

Welcome to A Level French!

Please complete the following tasks, ready for your first day at New College.

There are 2 tasks: the first one is compulsory, the second is highly recommended.

1. Compulsory task: research and learn the Present Tense in French and produce a poster/ brochure/ set of flashcards.

You need to research and learn:

- Regular verb endings (er, ir and re verbs following a common pattern)
- **Irregular verbs like faire, aller, avoir, pouvoir (verbs which do not follow the common pattern)**
- When to use the present tense
- When to use je, tu, il, elle, on, nous, vous, ils and elles.

You will be tested on a wide range of verbs in the Present Tense in September, in the second or third lesson, in the form of a list of verbs which you will have to conjugate and translate; for example:

aimer (tu) = tu aimes - you like

tenir (ils) = ils tiennent - they hold

You also need to produce a poster/ leaflet/ set of flashcards to show off what you have learned about the Present Tense.

You have been using the Present tense since you started learning French (je suis, j'ai, je m'appelle, je regarde) so you already have some information about it. But you need to make sure you also know most of the irregular ones such as: **aller, faire, venir, tenir, prendre, être, avoir, savoir, devoir, pouvoir, vouloir, partir, sortir**

Here are a few links to help you find out more about it and **more importantly practise and learn it:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OefiUD5ECR4&list=RDOefiUD5ECR4#t=20> : songs to practice different verbs

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vnJ3NDt_lIE : French with Pascal, explanation of er and ir verbs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-pF1sYRZKc> : French with Pascal, explanation of irregular verbs

<http://www.laits.utexas.edu/tex/>: interactive website which explains grammar rules and gives you exercises to do online

<http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/Index.htm>: same as above

<https://www.lawlessfrench.com/grammar/irregular-ir-verbs/>: website with explanations and exercises

<https://www.scholingua.com/en>: excellent website for practising your verb conjugations (you choose the verbs and the tense)

2. Highly recommended task: Research of a French-speaking country

A-level languages are not just about speaking the language to a high level; it is essential to build up cultural, historical and political knowledge about French speaking countries (not just France) as well as good research skills. Over the summer, for your second task, you can choose ONE French-speaking country (not France) to research from this list: Belgium, Congo, Senegal, Quebec, Cameroon, Monaco, Haiti, Guadeloupe, Ivory Coast.

You could produce a piece of writing (around 250 words), a scrap book, a powerpoint or prezzi (or something similar) to show off your findings which should be in French. Please avoid cutting and pasting from the internet or google translate!

You are going to find out about **some** of the following aspects of your chosen country (not all):

- population size
- geographical location and features (e.g. mountainous, on the coast, climate etc)
- any important historical events in the recent past (last 50 years) (e.g. wars, dictatorships etc)
- what is the current political situation in your chosen country (e.g. name of leader and party, left / right-wing and how long have they been in power)
- details of famous celebrities in the French-speaking world from your chosen country (e.g. singers, actors, models, musicians, sports stars etc)
- what is your country famous for (e.g. food, dances, traditions, sports etc)
- What places of interest are there (e.g. World Heritage Sites, important tourist destinations, major cities etc)
- Is there equality between males and females (e.g. in employment and salaries etc)
- At what age do people typically get married and is marriage the preferred relationship choice.
- How is same-sex marriage viewed and is it legal
- What is the main religion of this country?
- What are the average literacy levels in the population and numbers in higher education
- Is immigration to this country an issue or have people tended to leave this country
- Are there any significant social problems in this country (e.g. high levels of crime, poverty, corruption etc)

This list just gives you some ideas about the sort of information you may find useful during the course but don't attempt to find out everything! Some suggestions here apply to some countries more than others.

Bonne chance et à la rentrée!