



# GCSE French For exams in 2026

Wigston Academy

## Examination Board

### Edexcel – 1FR1

This GCSE specification is new.

It has been re-worked in order to make it more accessible to you and to help you enjoy your language GCSE experience even more.

That means the GCSE exams you sit in French will not be the same as any older friends or family members you know.

The first exams for this GCSE are in 2026.

### Entry Requirements

Students should be working at a grade 2 or above in English.

### What will I be studying?

The thematic contexts of this course are:

My personal world

Lifestyle and wellbeing

My neighbourhood

Media and technology

Studying and my future

Travel and tourism

family	friends	relationships	equality
physical well-being	mental well-being	food and drink	sports
places in town	shopping	transport	the natural world
environmental issues	social media and gaming	future opportunities (e.g. work, travel)	school
music	TV and film	accommodation	tourist attractions

## How will I be studying?

This course will be taught in a class and you will be expected to make an active contribution in lessons. Lessons will be a mixture of listening, reading, speaking and writing, as well as grammar and translation work. You will also be required to work independently at home to learn vocabulary and practice exam skills.

## How will I be assessed?

This GCSE has a Higher Tier (Grades 4-9) and a Foundation Tier (Grades 1-5). You must take all papers at the same tier.

### **Exam Board: EDEXCEL**

There are four exams at the end of the course: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.

Each exam is worth 25% of your overall grade. You are entered for the same tier (Foundation or Higher) for all four papers.

The Speaking exam is conducted by your class teacher and takes place in April/May at a set date decided by the school.

## Paper 1 Speaking

Worth 25% of the overall grade

Tasks include:

- A reading aloud task
- A transactional role play
- A picture description and follow on conversation

Important to know:

In addition to your silent preparation time in another room, you will have a minute before the exam starts to practice the reading out loud, if you would like to.

The role plays are all transactional like booking hotels, buying clothes, going to the doctors so they're useful in real life situations.

You will have a choice of two thematic contexts for your picture description and follow on conversation a few weeks in advance so you can be really prepared and confident.

## Paper 2 – Listening and Understanding

Worth 25% of the overall grade

5 minutes reading time at the start of the paper.

Section A: Listening - multiple-choice, multiple-response and short-answer open response questions. All questions set in English.

Section B: Dictation

Each extract will be played 3 times so that you can listen, respond and then check.

The extract will be spoken at a moderate pace and there will be gaps built in to give you time to answer.

## Paper 3 – Reading and Understanding

Worth 25% of the overall grade

Section A: Reading - multiple-choice, multiple-response and short-answer open response questions. All questions set in English.

Section B: Translation into English

There will be some pictures and glossed words (proper nouns like place names) to help you understand cultural topics.

The **same question types** will be in the **same place** for the **same number of marks every year** – so once you're used to the past papers you know exactly how your exam will look.

**Instructions are all in English**, so you'll always know what is expected of you.

The reading texts and listening extracts have been broken down into **smaller chunks** so they are more **manageable** for you and not a burden on your **working memory**.

The papers will only use names from a set list, so you aren't confused by a French name you've never seen before.

## Paper 4 - Writing

Worth 25% of the overall grade.

Picture description task (foundation only)

Two open response writings (Foundation = 40-50 words & 80-90 words. Higher = 80-90 words and 130-150 words) with a choice of two for each so you can pick the one you feel more confident with.

Translation into French– 5 sentences for Foundation, a short paragraph for higher.

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/French/2024/specification-and-sample-assessments/gq000023-gcse-french-specification-2024-issue-1-1.pdf>

## Where Next?

Speaking more than one language increases your brain capacity and is an impressive achievement, giving you better and brighter options for your future.

French is the language of our closest European neighbours. It is spoken in many other parts of Europe and the world including Canada and many countries in Africa.

French GCSE is essential preparation for A-Level French.

If you enjoy communicating with other people, finding out how languages work and learning about different cultures, studying a GCSE in one or more foreign languages is the choice for you! Studying foreign languages will also teach you some very valuable skills, such as the ability to communicate clearly, being a confident public speaker, thinking on your feet and problem solving. All these skills will give you the edge over other candidates.

Learning a language at GCSE is still highly regarded by universities, the world of work and it broadens the students' cultural understanding of the countries where the language is spoken.