



GCSE
WJEC French
REVISION GUIDE
FOR THE NEW GCSE (2018 ONWARDS)

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INTRODUCING WJEC GCSE FRENCH

Your French GCSE is split into three main themes:

- IDENTITY AND CULTURE
- WALES AND THE WORLD – AREAS OF INTEREST
- CURRENT AND FUTURE STUDY AND EMPLOYMENT

Your four French exams (SPEAKING, LISTENING, READING and WRITING) will cover these three themes equally. Each exam is worth 25% of your final grade. You are not allowed to use a dictionary in any exam.

Now for the confusing bit! Each of these three themes has different sub-themes which are divided into sections. These sections are all of equal importance – so don't spend all of your time concentrating on your favourites! Make sure you revise all the topics equally.

| IDENTITY AND CULTURE | WALES AND THE WORLD – AREAS OF INTEREST | CURRENT AND FUTURE STUDY AND EMPLOYMENT |
|---|---|---|
| YOUTH CULTURE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Self and relationships• Technology and social media | HOME AND LOCALITY <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local areas of interest• Travel and transport | CURRENT STUDY <ul style="list-style-type: none">• School/college life• School/college studies |
| LIFESTYLE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health and fitness• Entertainment and leisure | THE WIDER WORLD <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local and regional features and characteristics of France and French-speaking countries• Holidays and tourism | ENTERPRISE, EMPLOYABILITY AND FUTURE PLANS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Employment• Skills and personal qualities• Post-16 study• Career plans |
| CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food and drink• Festivals and celebrations | GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environment• Social issues | |

This revision guide covers all of the themes and sub-themes, as well as giving tips and advice on how to prepare for each exam with plenty of exam-style questions and grammar practice to help you. **Bonne chance!**

Note: English will be referred to throughout this revision guide as the native language in which to provide answers and to translate into/from French. If, however, you are studying WJEC GCSE French through the medium of Welsh, then please substitute 'Welsh' for 'English' accordingly.

IDENTITY AND CULTURE

YOUTH CULTURE

The sub-theme of **Youth Culture** is divided into two areas. Here are some suggestions of topics to revise:

SELF AND RELATIONSHIPS

- family relationships
- friendships
- physical appearance and self-image
- fashion and trends
- celebrity culture
- problems and pressures of young people
- marriage

TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL MEDIA

- different types of technology – e.g. tablets, mobiles, smart watches
- advantages and disadvantages of technology
- advantages and disadvantages of social media – e.g. cyberbullying
- impact of social media
- computer games
- future of technology
- how you use technology

TRANSLATION TIPS

ENGLISH TO FRENCH

- Don't translate sentences word for word!
- Check you are correctly translating the tense required.

FRENCH TO ENGLISH

- Don't translate the text word for word – you don't need to have the same number of words in your translation as the original text has.
- Don't miss out little but important words – e.g. very, often, never.
- Make sure you translate the correct meaning of the tense – e.g. I play, I played, I will play, I would play. Sometimes keywords and phrases – like yesterday, in the future, later, usually – will help you to identify the tense.

SELF AND RELATIONSHIPS

Décris ta famille.
Describe your family.

J'ai une sœur qui s'appelle Sophie. Je m'entends bien avec elle parce qu'on aime la même musique. Elle est toujours amusante. J'ai aussi un frère qui est plus vieux que moi. Je pense que mes parents sont trop stricts et c'est vraiment énervant.

I have a sister called Sophie. I get on well with her because we like the same music. She is always funny. I also have a brother who is older than me. I think that my parents are too strict and that's really annoying.

Qu'est-ce que tu as fait avec tes amis le weekend dernier ?
What did you do with your friends last weekend?

Vendredi dernier, je suis allé(e) au cinéma avec mes copains de classe. Après avoir vu le film, nous sommes allés au restaurant. Nous avons mangé une pizza.

Last Friday I went to the cinema with my friends from school. After watching the film we went to a restaurant. We ate pizza.

La mode, c'est important pour toi ?
Is fashion important to you?

Oui, bien sûr. Je m'inspire des mannequins et des célébrités et j'adore acheter des vêtements. Plus tard, je voudrais travailler dans l'industrie de la mode.

Yes, of course. I'm inspired by models and celebrities and I love buying clothes. Later, I'd like to work in the fashion industry.

Est-ce qu'il y a une célébrité que tu admires ? Pourquoi ?
Is there a celebrity who you admire? Why?

J'admire Ed Sheeran parce qu'il chante bien. L'année dernière j'ai assisté à son concert. C'était fantastique.

I admire Ed Sheeran because he sings well. Last year I went to his concert. It was great.

Comment serait ton petit ami/ta petite amie idéal(e) ?
What would your ideal boyfriend/girlfriend be like?

Il/elle aurait un bon travail et il/elle serait riche et généreux/généreuse. À mon avis, avoir le sens de l'humour est important aussi.

He/she would have a good job and be rich and generous. In my opinion, it's important to have a sense of humour.



Try to use a variety of vocabulary and structures.

There's no need (and you won't have enough time) to describe the colour of every member of your family's hair, eyes, etc. The vocabulary you will be using could become really repetitive.

It's easy for this topic to become too descriptive and rely mainly on present tense. Try to include some opinions – what do you think of different family members? How do you get on? Why?

Say what you did/are going to do with your family to show off your use of different tenses.



GRAMMAR



There are three important points to remember about adjectives in French:

1. Check the ending of the adjective. Is it singular (e.g. **le garçon intelligent**) or plural (e.g. **les garçons intelligents**)?
2. Check the adjective is in the right place. Most adjectives go after the noun in French (be careful – there are some exceptions!).
3. Check the agreement of the adjective. Is the noun masculine (e.g. **le garçon intelligent**) or feminine (e.g. **la fille intelligente**)?

Translate the sentences into English:

1. Ma tante est amusante, sympa et sportive.
2. Quand j'étais plus jeune, j'avais beaucoup d'amis.
3. Mon meilleur ami s'entend bien avec ses parents.
4. Quelles sont les qualités d'un bon ami ?

EXAM TASK



Have you translated all the information?
Does the sentence you have written make sense in English?

SELF AND RELATIONSHIPS

USEFUL PHRASES



| | |
|--|--|
| Je m'intéresse à la mode. | I am interested in fashion. |
| Je préfère porter des vêtements de marques. | I prefer wearing designer clothes. |
| La vie des célébrités me fascine. | I am fascinated by celebrities' lives. |
| J'adore suivre les styles dans les magazines. | I love following the styles in magazines. |
| Je voudrais me marier à l'avenir. | I would like to get married in the future. |
| Selon moi, avoir une famille est très important. | In my opinion, having a family is very important. |
| En ce qui me concerne, la mode coute trop cher. | As far as I am concerned, fashion is too expensive. |
| Ma petite amie/Mon petit ami idéal serait/ferait/aurait... | My ideal girlfriend/boyfriend would be/would do/would have ... |
| Je peux lui parler de tout. | I can talk to him/her about everything. |
| Il y a quelquefois des disputes. | There are sometimes arguments. |
| Mes parent s'inquiètent trop. | My parents worry too much. |
| Je peux toujours compter sur lui/elle. | I can always count on him/her. |
| On se dispute rarement. | We rarely argue. |
| Nous bavardons tout le temps. | We chat all the time. |
| Je ressemble à ma sœur. | I look like my sister. |
| Mes amis disent que j'ai le sens de l'humour. | My friends say I've got a sense of humour. |
| Les jeunes d'aujourd'hui ont beaucoup de problèmes. | Young people today have lots of problems. |
| Je pense que les célébrités influencent les jeunes. | I think that celebrities influence young people. |
| J'ai l'intention de vivre avec mes amis. | I intend to live with my friends. |
| Je m'entends bien avec ma sœur. | I get on well with my sister. |
| Je me dispute souvent avec mes parents. | I often argue with my parents. |
| Il/Elle me critique tout le temps. | He/She criticises me all the time. |

This revision guide has been designed by examiners and experienced teachers to serve as a preparatory resource for students studying WJEC GCSE French and to provide them with useful insights into what to expect in their speaking, listening, reading and writing exams. It is suitable for both Foundation and Higher tier candidates.

Containing sample exam-style questions throughout, it offers engaging content relevant to the WJEC themes and sub-themes and will support all students in getting to grips with the material they need to know in order to pass their GCSE.

Features include:

- detailed, step-by-step information on each exam's format, with useful advice, tips and techniques to help students prepare for every aspect
- guidance on how to navigate the role play, photo card and conversation elements of the speaking exam
- examples of the kinds of rubrics, instructions, prompts and questions that students can expect in the exam – in a mix of English and French, as they will be on the day
- translations of keywords and useful phrases for each topic
- a variety of reading and writing tasks, with answers provided at the back of the book
- a review of the key grammar points, including practice exercises as well as a grammar glossary with verb tables

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ALSO AVAILABLE



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