

OxfordAQA

International GCSE

French (9265)

Switching guide

Switching from Pearson Edexcel International or Cambridge International Examinations to OxfordAQA.

For this new International GCSE specification, OxfordAQA Exams have blended the best of the AQA specification, which is one of the most popular specifications in England, with some new ideas, new concepts and new approaches to learning to make it more appropriate for international schools.

Teachers will find the specification an ideal vehicle to make International GCSE French enjoyable and provide the right level of challenge. It allows a freedom to teach business in a variety of ways and incorporates key themes and concepts throughout the specification.

It has been put together following consultation with teachers who will see this as the ideal choice for students who want to study and excel in French at GCSE and beyond.

Assessment structure

OxfordAQA specification (9265)	Pearson Edexcel International specification (4FR1)	Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) specification (0520)
Listening paper		
Paper 1 – Listening	Paper 1 – Listening	Paper 1 – Listening
Written examination	Written examination	Written examination
50 minutes (including 5 minutes' reading time).	30 minutes (including 5 minutes' reading time).	Approximately 50 minutes
40 marks (25% of GCSE)	40 marks (25% of GCSE)	40 marks (25% of GCSE)
Section A – 32 marks. Questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally.	Seven questions, which are a combination of multiple-choice, multiple-matching.	Candidates listen to a number of recordings and answer multiple-choice and matching questions.
Section B – 8 marks. Questions in French, to be answered in French or non-verbally.	Note-taking and gap-fill questions.	
Externally assessed	Externally assessed	Externally assessed

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Speaking paper		
<p>Paper 2 - Speaking</p> <p>10 minutes (plus 10 minutes' preparation time)</p> <p>40 marks (25% of GCSE)</p> <p>Photo card: 3-5 minutes (15 marks)</p> <p>Conversation: 5-7 minutes (25 marks) The conversation is based on the two themes which have not been covered on the Photo card.</p> <p>The test is conducted and audio-recorded by the teacher and marked by OxfordAQA.</p>	<p>Paper 3 – Speaking</p> <p>Spoken examination: 8–10 minutes</p> <p>40 marks (25% of GCSE)</p> <p>The examination is made up of three tasks (A, B and C). Students will present and answer questions on a picture that is related to one of the topic areas. They will also discuss two different topics, chosen at random by Pearson.</p> <p>The assessments are conducted by teachers in one session and then submitted to Pearson for external marking.</p>	<p>Paper 3 – Speaking</p> <p>Approximately 10 minutes</p> <p>40 marks (25% of GCSE)</p> <p>Candidates complete one role play and conversations on two topics.</p> <p>Internally assessed and externally moderated.</p>

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Reading paper		
<p>Paper 3 - Reading</p> <p>1 hour 15 minutes</p> <p>60 marks (25% of GCSE)</p> <p>Section A – 33 marks. Questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally.</p> <p>Section B – 18 marks. Questions in French, to be answered in French or non-verbally.</p> <p>Section C – 9 marks. Translation from French into English (a minimum of 50 words).</p> <p>Externally assessed</p>	<p>Paper 2 – Reading and writing</p> <p>1 hour 45 minutes</p> <p>80 marks (40 marks for reading and 40 marks for writing) (50% of GCSE)</p> <p>Section A: Reading</p> <p>Five questions, which are a combination of multiple-choice, note-taking, gap-fill and short-answer questions.</p> <p>Section B: Writing</p> <p>There are two open-response writing tasks and a task that requires writing verbs in their correct forms. Each task in this section is linked to a specific topic area.</p> <p>Externally assessed</p>	<p>Paper 2 – Reading</p> <p>1 hour</p> <p>45 marks (25% of GCSE)</p> <p>Candidates read a number of texts and answer multiple-choice and matching questions as well as questions requiring short answers.</p> <p>Externally assessed</p>

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Writing paper		
<p>Paper 4 - Writing</p> <p>1 hour 15 minutes</p> <p>60 marks (25% of GCSE)</p> <p>Question 1 – 8 marks. Message (student produces four sentences in response to a photo).</p> <p>Question 2 – 16 marks. Structured writing task (student responds to four compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 90 words in total).</p> <p>Question 3 – 12 marks. Translation from English into French (minimum 50 words).</p> <p>Question 4 – 24 marks. Open-ended writing task (student responds to two compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 150 words in total).</p> <p>There is a choice from two questions.</p> <p>Externally assessed</p>	<p>See above</p>	<p>Paper 4 - Writing</p> <p>1 hour</p> <p>45 marks (25% of GCSE)</p> <p>Candidates complete one form-filling task, one directed writing task and one task in the format of an email/letter or article/blog.</p> <p>Externally assessed</p>

Subject content

OxfordAQA specification (9265)	Pearson Edexcel International specification (4FR1)	Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) specification (0520)
Core themes		
<p>Theme one: Identity and culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Me, my family, friends and people I know • Technology in everyday life • Free-time activities <p>Theme two: Local, national, international and global areas of interest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home, town, neighbourhood and region • Social issues • Global issues • Travel and tourism <p>Theme three: Current and future study and employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My studies • Life at school/college • Education post-16 • Jobs, career choices and ambitions 	<p>Topic Sub-topics</p> <p>A. Home and abroad</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life in the town and rural life • Holidays, tourist information and directions • Services (eg bank, post office)* • Customs • Everyday life, traditions and communities <p>B. Education and employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School life and routine • School rules and pressures • School trips, events and exchanges • Work, careers and volunteering • Future plans 	<p>A. Everyday activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time expressions (eg telling the time, days, days of the week, months, seasons). • Food and drink (eg meals, fruit and vegetables, meat, fish and seafood, snacks, drinks, cutlery and utensils). • The human body and health (eg parts of the body, health and illness). • Travel and transport <p>B. Personal and social life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self, family and friends • In the home (eg rooms, living room, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, furniture and furnishings, garden, household appliances). • Colours • Clothes and accessories • Leisure time (eg things to do, hobbies, sport).

	<p>C. Personal life and relationships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • House and home • Daily routines and helping at home • Role models* • Relationships with family and friends • Childhood* <p>D. The world around us</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental issues • Weather and climate* • Travel and transport • The media • Information and communication technology <p>E. Social activities, fitness and health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special occasions • Hobbies, interests, sports and exercise • Shopping and money matters • Accidents, injuries, common ailments and health issues* • Food and drink <p>*Sub-topics A3, C3, C5, D2 and E4 will not be assessed in Paper 3: Speaking</p>	<p>C. The world around us</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People and places (eg continents, countries and nationalities, compass points). • The natural world, the environment, the climate and the weather. • Communications and technology (eg the digital world, documents and texts). • The built environment (eg buildings and services, urban areas, shopping). • Measurements (eg size, shape). • Materials <p>D. The world of work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education (eg learning institutions, education and training, the classroom, learning tools, subjects, studying). • Work (eg jobs and careers, the workplace). <p>E. The international world</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countries, nationalities and languages • Culture, customs, faiths and celebration
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