver, quelquefois, il _____. (5)
- 5 Les élèves se lèvent quand le prof _____ dans la salle de classe. (5)

Verticalement

- 1 Le prof _____ un film français à ses élèves. (6)
- 2 L'important n'est pas de _____ mais de participer. (6)
- 3 Je le cherche mais je ne le _____ pas. (6)

Grammaire

The present tense is used to say that something is happening, happens or does happen.

For regular *-er* verbs, such as *écouter, regarder, penser, habiter*, the endings are:

-e, -es, -e, -ons, -ez, -ent.

For *-ir* verbs, including *finir* and *choisir*, the endings are:

-is, -is, -it, -issons, -issez, -issent.

For *-re* verbs, like *répondre, attendre* and *vendre*, the endings are:

-s, -s, -, -ons, -ez, -ent.

Grammaire

Present tense of *avoir* and *être*

The present tense forms of *avoir* are: *j'ai, tu as, il a, nous avons, vous avez, ils ont.*

And for *être*, they are: *je suis, tu es, il est, nous sommes, vous êtes, ils sont.*

Remember that there are English phrases using 'to be' where the French equivalent uses 'to have' instead. The main ones are: to be X years old, to be hungry, to be thirsty, to be right, to be wrong, to be afraid, to be cold. In French, these are: *avoir X ans, avoir faim, avoir soif, avoir raison, avoir tort, avoir peur, avoir froid.*

3 Add the correct form of the present tense of *avoir* or *être* to complete these sentences.

- a Il n'a pas raison. Il _____ tort.
- b Ils _____ quinze ans.
- c Vous _____ faim?
- d Elles _____ du même avis.
- e Nous _____ une belle maison.
- f J' _____ un frère et une sœur.
- g Il _____ champion olympique. Il _____ une médaille d'or.
- h Elle _____ les yeux bleus.
- i Ces livres _____ très intéressants.

Astuce

As the present tense forms of *avoir* and *être* are also used in the formation of the perfect tense, it is essential to know these verbs well. Learn them by heart.

1 Translate a–g into English.

- a Je ne sors que le samedi soir.

- b Elle ne prend jamais de médicaments.

- c Je ne la vois plus.

- d Nous ne pouvons rien y faire.

- e Ils ne rencontrent personne.

- f Personne n'est d'accord avec lui.

- g Il ne veut ni se fiancer ni se marier.

2 Reorder the words in these sentences so that they make sense.

- a ils jamais allés ne France sont en

- b rien il fait a année n' cette

- c elle l'Italie visité a que n'

- d nous oublié n' personne avons

- e il ni sa n' ni a vu ses famille amis

3 Now that you know how to use negatives in French, you can create your own negative sentences with accuracy.

Write five negative sentences in French, on a separate sheet of paper, to mention the following ideas.

- a A place you have never visited.
b Two things you didn't like last time you went on holiday.
c The only thing about the holiday you really liked.
d Something you didn't do.
e The fact that you no longer want to go there.

Grammaire

Negatives + present tense

To make a sentence negative, add *ne* (or *n'* before a vowel or silent 'h') immediately before the verb, and *pas* immediately after it.

il travaille (he works, he's working)

il ne travaille pas (he doesn't work, he isn't working)

The same pattern applies to other negative expressions:

ne ____ *plus* = no more/no longer

ne ____ *jamais** = never

ne ____ *rien** = nothing

ne ____ *personne** = no one, nobody

ne ____ *aucun** = not any

ne ____ *nulle part* = nowhere

ne ____ *que* = only (although not a negative as such, it is used as one)

ne ____ *ni* ____ *ni* = neither ____

nor ____ (with this one, usually a verb follows *ne*, then nouns after each *ni*: *Elle ne mange ni viande ni poisson*.)

* These can also be used as the subject of the verb in a sentence, to say something like 'nobody comes to see us'. To do this, begin with *personne/rien/jamais/aucun*, then add *ne*, and then the verb: *Personne ne vient nous voir*.

Grammaire

Negatives + perfect tense

With the perfect tense, use *ne* (or *n'*) immediately before the part of *avoir* or *être* and *pas/rien/jamais* etc. immediately after it and before the past participle:

Je n'ai jamais joué au cricket. I've never played cricket.

Note that *personne*, *aucun* and *que* work differently. Place *ne/n'* immediately after the subject, but *personne/aucun/que* after the past participle:

Je n'ai rencontré personne. I didn't meet anyone.

Negative expressions which can be used as the subject of the verb are reversed at the start of the sentence:

Rien ne s'est passé. Nothing happened.

Cultural Task 1.

Look at the people below. Why are they important? What are they known for?

Do some research and write a short summary for each person in English.

PERSONNAGES IMPORTANTS

Pourquoi ces personnes sont-elles connues?

 Charles de Gaulle	
 Emmanuel Macron	
 Napoléon Bonaparte	
 Marie Curie	



Coco Chanel



Jean Marie Le Pen



Georges Méliès



François Truffaut



Louis Pasteur



Édith Piaf

Transition Grammar Task 2.

Complete the Grammar tasks below:

Transition 2

Transition: The perfect tense with avoir

- 1** Write sentences a–e in French.
- a We watched television. _____
 - b I listened to music. _____
 - c He has sold his bike. _____
 - d You have worked hard. _____
 - e They played badminton. _____

Grammaire

The perfect tense is a past tense. It is needed to express completed actions like 'I wrote' or 'I have written'.

To use a verb in the perfect tense in French, you need three parts:

- 1 the subject (a noun, a name, or a pronoun – je, tu, il, etc.)
- 2 the correct part of avoir (ai, as, a, avons, avez, ont) or of être (see page 10)
- 3 the past participle of the verb (regardé, choisi, attendu, etc.).

- 2** Complete the grids below to help you revise irregular past participles. For each English verb, identify the French equivalent and its past participle. Write a number in the first box and a letter in the second box.

Example: to have – 4 – f

English	answers	French infinitive	past participle
to have	4 f	1 connaître	a suivi
to drink		2 prendre	b été
to know (someone)		3 mettre	c dit
to run		4 avoir	d pu
to have to		5 vivre	e voulu
to say		6 recevoir	f eu
to write		7 devoir	g couru
to be		8 boire	h mis
to do		9 savoir	i vécu
to read		10 dire	j connu

English	answers	French infinitive	past participle
to put		11 suivre	k lu
to open		12 écrire	l dû
to be able to		13 être	m bu
to take		14 faire	n ouvert
to receive		15 courir	o vu
to know how to		16 lire	p pris
to follow		17 vouloir	q su
to live		18 pouvoir	r fait
to see		19 ouvrir	s écrit
to want		20 voir	t reçu

- 3** Choose five irregular verbs from the grids above. On a separate sheet of paper, write short French sentences using the verbs in the perfect tense.
- 4** Now you are ready to tackle sentences that may or may not contain irregular verbs. Use the perfect tense of the verbs in brackets to complete sentences a–e.
- a Il _____ un régime draconien. (faire)
 - b Elles _____ s'entraîner tous les jours. (devoir)
 - c Ils _____ y aller. (pouvoir)
 - d J' _____ de bonnes notes. (avoir)
 - e Elle _____ un mail à sa copine. (envoyer)

- 1 Circle the perfect tense verbs (two words each time) and explain why an extra -e, -s or -es has been added to the past participle.

Example: Les garçons sont allés au cinéma. The subject (the boys) is plural, so allés has an -s.

a Mes petites sœurs jumelles sont nées l'année dernière.

b Ma grand-mère est morte il y a deux ans.

c Mon amie est venue me voir chez moi hier.

d Mes parents sont partis en vacances en Grèce.

e Ma copine et moi sommes allées au cinéma samedi dernier.

- 2 Complete each sentence using the perfect tense of the verb given at the end in brackets.

a Ils _____ à l'heure. (arriver)

b Isabelle _____ en ville. (sortir)

c Elles _____ tard. (rentrer)

d Vous _____ à quelle heure? (partir)

e Il _____ de vélo. (tomber)

- 3 Change these sentences from the present tense to the perfect tense.

a Elles se dépêchent.

b Ma sœur se réveille à huit heures.

c Je m'intéresse aux nouvelles technologies.

d Ils se passionnent pour le sport.

e Nous nous couchons vers onze heures.

- 4 Now that you know how to use verbs that take être in the perfect tense, write a short account of what you did yesterday, on a separate sheet of paper. Mention when you got up, what time you left home, where you went, how you got home, whether you stayed at home or went out in the evening, and your bedtime. You will probably use some reflexive verbs and some that are not reflexive, but all in the perfect tense.

Grammaire

A group of key French verbs use the present tense of être (suis, es, est, sommes, êtes, sont) instead of avoir to form the perfect tense: aller - je suis allé (I went).

They are:

aller to go	venir to come
arriver to arrive	partir to leave
entrer to go in	sortir to go out
monter to go up	descendre to go down
naître to be born	mourir to die
retourner to return	rentrer to go home
rester to stay	tomber to fall
devenir to become	revenir to come back

When you use them in the perfect tense, remember that the past participle has to agree with the subject. Add -e, -s or -es appropriately: elle est allée (she went).

Grammaire

Reflexive verbs

All reflexive verbs also take être in the perfect tense:

se lever (to get up) - elle s'est levée tôt (she got up early).

Remember to include the appropriate reflexive pronoun (me, te, se, nous, vous) immediately after the subject:

je me suis levé(e) tôt (I got up early).

Cultural Task 2.

Watch *La Haine*. Click on the link below and watch the cult classic made in the 1990s. You may need to log in with your school email address. Please let us know if you can't access it.

https://samuelwardco-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/pkirby-smith_samuelward_co_uk/EIHoSTQNdWNNochtfqo3vloBfam9BVXwOXu1O6xl3Hyj7Q?e=FSEQLk



Transition Grammar Task 3.

Complete the Grammar tasks below:

Transition: The immediate future (aller + infinitive)

Transition 3

1 Rewrite these sentences using the immediate future tense.

a Il mange avec ses copains en ville.

b Je vais à la patinoire.

c Elle sort souvent le soir.

d Ils sont à l'heure.

e Nous faisons la vaisselle.

f Allez-vous en Italie cette année?

g Je me repose l'après-midi.

2 Rewrite these sentences to make them negative, using the expressions given in brackets.

a Je vais jouer au golf. (never)

b Ma sœur va aller au théâtre. (not)

c Tu vas sortir avec tes copains. (no longer)

d Ils vont louer un appartement. (not)

e Le gouvernement européen va prendre cette décision. (not)

f Il va nager. (no longer)

g Nous allons aller sur la Lune. (never)

3 Now that you know how to use the immediate future, write a few lines, on a separate sheet of paper, about what you are going to do this weekend.

Grammaire

The irregular verb *aller* means 'to go'. Check that you are confident with the present tense of *aller*: *je vais, tu vas, il va, nous allons, vous allez, ils vont*.

Reminder: the present tense has more than one equivalent in English and is used to state what happens, is happening, or does happen; so *je vais* can mean 'I go' or 'I'm going' or 'I do go'.

Grammaire

aller + infinitive

The present tense of *aller* is also used to form the immediate future tense, to express something like 'I'm going to play football on Saturday' – *je vais jouer au foot samedi*.

The verb that follows the present tense of *aller* is always in the infinitive.

With reflexive verbs, the reflexive pronoun (*me, te, se, nous, vous, se*) varies to match the subject of the sentence, e.g. *se réveiller* (to wake up) – *je vais me réveiller* (I'm going to wake up).

Astuce

When combining the immediate future with a negative expression, place *ne* immediately before the part of *aller*, and *pas/jamais/plus* immediately after it.



1 Choose A, B or C each time to construct the correct sentence. Work it out using the grid, then write out your four sentences, on a separate sheet of paper.

a	Il	A n'a donné jamais	A de	argent à	A un	œuvres caritatives.
		B n'a jamais donné	B de l'		B une	
		C jamais n'a donné	C d'		C des	

b	A Mon	copine	et moi	A sommes	A allées	faire des courses.
	B Ma			B sont	B allé	
	C Mes			C est	C allée	

c	Elle	A ai	A acheter	une chemise	A blanche.	
		B as	B acheté		B blanc.	
		C a	C achète		C blanches.	

d	Moi, j'ai	A prendre	des chaussures	A noir.		
		B pris		B noirs.		
		C prends		C noires.		

2 Fill in the tables with the *je* form of the present tense, the perfect tense, and the immediate future of these verbs. The first row is given as an example.

	present tense	perfect tense	immediate future		present tense	perfect tense	immediate future
aller	je vais	je suis allé/ allée	je vais aller	pouvoir			
se coucher				devoir			
comprendre				attendre			
venir				choisir			
faire				écouter			

3 On a separate sheet of paper, rewrite this account of a holiday, putting it in the perfect tense. Use either masculine or feminine forms appropriate to yourself.

Je vais dans le sud de la France avec ma famille. J'y reste deux semaines. J'aime aller à la plage. Je m'amuse avec mes copains. Le soir, nous sortons en ville. Je rentre après minuit. J'adore ça mais mes parents ne sont pas d'accord. J'aime ces vacances.

Astuce

These exercises practise some key grammar points you have covered in this Transition topic.

Cultural Task 3.

Look at the political parties below. Who are they and what do they stand for?

Do some research and write a short summary for each person in English.

LA POLITIQUE FRANÇAISE

Qui est le président de la France? _____

Il a été élu quand? _____

Il représente quel parti politique? _____

Qui est le premier ministre? _____

Faites des recherches sur les partis politiques principaux. Ils sont de gauche ou de droite ? Quelles sont leurs politiques?

<p>En Marche!</p> 	
<p>Les Républicains</p> 	
<p>Le Parti Socialiste</p> 	
<p>Mouvement Démocrate</p> 	
<p>Le Front National</p> 	