



ISAAC NEWTON
ACADEMY

French A-level Summer Preparation

Congratulations on choosing to study French for your A Levels at Isaac Newton Academy.

The best way to prepare yourself is to ensure that you have a good grasp of the language and skills which you have already used at GCSE.

Thorough revision of these over the summer will make you more confident when you start the course in September and prepare you for a more independent approach to learning.

Name: _____



How to prepare for French A-level

You have a few weeks in which to really prepare for your A Level in French. This booklet contains links to a range of media, most of which is available for free online as well as tasks to complete before September. In order to keep pace, it is vital that you work through the tasks. Little and often is better than cramming this all into the last two weeks of August! Try to build some of them into your daily routine...



Watch...

Television

Watch the latest news in French

- <http://www.canalplus.fr>
- <http://www.france24.com>
- or even just the weather forecast <http://www.meteo.tf1.fr>.

Take in some culinary delights with French Master Chef <http://www.tf1.fr> or some cartoons in French with your baby brother or sister; you can both learn some French <http://www.cinetrafic.fr>.

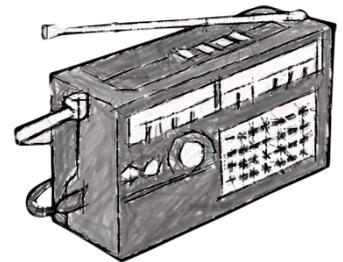
You can also access the TV using:

- Your own TV. If you get Euronews, you can put it into French by selecting the right language in the dropdown menu on the left.
- Look at <http://www.squidtv.net/europe/france>. This website gives you access to nationwide and regional V stations.
- BBC Website <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z9b4q6f>. If you have trouble bringing the website up, type in www.bbc.co.uk/education. Then select England GCSE and scroll down until you find Modern Foreign Languages. Behind both the Speaking and Listening tabs there are loads of great videos to watch that only last a few minutes and they are a great way to practice your listening skills.

Listen to the radio

The great thing about listening to the radio is that you can get on with something else at the same time (tidying your room???).

- <http://www.surfmusic.de/country/france.html>
- <http://www.listenlive.eu/france.html>



TOP TIP: Listen to Radiovl.fr Radio.vl.fr is the radio station that young listen to.



Sign up to Twitter

Sign up to Twitter for authentic text that you can quickly flick through. They will help you pick up the language even when lazily browsing twitter.

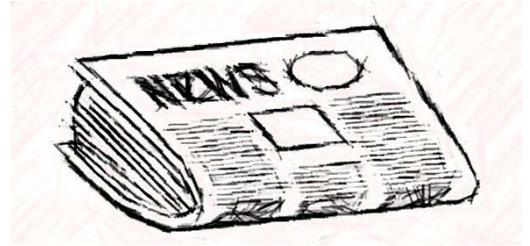
TOP TIP: Sign up to Twitter and register to a feed that tweets a word or so a day

Read...

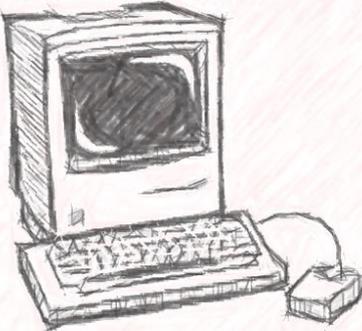
Keep your own vocabulary book for new expressions you come across – there is a sheet at the back of this booklet to start you off. You could order it alphabetically, by topic area based on what we are going to study or just use it as a diary and scribble away your French development in it.

Newspapers and Magazines

Read a foreign language newspaper such as Vogue Paris (leading fashion magazine), Paris Match, Le Point, Le Figaro, Le Monde, L'Express...etc. Some of them have their own website so that you can read the paper online. You do not have to read the paper cover to cover, just scan the headlines and pick out ONE article that grabs your attention.



This website gives you access to newspapers all over the world. Here is the link to a range of French papers. <http://www.mediatico.com/en/newspapers/europe/france/national/>



Websites

Switch to French browsers. This way, you will read French every time you log on and it will become part of your everyday activity.

Look at the BBC website <http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/tv/onlinenews.shtml> for links to French programmes available on line.

Websites for research

Once you actually start your A Level in September, you will realise that you are almost completing a Sociology A Level in French. It is fascinating and you will learn all about the history and culture of French speakers.

British Council support available from <http://schoolonline.britishcouncil.org/> Keep your eyes peeled as they often have trips to France for free! You have to apply for them but they are an amazing opportunity to build your French skills. There is no better way to learn a language than by spending time in that country.

The National Centre for Languages <http://www.cilt.org.uk/home.aspx> for information on how to set up blogs and also further links to grants for trips to France etc.

On-line dictionary

A good on-line dictionary is: <http://www.wordreference.com/>

TOP TIP: Don't look up every word you are not sure of when reading an article/ book Yep... you read that right. When you are reading articles etc, try not to look up every word as it will take you forever. Skim and scan the text to get the gist. Remember to use the context or the article, cognates and common sense to figure out what the article is saying. Pick out a couple of words that you like the look of, that you feel may be real hurdles to getting the idea of the text, look them up carefully and add them to your vocab booklet. The aim at this stage is to get the gist of the article, not be able to translate it completely. Translation is a whole different ball game and you will learn it soon enough.



You will be surprised how much more enjoyable reading will be if you really pay attention to this tip.

Grammar Practice

What should I know by now?

This is a common question asked by students about to start their A-level course. You should be able to:

TOPIC	CONTENT
Recognise and use a range of tenses with regular verbs.	<u>Regular –ER, -RE, -IR verbs:</u> Tenses: Present Preterite Imperfect Near Future Future Conditional
Recognise and use a range of tenses with irregular verbs.	<u>Common irregular verbs: avoir , être, aller, faire.</u> Tenses: Present Preterite Imperfect Near Future Future Conditional
Give opinions with reasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A range of opinion expressions• Positive and negative reasons for opinions• To be able to agree and disagree

Tasks

Complete the task log which most suits your style of working, or make your own one up but you will need to go through it with your French teacher in September so make sure that it is clear and useful to you.

You may have one week in which you are extremely motivated and one when you are not. Do not leave it all until the end of August however as you will be behind and you want to start the year as you mean to go on.

1. When you look at a website/ link on here, highlight it and note the date and what you thought about it. You can then put a couple of notes in your task log.
2. Summarise, in French, 1 article (that was in French!) that you have read from a website/paper and say why it interested you. If you cannot print the article, make a note of the website.
3. Watch at least one foreign language film.
4. Look out for any items in the English or French media relating to topics we will study – such as the Internet, advertising, healthy and unhealthy lifestyles, education so that you have points to make in a discussion and opinions to give.
5. Go onto www.languagesonline.org.uk. Complete 2 exercises a week. Each exercise takes less than 5 minutes. Note down the exercise you did and your score.
6. Read through the course overview so that you have an idea of what we will be studying. This will also help you with task 4 above.
7. If you find any other websites/ links/ twitter feeds that you think are worth sharing, note them down too.
8. Each time you pass a second hand shop, pop in and see whether they have any large dictionaries or any French books – either fiction or grammar. You can find old French dictionaries worth £35 on sale for less than a fiver!
9. And finally...Remember, you will take from the course what you put in. If you are lucky enough to go to a French Speaking Country bring back some useful bits – leaflets, maps, magazines etc. Students who put in plenty of independent work are always the most successful. Enjoy!

Task Log

Date	Website/Source	Comments

