



'5 Hours in...' A Level French



Research shows that the most successful students (i.e. those that make the most progress and get the highest grades) are doing between 20 and 25 hours of independent study per week by the end of Year 13. That may seem a lot, but it's something that you would build up to over the course of your A-Levels. In Year 12, we're talking something more like 15 hours per week. This equates to roughly 5 hours of independent study per A-Level per subject.

Remember that your independent study is divided into three types - **Consolidation, Reactive and Proactive**. How this is divided may vary from week to week or between subjects but one approach could be:

Consolidation - 45mins

Straight after a lesson, or that evening / the following day you should reread your notes, talk a topic through with somebody, write summaries, mindmaps, flashcards e.g. for vocabulary, statistics/facts you need to recall etc.

Reactive - 3hrs

This is your 'homework'. Each of your teachers should give you at least 1 hours' worth of homework each week. This could be linked to upcoming vocabulary tests, end of topic assessments, strengthening your reading/listening/writing/speaking skills, and/or work which enriches your cultural understanding of the francophone world. This could include work from Kerboodle (the online version of the AQA textbook which you have access to), worksheets given to you in class, vocabulary practice using websites such as Memrise/Quizlet etc.

If you find this takes more than 1 hour, that's fine, you can take this from the proactive phase (not from the consolidation phase though). Equally, if you find you finish your reactive work quickly, spend more time on your proactive work.

Proactive - 1hr 15mins

This is the section that will broaden and deepen your overall understanding of the subject you are studying. It will not necessarily involve work that has been set by your teacher, but instead it is about you doing the extra practice questions, reading articles, watching videos, TED talks etc. In French, this is illustrated in the following pages. Make sure you are doing a *range of these activities* - don't just focus on one!

If you have any questions, please see your teacher. We are here to help and we want the best for you!

What	Why	How
Learn Vocabulary	Essential to succeed in the reading and listening exams – the more vocabulary you know, the more of the text you will understand.	Little and often is best – weekly basis is key. Long chunks of vocab. learning a few weeks before the exam is not a good idea. https://www.kerboodle.com/users/login?user_return_to=%2Fapp Log in to Kerboodle and go to the vocab. pages – there is one at the end of each topic. Go through the list and create flashcards for the vocab. where you write the French on

		<p>one side and the English on the other side. Then test yourself – how about creating two piles – one pile for vocab. you are confident with and one pile for ones you didn't know?</p> <p>https://www.memrise.com/ You should have an account on Memrise and have access to the AQA French A Level textbook, with all the vocab. from the exam board.</p> <p>https://quizlet.com/gb Search for A Level vocabulary exercises. Also great for making your own flashcards.</p> <p>https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/revision-notes/a-level/french/aqa</p>
Verbs & Tenses Practice	<p>Every sentence needs a verb - if you know the meaning of the verb, and are able to recognise what tense it is, it will help you work out what the rest of the sentence means in the reading/listening exams. In the writing/speaking exams, being able to communicate your point is essential to scoring marks. If your verb is wrong, your communication will be confusing (e.g. imagine saying 'Last weekend I will go to the cinema').</p>	<p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z8hcnq8 This is from a GCSE website, but still just as important and valuable at A Level. Choose from a list of tenses.</p> <p>https://www.languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/frenchindex.html#Grammar Choose from a list of key grammatical concepts (not just tenses).</p> <p>https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/revision-notes/a-level/french/aqa</p>
Facts and Statistics	<p>In the speaking exam, you need to show the examiner you have done plenty of research about the francophone world. You need to be prepared to speak about statistics/facts/case studies on <i>each</i> of the topics. A good idea is to have one A4 sheet per topic.</p>	<p>Example - topic 'la famille en voie de changement'. Use the internet to research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • what is the average age people get married in France? • how many marriages end in divorce in France? • is this similar/different compared to a francophone country other than France? • why do some people prefer to have a PACS rather than get married? • etc.
Read (and listen to) authentic articles	<p>Essential to succeed in the reading and listening exams – you need to get used to reading fairly complex texts, and get used to understanding the text even when you don't recognise every word in the text.</p> <p>For listening, you need to get used to the speed at which native speakers speak French. The more practice you do of this, the easier the listening part of the exam will be.</p>	<p>Magazine for French students http://www.phosphore.com/</p> <p>Podcasts in French for French learners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - InnerFrench - Learn French by Podcast - French Your Way - Podcasts on Duolingo <p>https://podcast.duolingo.com/french</p> <p>Popular Podcasts in French</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Affaires Sensibles - L'heure du Monde - Choses à Savoir - Transfert - La Tribune des Critiques de Disques

		<p>News in French www.lemonde.fr -one of France's most popular newspapers. http://www.liberation.fr/ http://lci.tf1.fr/ http://www.france2.fr/ https://www.1jour1actu.com/videos - a bit more student-friendly - browse through lots of videos with various topics.</p> <p>https://www.newsinslowfrench.com/ You need to pay for this, but if you can it is well worth it!</p> <p>Spotify/YouTube - find a podcast in French on a theme from one of the A Level topics, or simply a subject you are interested in.</p>
Watch films/series in French	<p>Ideally, watch a film/series that is originally French, so that you can gain some cultural understanding and have something interesting to talk about in the speaking exam. However, if this is not possible, it's still better to watch an English/series with the French audio on than listening/watching to nothing at all.</p>	<p>Netflix/Amazon Prime etc. and change the language to French. There are benefits to putting the French subtitles on (your brain will make connections with what you hear and how it's written, you will recognise more vocabulary) but there are also benefits to having the English subtitles, too (looking at the choice of translation can be interesting, and obviously you can find it easier to understand what they are saying if they spoke too fast or if you didn't recognise the vocabulary they were using).</p> <p>Write down some key words that you didn't recognise (you'll need to put the French subtitles) and use wordreference.com to find out the English translation.</p>
(Re-)watch 'La Haine' (Re-)read key chapters in the book you are studying	<p>You need to be confident in answering a range of questions, without any notes to help you. Knowing the details of key scenes, when they take place in the film/book, and why they are important to the overall plot/theme is essential.</p>	<p>Make notes (mind maps/posters/summary sheets/Knowledge Organisers)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - key scenes - key characters - key quotes - plot overview - social context
Past Paper practice	<p>As long as you don't do this too early (i.e. first half of Year 12), then research shows this is the best way to prepare for your exams. Make sure you have done lots of the previous boxes before you tackle past papers.</p>	<p>https://www.kerboodle.com/users/login?user_return_to=%2Fapp Log in to Kerboodle and choose a topic. Complete any of the activities you didn't complete in class or as homework (or re-do an exercise you didn't do so well in the first time)</p> <p>https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/french-7652/assessment-resources Use the filters on the left-hand side to choose which paper you want.</p>

