Subject:	GCSE Languages – French
Exam board:	AQA
Specification:	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/french/gcse/french-8652/specification
How Students will be assessed:	Subject content Assessment is set in the context of these three themes. • Theme 1: People and lifestyle • Theme 2: Popular culture • Theme 3: Communication and the world around us Paper 1: Listening Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation tier), 45 minutes (Higher tier) 40 marks (Foundation tier), 50 marks (Higher tier) Recording controlled by the invigilator with built-in repetitions and pauses. Each exam includes 5 minutes' reading time at the start of the question paper before the listening material is played and 2 minutes at the end of the recording for students to check their work. Questions Section A – listening comprehension questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally (32 marks at Foundation tier and 40 marks at Higher tier) Section B – dictation where students transcribe short sentences, including a small number of words from outside the prescribed vocabulary list (8 marks at Foundation tier and 10 marks at Higher tier) 25% of GCSE Paper 2: Speaking (not this time) What's assessed • Speaking using clear and comprehensible language to undertake a Role-play

	• Carry out a Reading aloud task • Talk about visual stimuli How it's assessed Non-exam assessment (NEA) 7–9 minutes (Foundation tier) + 15 minutes' supervised preparation time 10–12 minutes (Higher tier) + 15 minutes' supervised preparation time 50 marks (for each of Foundation tier and Higher tier) 25% of GCSE Questions The format is the same at Foundation tier and Higher tier, but with different stimulus materials for the Role-play and the Reading aloud task. For the Photo card task, the same photos are used at both tiers. Role-play – 10 marks (recommended to last between 1 and 1.5 minutes at both tiers) Reading aloud task and short conversation – 15 marks (recommended to last in total between 2 and 2.5 minutes at Foundation tier and between 3 and 3.5 minutes at Higher tier) Reading aloud task: minimum 35 words of text at Foundation tier and 50 words at Higher tier Short unprepared conversation Photo card discussion – 25 marks (recommended to last between 4 and 5 minutes in total at Foundation tier, and between 6 and 7 minutes in total at Higher tier) Response to the content of the photos on the card (recommended to last approximately 1 minute at Foundation tier and approximately 1.5 minutes at Higher tier)

	Unprepared conversation (recommended to last between 3 and 4 minutes at Foundation tier and between 4.5 and 5.5 minutes at Higher tier) Paper 3: Reading What's assessed Understanding and responding to written texts which focus predominantly on the vocabulary and grammar at each tier Inferring plausible meanings of single words when they are embedded in written sentences Translating from Spanish into English How it's assessed Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation tier), 1 hour (Higher tier) 50 marks (for each of Foundation tier and Higher tier) 25% of GCSE Questions Section A – reading comprehension questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally (40 marks) Section B – translation from Spanish into English, minimum of 35 words at Foundation tier and 50 words at Higher tier (10 marks) Paper 4: Writing What's assessed Writing text in the language in a lexically and grammatically accurate way in response to simple and familiar stimuli Translating from English into Spanish How it's assessed Written exam: 1 hour 10 minutes (Foundation tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher tier) 50 marks (for each of Foundation tier and Higher tier) 25% of GCSE Questions Foundation tier Question 1 – student produces five short sentences in response to a photo (10 marks) Question 2 – student produces a short piece of writing in response to five compulsory bullet points, approximately 50 words in total (10 marks)

	Question 3 – student completes five short grammar tasks (5 marks)

	Question 4 – translation of sentences from English into Spanish , minimum 35 words in total (10 marks) Question 5 (overlap question) – student produces a piece of writing in response to three compulsory bullet points, approximately 90 words in total. There is a choice from two questions (15 marks) Higher tier Question 1 – translation of sentences from English into Spanish , minimum 50 words in total (10 marks) Question 2 (overlap question) – student produces a piece of writing in response to three compulsory bullet points, approximately 90 words in total. There is a choice from two questions (15 marks) Question 3 – open-ended writing task (student responds to two bullets, producing approximately 150 words in total). There is a choice from two questions (25 marks)
Recommended revision guide:	CGP books : https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/?_gl=1*1izoc4f*_up*MQ..*_gs*MQ..&gclid=CjwKCAiAlrXJBhBAEiwA-5pgwpllG0LHD8dOZX1q83ljwmWsZEvRrRrX1kOVDfjlH_hYDx0D8plyOBoCSCEQAvD_BwE&gbraid=0AAAADuMZW2u9u7eVyi9uDRqqx-PaBNuj but ensure they are the AQA specification and based on the new spec (first exam 2026)
Other useful links:	Languages online – https://www.languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/index.htmlFree to access, great for all levels, especially for grammar practice. LanguageNut- students can access the platform BBC Bitesize – https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z4yyjhv Quizlet- https://quizlet.com/gb/
AP1 November	Listening, Reading and Writing exams.
AP2 February	Reading, Listening, Writing and Speaking papers
June 2027	Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing exams.