



West Park School

French

GCSE Examination Summer 2026

In readiness for your examination in French you must **LEARN** and **REVISE** the following content and skills:

Listening and Reading

Your listening and reading examinations will cover all three themes that you are required to know for your examinations in May and June. You must make sure you have knowledge of vocabulary from all three themes to be successful with these papers. Practise vocabulary from all the topics regularly.

Here is a reminder of the themes and accompanying topics:

Theme 1 – People and lifestyle	Theme 2 – Popular culture	Theme 3 – Communication and the world around us
1. Identity and relationships with others 2. Healthy living and lifestyle 3. Education and work	4. Free-time activities 5. Customs, festivals and celebrations 6. Celebrity culture	7. Travel and tourism, including places of interest 8. Media and technology 9. The environment and where people live

Speaking

Your speaking examination will take place after the Easter holidays, in the second week back. The tests will follow the same procedure as what you have practised in the mock examination.

This examination is made up of three parts:

1. **Role play** – Your answers for this should be brief. You only need to provide the information you are asked for. Most answers should be one sentence long with a verb and will include one or two details. You are expected to ask a question during this part of the examination. This lasts about 1 min.
2. **Reading aloud** – You will be asked to read a passage of 35-50 words in French thinking carefully about your pronunciation. Remember liaisons and silent letters. You will then be asked four short questions on the topic you have read about. This lasts 2-2.30 minutes for foundation and 3-3.5 minutes for higher.

3. **Photo cards** – You will describe and compare two photos on a different theme from the reading aloud task. Remember to use the PALMOW method to have a range of details. The description should last 1 minute at foundation and 1.5 minutes at higher. There will be a follow-up conversation on a topic in this Theme for 3-4 minutes if you are foundation tier and 4.5-5.5 minutes if you are higher tier. This is the part of the examination where you are expected to show off what you know. You must include complex structures (think of CROISSANTS), verbs in different tenses, lots of details, and justified opinions. The conversation will usually be on one topic within the Theme of the Photocard. For example, the photocard could be on Health Unit 2 in Theme 1 and the follow-up conversation would be a discussion of any of Unit 1, 2 or 3.

Preparation before the exam:

You will be given the role-play, the reading aloud task and the photocards 15 minutes before the start of the examination and you should make as many notes as you can during this time, preparing all three sections. You can use your notes **during the whole of the examination**, so feel free to write yourself a script. Your notes will be taken away at the end of the examination.

Writing

You need to know vocabulary and structures for all the 9 topics. Foundation and Higher papers differ so look at the table below for the type of questions you will have to answer.

Foundation	Higher
Q1. Describe a photo in 5 sentences Q2. Write 50 words about 5 bullet points on the topic given Q3. Grammar – write the correct answer from 3 possible options – 5 sentences Q4. Translation of 5 sentences into French Q5. Write 90 words about 3 bullet points on the topic given. Choice of 2 options. 3 tenses needed.	Q1. Translation of 5 sentences into French Q2. Write 90 words about 3 bullet points on the topic given. Choice of 2 options. 3 tenses needed. Q3. Write 150 words about 2 bullet points on the topic given. Choice of 2 options. Include complex structures and a variety of languages.

Regardless of tier, you are also expected to include evidence of the following:

- Present tense (regular and irregular verbs)
- Future tense(s)
- Past tense(s)
- Opinions and justification
- Complex structures
- Accuracy

You must also ensure you write something for each bullet point in a question. If you fail to do so, it will cost you a lot of marks. Your teacher will provide you with a handout to help you with your verb tenses. You can also find useful grammar information in your revision guides. You have your CROISSANTS mini-booklet that you can use to practise key structures and grammar points.