



PiXL Gateway: Progression

- French

Contents:

- Why study French?
- Preparing for A Level
- A Level language essentials
- Book and film analysis
- Essential websites to help you while you study



The Benefits of Learning French

Studying A Level French will not only enable you to learn the French language, but you will gain an in-depth insight into the cultural, social, political and artistic aspects of the French speaking country/countries you will study.

Follow these links to find out some of the benefits of learning French!

[https://ted.com/talks/john mcwhorter 4 reasons to learn a new language?utm_source=tedcomshare&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=tedsread](https://ted.com/talks/john_mcwhorter_4_reasons_to_learn_a_new_language?utm_source=tedcomshare&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=tedsread)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMmOLN5zBLY>

<http://www.thefrenchcorner.net/2014/09/30-reasons-to-learn-french.html>

<https://www.thoughtco.com/jobs-using-french-or-other-languages-1368771>

<https://www.fluentu.com/blog/french/jobs-that-require-french/>

http://faculty.kutztown.edu/dewey/why_french.htm

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/educationopinion/10126883/Why-learn-a-foreign-language-Benefits-of-bilingualism.html>

Demonstrate your learning

1. Go to the PiXL 'Rank IT' triangle and rank the benefits of learning French in order of importance for you.
2. What is the most startling or surprising fact you have discovered from your research?
3. Prepare a five minute presentation promoting the benefits of learning French. Create a PowerPoint and be prepared to deliver it to your classmates or as an assembly when you return to school.

Further research

Find out some basic facts about the geography, history, politics and culture of France and one other French-speaking country.

1. Use the PiXL 'Quizzing' template to show what you have learned.
2. Use the PiXL 'Boxing Up' activity to show your knowledge.



Prepare for A Level

It's important to start preparing for A Level French as soon as you've made the decision to study it. Here are five tasks that will help you familiarise yourself with the course and what it entails.

1. Find out which exam board you will be studying: AQA, EDEXCEL or EDUQAS.
2. If you are studying either AQA or EDEXCEL, follow the link to the PiXL exam board specific transition booklets and work through the activities. These will help you to gain an insight into the topics you will study, and you can start learning the topic specific vocabulary. **(You will need to ask your teacher to download these using their login and password)**

<https://pixl.huddle.net/workspace/21044136/files/#/folder/43766614/list>

3. Visit the exam board website and download the specification and look at the specimen assessment material. Don't panic; it will look daunting at first.

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/french-7652>

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/demo/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/french-2016.html#tab-1>

<http://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/french/as-a-level/eduqas-a-level-french-spec-from-2016-r.pdf>

4. Having a good grasp of French grammar is essential to the A level course. Download PiXL Independence booklets and work through the activities and learn everything you need to know. Go to students@pixl.org.uk. Your school has your login details.

5. Check out the PiXL Thinkit mats. They are jampacked with useful language. **(You will need login and password information to access this.)**

<https://auth.pixl.org.uk/members/knowledge/A%20Level>

[https://auth.pixl.org.uk/members/#!/knowledge/GCSE/MFL French](https://auth.pixl.org.uk/members/#!/knowledge/GCSE/MFL%20French)



A Level Language Essentials

It's important to start Year 12 equipped with the essentials. Below are six tasks which aim to develop your knowledge of key verbs and more

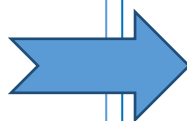
High Frequency Verbs

avoir pouvoir

être devoir

aller vouloir

faire savoir



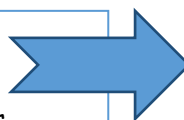
Create a wall chart displaying these verbs in all their forms and in the following tenses:

- present tense
- perfect tense
- imperfect tense
- simple future tense
- conditional tense

Memorise these verbs thoroughly and test yourself regularly.

Sentence Starters

Ce qui me frappe le plus... What strikes me the most is...
 Ce que je ne peux pas supporter... What I cannot bear is...
 Je m'inquiète beaucoup car... I worry very much because...
 Ce qui est bien c'est qu'on peut... What's good is that you can...
 L'avantage c'est qu'il y a... The advantage is that there is...



sophisticated language

Write 3 sentences using each of these sentence starters. Give your opinion on:

- Immigration and multicultural society
- Changes in society
- French culture

Complex Connectives

Ce que je trouve étonnant... - What I find astonishing...
 Comme je n'aime pas le conflit... - As I don't like confrontation...
 Puisque ce sera difficile... - Since this will be difficult...
 Grâce à... - Thanks to...

Subjunctive mood

Autant que je sache...
 As far as I know...
 Il est important que je sois clair...
 It's important that I am clear...
 Il est nécessaire qu'on fasse ce qui est important dans la vie.
 It is necessary that we do what's important in life.
 Afin qu'on puisse... In order that you can...
 Il faut que je sois honnête... I must be honest
 Bien que je sache que ce n'est pas évident...
 Although I know it's not obvious...

Write 3 sentences using each of these connectives.

Research other connectives online and create a list.

Learn about other linking words from this website:[no website given?]

Write 3 sentences using each of these subjunctive mood sentence starters.

Follow the link to this website and complete some research on subjunctive mood.

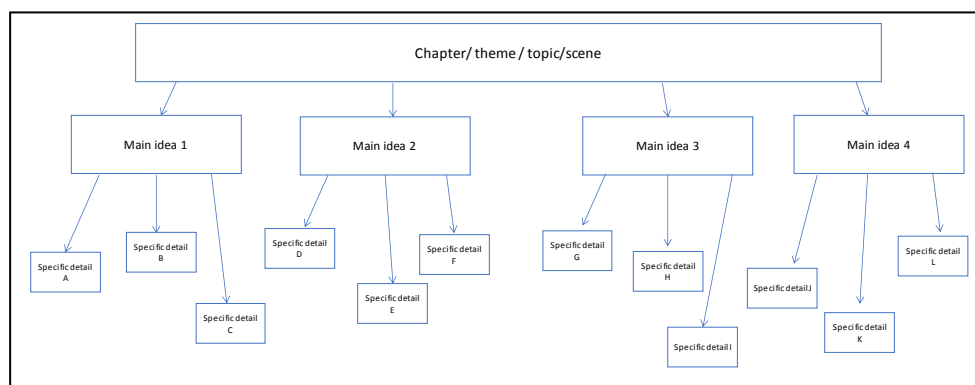
<https://www.frenchtoday.com/blog/french-verb-conjugation/understanding-french-subjunctive>

Analysis

In Paper 2 of the A Level French exam you will need to give a written response to a question on a literary text and a film or on

two literary texts. Complete the tasks below during the summer, before you start the course.

1. Choose **one text** and **one film** or **two texts** from the list set in the specification. (Consult with your teachers first.)
2. Read the book/s at least twice and watch the film as many times as you can.
3. Annotate the text as you read. This will help you find important passages easily when you start writing an analysis. Translate words you don't know. Circle, highlight, or note anything that's confusing, important, surprising, or interesting.
4. In the same way make similar notes as you watch the film. Rely on subtitles at first and then watch without them.
5. Write down the main characters' names and a brief description of their personalities or major characteristics (in English and French).
6. Use the organisation chart below to deconstruct the book. Start with chapters and then do themes,



characters, events, scenes and literary or cinematic devices.

7. Make a timeline of the major events that occur in the book, especially if the chronology is complicated or confusing. Keep multiple timelines if the story jumps back and forth between different plotlines.
8. Complete the ranking and prioritise activities below:
 - Choose the three most important chapters/scenes in the book/film. Explain why you have chosen them.
 - Rank the main themes of the novel/film in order of importance. Explain the rationale behind your decisions.
 - Choose the five most influential characters in the book/film and give reasons why.
 - Pick out three of the most powerful quotations in the book/scenes in the film which depict the main theme.



Useful Websites

Look at these websites. They will be invaluable during your A Level French course. Visit each one and make notes on their usefulness and purpose.

General help

<https://www.thoughtco.com/french-4133079>

Verb practice

<http://www.verb2verbe.com/TestInit.aspx>

Thesaurus

<http://www.crisco.unicaen.fr/des/>

Translator in context

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

Translator in context

http://www.reverso.net/text_translation.aspx?lang=EN

French Pronunciation (Excellent preparation for speaking tests)

<http://www.acapela-group.com/text-to-speech-interactive-demo.html>

French AS and A2 Level Vocabulary

http://www.realfrench.net/vocab/index3.php?function=choose_list_cat&level=3&Submit=Choose+a+category+of+vocab+to+list

French AS and A2 Level Vocabulary

<http://www.frenchteacher.net/alevel/lexique.htm>

News on current events in France /World (in French)

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

News on current events in France /World (in French and quite advanced)

<http://www.curiosphere.tv/>

News on current events in France /World (in French) (about AS level)

<http://www.monjtquotidien.com/>

Fantastic listening exercises to do online

<http://www.lafrancebis.com/>

French AS / A2 Level Help

<http://www.scool.co.uk/alevel/french.html>



© The PiXL Club Ltd. June 2018

This resource is strictly for the use of member schools for as long as they remain members of The PiXL Club. It may not be copied, sold, or transferred to a third party or used by the school after membership ceases. Until such time it may be freely used within the member school.

All opinions and contributions are those of the authors. The contents of this resource are not connected with, or endorsed by, any other company, organisation or institution.

PiXL Club Ltd endeavour to trace and contact copyright owners. If there are any inadvertent omissions or errors in the acknowledgements or usage, this is unintended and PiXL will remedy these on written notification.