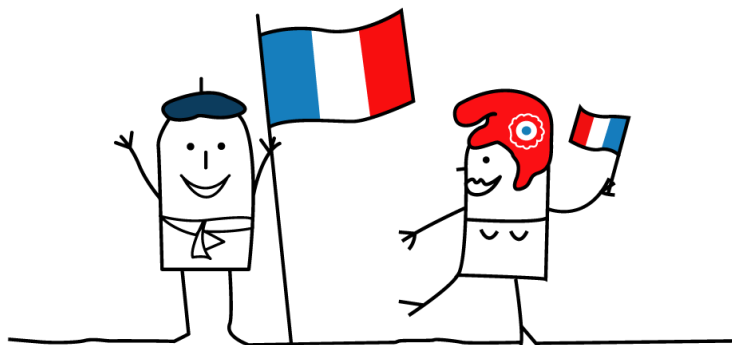


# A LEVEL – FRENCH SUMMER PREPARATION BOOKLET



Congratulations on choosing to study a language at A Level at Enfield County School for Girls! The best way to prepare yourself is to ensure that you have a firm grasp of the language and skills which you have already used at GCSE. Thorough revision of these over the summer will make you more confident when you start the course in September and prepare you for a more independent approach to learning.

This booklet offers resources for an academic-oriented language learning as well as an insight into French – popular – culture and everyday language.



## **I) How to prepare for French A Level?**

### **II) Watch...**

*French TV channel websites  
Films and DVDs*

### **III) Listen to...**

*French radio online and podcasts  
Music*

### **IV) Read...**

*Newspapers and magazines  
Comic books and classical literature*

### **V) Use...**

*Online dictionaries*

### **VI) Practice grammar with...**

*Online websites and Apps for resources and exercises  
The Eight Tasks Challenge*

## I) How to prepare for French A Level?

- ☀ It is vital that you work through the tasks in this booklet in order to keep up with your French grammar and language.
- ☀ Little and often is better than cramming
- ☀ Try to build some of them into your daily / weekly routine.



Louis XIV's pro tip: Join the library!



Don't forget that you can go online for free at any library and it is easy to sign up for a Library Card.



## II) Watch...



### ***French TV channel websites***

<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.

<https://www.ina.fr/>

A free resource. It includes excerpts of news programs and documentaries, and covers a huge range of topics.

<http://fr.ver-taal.com/>

Has an excellent selection of videos which include newsreels, advertisements, and songs. They have transcripts for you to download and the videos are all accompanied by online exercises. A very useful website.

Try also the following:

<https://www.france24.com/fr/>

<https://www.bfmtv.com/>

<https://www.programme-television.org/replay/>



### ***Films and DVDs***

<http://filmfra.com/baza/03.php> has French films with French subtitles.

**NETFLIX** and **prime video** : French films are available or for other try switching the language to French. You may even watch them in English with French subtitles, or in French with English subtitles.

Some French-speaking film suggestions:



**Animation:** *Un Monstre à Paris*; *Le Roi et l'Oiseau*; *Kirikou*; *Avril et le Monde Truqué*; *Persepolis*; *Ma Vie de Courgette*; *Ratatouille*



**Comedy:** *Le Fabuleux Destin d'Amélie Poulain*; *Astérix et Obélix : Mission Cléopâtre*; *Les Visiteurs*; *L'Arnacoeur*



**Drama:** *La Môme (La Vie en Rose)*; *Au Revoir Là-Haut*; *Laurence Anyways (in Quebec French, with subtitles)*; *Au Revoir les Enfants*; *La Haine*



**Comedy-Drama:** *Intouchables*; *La Famille Bélier*; *Les Choristes*; *Les 400 Coups*

+ The MFL Department has some DVDs you can borrow.

### III) Listen to...



#### *French radio online and podcasts*

<https://www.mouv.fr/>

Le Mouv' is the French equivalent to Kiss FM or Capital, with articles.

<https://www.radiofrance.fr/>

This is an excellent website that allows you to access seven radio stations and listen live or download podcasts. There are a number of videos on the site too.

<https://www.binge.audio/>

Podcasts about real life stories, society and changes, and discussions about various aspects of everyday life.



#### *Music*

Accessible on  Spotify and  YouTube :



**Popular trendy artists:** Eddy de Pretto ("*Mamère*", "*Normal*", "*Fête De Trop*"); Angèle ("*Ta Reine*", "*Balance Ton Quoi*"); Amir ("*On Dirait*"); Soprano ("*Ferme Les Yeux Et Imagine-Toi*"); BigFlo et Oli ("*Sur la Lune*", "*Domage*"); Stromae ("*Tous Les Mêmes*", "*Formidable*", "*Carmen*"); OrelSan ("*La Terre est Ronde*"); Lomepal ("*Oyasumi*")



**Rap and RnB:** Diams ("*Car Tu Portes mon Nom*", "*Confessions Nocturnes*", "*Dans Ma Bulle*"); Nessbeal ("*A Chaque Jour Suffit Sa Peine*"); Sniper ("*Sans (Re)Père*"); Corneille ("*Parce Qu'on Vient de Loin*"); McSolaar ("*Solaar Pleure*")



**Rock:** Indochine ("*J'ai Demandé à la Lune*"); Téléphone ("*Cendrillon*"); Kyo ("*Dernière Danse*", "*Le Chemin*")



**Reggae:** Tryo ("*Désolé Pour Hier Soir*", "*Ce Que L'on S'aime*"); Danakil ("*Le Champ de Rose*", "*Les Vieillards*", "*Quitter Paname*")





**Slam:** Grand Corps Malade ("*Rencontre*", "*Les Voyages en Train*")



**Variété française:** Yannick Noah ("*Aux Arbres Citoyens*", "*Jamafrica*"); France Gall; Jacques Brel; Jean-Jacques Goldman; Edith Piaf; Georges Brassens; Joe Dassin; Jacques Brel ("*Ne Me Quitte Pas*"); Charles Aznavour ("*Emmenez-Moi*"); Michel Sardou ("*Pars*"); Nino Ferrer; Renaud ("*Mistral Gagnant*")

+ If you type "paroles" along the song title you'll be able to get the lyrics on a YouTube video for instance.

## IV) Read...



### *Newspapers and magazines*

Read a foreign language newspaper; scan the headlines and pick out an article that grabs your attention. Tip: Make a vocab list of words learnt!

*Le Figaro* is available in larger paper shops. It has its own website so that you can read the paper online: <http://www.lefigaro.fr/>.

<https://www.20minutes.fr/>

This website is a more light-hearted newspaper which covers global stories as well as gossip. Also try <http://www.20minutes.fr/tv/>. This is the TV Channel for this newspaper.

<https://www.elle.fr/> and <https://www.vogue.fr/>

To catch up on the latest gossip and to see what the celebs are wearing.

<http://www.mediatico.com/en/newspapers/europe/france/national>.

This website gives you access to a range of French papers and newspapers all over the world.

Other magazines such as *Paris Match* and *Bella* or a newspaper as *Libération*, *Le Monde*, and *L'Express*, have their own website so that you can read the paper online.

<https://www.spirou.com/> - <https://blog.okapi.fr/> - <https://www.journaldemickey.com/actus>

These are popular magazines for young people. They require a subscription to be received by post but via their website, you can have access to interviews, tests, videos on various topics, etc.



### *Comic books and classical literature*

For comic books have a look at:



Bl!ss Editions: <https://www.bliss-editions.com/>



Pepper & Carrot, an independent webcomic series for which there is also an English version for you to check your understanding: <https://www.peppercarrot.com/fr/>



*Le Journal de Mickey* as well for a few pages every week: <https://www.journaldemickey.com/bd>



<https://www.izneo.com/fr/> and <https://www.decitre.fr/> offer a first free volume on some series although this offer might not be available anymore after the lockdown.

**Some popular francophone comic books to buy:** *Astérix*; *Tamara*; *Seuls*; *Titeuf*; *Les P'tits Diables*; *Spirou*; *Boule et Bill*; *Lucky Luke*; *Lou*; *Lanfeust de Troy*; *XIII*; *Les Aventures de Tintin*

NB: mangas are very popular in France, you'll find some of the above

<https://bibliothequenumerique.tv5monde.com/>

Online library by TV5Monde for a great deal of classical – and long – literature.

Recommendations for short stories and short books:



Guy de Maupassant *La Peur* (easy audiobook with script):

<https://www.frenchavecnous.com/learning-french-short-stories-la-peur/>



Guy de Maupassant *La Parure*: <http://yty.online.fr/hu/B4LFlaparureguydemaupassant.pdf> or:

<http://clinet.swarthmore.edu/literature/classique/maupassant/parure.html>



Tales in Charles Perrault *Contes de Ma Mère l'Oye*:

[https://ebooks-bnr.com/ebooks/pdf4/perrault\\_contes.pdf](https://ebooks-bnr.com/ebooks/pdf4/perrault_contes.pdf).



*Le Petit Prince*: <https://epdf.pub/>



*Le Petit Nicolas* collection: same website, you'll actually find several volumes of this collection



*No et Moi* is not a short one but is a good reading:

[http://passiondelire.com/images/com\\_adsmanager/files/22.pdf](http://passiondelire.com/images/com_adsmanager/files/22.pdf)

## V) Use...



### Online dictionaries

<https://www.wordreference.com/>

Word Reference provides translations, words in context and associated phrases.

<https://www.google.fr/>

Rather than looking for a direct translation, you may type in the nouns in Google Image!

## VI) Practice grammar with...

As a future A Level student, you should now be able to:

Recognise and use a range of tenses with <b>regular</b> verbs	<u>Regular -ER, -IR, -RE verbs</u> - Present                      - Imperfect                      - Near Future - Perfect Tense              - Conditional                  - Simple Future
Recognise and use a range of tenses with <b>irregular</b> verbs	<u>Common irregular verbs</u> i.e. <b>être, avoir, faire, aller, devoir, vouloir, pouvoir, voir</b> - Present                      - Imperfect                      - Near Future - Perfect Tense              - Conditional                  - Simple Future
Give opinions with reasons	- a range of opinion expressions - positive and negative reasons for opinions - complex structures to build your opinions (e.g. the use of connectives) - to be able to agree and disagree, and explain why



### Online websites and Apps for resources and exercises

Light Bulb Languages: <https://www.lightbulblanguages.co.uk/resources-fr-al.htm>

For A Level resources for grammar, reading and comprehension, as well as worksheets and games.

Languages Online: <https://www.languagesonline.org.uk/>

Contains complete grammar lessons and vocabulary lists on all topics, autocorrected exercises, crosswords and quizzes. The Quizlets (in the menu on the left) are very handy for extra games and practice.

Zut!: <http://zut.languageskills.co.uk/advanced/year12.html>

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.



is an online app or smartphone app: <https://fr.duolingo.com/>

Vocabulary-oriented, it's free and really useful to consolidate and revise what you already know. You can choose a daily goal to set your learning/revision time from 5 to 20 minutes per day.



is an online app or smartphone app: <https://www.busuu.com/fr>

Free but you can subscribe for more advanced functionalities. However, if you use it only for revision and extra practice, the free version is enough. It offers good grammatical explanations too.

BBC websites: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/>.



## *The Eight Tasks Challenge*

We suggest a couple of tasks you can complete. Make sure you keep track of what you do.

1. Create a **Duolingo account** and make sure you work a little bit on your French on a regular basis, even for just 10 minutes a day.
2. Watch **at least two films** of those suggested in section II, with or without subtitles, to challenge your listening and comprehension skills.
3. Learn a **song** by heart in French you like and sing it to try and perfect your pronunciation!
4. Read some of **Le Petit Prince**, summarise the story and write down your opinion about it. Make your writing as complex as possible.
5. Read at least **two newspaper articles** and look up important words you don't know; you'll be able to reuse them in class later.
6. Work on your **presentation skills** for your Individual Research Project: choose a francophone country and prepare a short presentation, no longer than 5 minutes. You can use a PowerPoint organised in headings or bullet points.
7. Complete at least **10 vocabulary exercises** on Languages Online (link in section VI). All of them are very short. Don't forget to note down the exercises you did and your score; you may want to redo them later to keep track of your progress.
8. Ensure you've revised your tenses for both regular and irregular verbs; once again, complete at least **10 grammar exercises** on Languages Online. The aim here is to work on as many different tenses as possible and keep track of your achievement.



