

**\*Please ensure you receive the email**



**with transition work docs!!\***

**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. The other booklet contains lots of exercises to gently introduce you to the A level course and the different types of skills required. In order to keep pace, it is vital that you work through the tasks. Little and often...

On the other hand, this booklet 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](http://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.
- If you have access to Netflix, *Lupin*, starring Omar Sy, will have you gripped.

### 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. Here are some suggestions:

- |                             |                                      |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • À la folie pas du tout    | • Intouchables                       |
| • Amélie                    | • Jean de Florette                   |
| • Amour                     | • Il a déjà tes yeux                 |
| • Au Revoir les Enfants     | • La Famille Bélier                  |
| • Bienvenue à Marly-Gomont  | • La Vie en Rose                     |
| • Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis | • Le diner de cons                   |
| • Chocolat                  | • Les 400 Coups                      |
| • Cléo de 5 à 7             | • Les Choristes                      |
| • Coco avant Chanel         | • Les visiteurs                      |
| • Delicatessen              | • Manon des sources                  |
| • Entre les murs            | • Ne dis à personne                  |
| • Être et avoir             | • Persepolis                         |
| • Hors de Prix              | • 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](http://www.radiofrance.fr))
- Europe 1 ([www.europe1.fr](http://www.europe1.fr))
- Le mouv ([www.mouv.fr](http://www.mouv.fr)) (this is the French equivalent to Kiss FM or Capital)
- Europe 2 ([www.europe2.fr](http://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 vocabulary book for new expressions you come across – there is a sheet at the back of this booklet to start you off. Or you can ask your teacher for a small vocab booklet to fill in as you go. 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 gives you access to newspapers all over the world. Here is the link to a range of French papers. <http://www.mediatico.com/en/newspapers/europe/france/national/>

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

In France there is also a news website for young people: [www.l-eco.fr](http://www.l-eco.fr). It has sections on the Internet and Mobile Technology; Science and Wildlife; Education; Culture; Sport; Society and Health. A glance today contained articles about Facebook, video games and bullying to name but a few.

To catch up on the latest gossip and to see what the celebs are wearing, take a look at [www.elle.fr](http://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](http://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 on line.

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  
Squeezeie



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](http://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.

## ON-LINE DICTIONARY

A good online dictionary is [www.wordreference.com](http://www.wordreference.com)



*Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité*

**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 <b>regular</b> 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 <b>irregular</b> verbs.	Common irregular verbs: <b>être, avoir, aller, pouvoir, vouloir</b>  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"><li>• A range of opinion expressions</li><li>• Positive and negative reasons for opinions</li><li>• To be able to agree and disagree</li></ul>