

GCSE (9-1) French (1FR1)

Sample Assessment Materials

Paper 3, Reading
and understanding
Higher

First teaching September 2024
First certification from 2026

(Updated July 2025)

GCSE (9-1) French

Sample Assessment Materials

Paper 3, Reading and understanding

Higher

- Question papers
- Mark schemes

Please check the examination details below before entering your candidate information

Candidate surname					Other names				
Centre Number					Candidate Number				

Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9–1)

Sample assessment material for first teaching September 2024

Time 60 minutes	Paper reference	1FR1/3H
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French

PAPER 3: Reading and understanding in French

Higher Tier

You do not need any other materials.	Total Marks

Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer **all** questions in Sections A and B.
- All questions in Section A (Reading comprehension) are set in English and must be answered in English.
- The question in Section B is a translation task set in French and must be answered in English.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
– *there may be more space than you need.*
- You must **not** use a dictionary.

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets
– *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*
– *you should spend approximately 10 minutes on the translation question.*

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

Turn over ►

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School life

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theatre

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Helping people

2 Read Maxime's blog about her future career plans.

Je m'appelle Maxime et bientôt, je vais avoir quinze ans. À treize ans, j'ai commencé à m'intéresser aux questions de société.

On a déjà trouvé quelques solutions contre le sexisme et le racisme mais la sécurité est encore un problème. Dans mon quartier, il y a de la violence. Les jeunes qui n'ont pas de travail ont peu d'argent mais beaucoup de rêves !

Mon ambition est de lutter pour l'égalité. Je voudrais étudier les droits de l'enfant à l'université et un jour, devenir **avocate**.

B / U | | | | | | | | | | |

(a) Complete the sentences below.

Put a cross ☒ in the correct box for each question.

(i) Maxime will soon be ...

(1)

☒	A thirteen.
☐	B fourteen.
☐	C fifteen.

(ii) She is concerned there are still issues with ...

(1)

☒	A racism.
☐	B safety.
☐	C sexism.

(iii) In her neighbourhood, young people have a lot of ...

(1)

☒	A work.
☐	B money.
☐	C dreams.



(iv) In the future, Maxime hopes to ...

(1)

☐	A fight for equality.
☐	B raise money for children.
☐	C work for a charity.

(b) Which of these is the best translation for the word **avocate**?

Put a cross ☒ in the correct box.

(1)

☐	A banker
☐	B professor
☐	C lawyer

(Total for Question 2 = 5 marks)



Busy days

3 Marie writes in her diary.

Ma grand-mère est malade donc je suis allée en ville lui acheter des médicaments. Comme c'était mon anniversaire, j'ai regardé les magasins de vêtements tendances. J'ai vu deux belles jupes et deux pulls rouges mais je n'avais pas assez d'argent alors j'ai acheté un pantalon blanc qui était moins cher.

(a) Complete the gap in each sentence using a word from the box below. There are more words than gaps.

presents	clothes	medicine	
red	beautiful	white	fashionable

(i) Marie bought some for her grandmother. (1)

(ii) She saw some skirts. (1)

(iii) She eventually bought some trousers. (1)



The diary continues.

Demain, je vais faire les magasins avec ma sœur au centre commercial. Le soir, je vais organiser une fête chez ma mère et mon père va venir : il va faire un gâteau. Tous mes amis vont être là ! J'espère avoir des baskets et une robe comme cadeau.

(b) Complete the sentences below.

Put a cross ☒ in the correct box for each question.

(i) Marie is going shopping with her ...

(1)

☐	A father.
☐	B sister.
☐	C friend.

(ii) Marie's party is at her ... house.

(1)

☐	A father's
☐	B friends'
☐	C mother's

(c) Answer the following questions **in English**. You do not need to write in full sentences.

(i) What will her father make?

(1)

(ii) Name **one item** Marie is hoping to get as a present.

(1)

(Total for Question 3 = 7 marks)



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An invitation

4 Read Charlie's email to Fathia.



Salut Fathia, c'est Charlie. Mon chanteur préféré s'appelle **Grand Corps Malade***. Son vrai nom, c'est Fabien Marsaud. Il donnera un concert ce soir, j'ai acheté deux billets. Voudrais-tu venir ?

J'apprécie beaucoup le talent que Fabien a pour écrire des chansons. Pour moi, c'est un artiste de **génie****, extrêmement original. Ses paroles sont parfois difficiles à comprendre mais elles m'aident à mieux comprendre la société. Il est vraiment **doué** !

**Grand Corps Malade* (Tall, Sick Body) – the stage name of the French slam poet and singer Fabien Marsaud.

***génie* – genius

(a) Answer the following questions **in English**. You do not need to write in full sentences.

(i) What is Charlie inviting Fathia to do?

(1)

(ii) Why does Charlie like Fabien's lyrics?

(1)



(b) Which of these is the best translation of the word ***doué***?

Put a cross ☒ in the correct box.

(1)

☐	A gifted
☐	B humorous
☐	C wealthy

(Total for Question 4 = 3 marks)





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Eating habits

5 Read Théo's and Dorian's blogs about their eating habits.

Je m'appelle Théo. Avant, je ne mangeais jamais de légumes. Aujourd'hui, c'est différent grâce à la famille de mon amie, Zoé.

Ils ne mettent ni viande ni poisson dans leurs plats. Hier, ils m'ont invité pour le déjeuner et ont préparé une délicieuse recette **sénégalaise*** avec du riz et des légumes. Depuis ce jour, je mange de la nourriture plus saine.

**sénégalais(e)* – from Senegal, a country in West Africa.

(a) What does Théo say about his eating habits?

Put a cross ☒ next to each one of the **three** correct statements.

(3)

☐	A Théo has always loved vegetables.
☐	B Zoé's family helped Théo change his diet.
☐	C Zoé's family never cooks meat.
☐	D Théo invited Zoé's family for lunch.
☐	E Zoé's family used rice and vegetables in their recipe.
☐	F Théo no longer eats healthy food.



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(b) What does Dorian say about his diet?

Salut ! C'est Dorian.

Auparavant, j'adorais boire du lait au petit-déjeuner mais j'avais souvent mal à la tête et au ventre. Mon médecin m'a alors recommandé de changer ma façon de manger et de devenir végétarien.

Désormais, je prends du thé avec des fruits. Je me sens mieux, je suis toujours en forme !

B / U | | | | | | | | |

Complete the following tables **in English**. You do not need to write in full sentences.

(i)

The effects of drinking milk (1 detail)	
	(1)

(ii)

His doctor's recommendation (1 detail)	
	(1)

(iii)

His current breakfast (1 detail)	
	(1)

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(iv)

How he feels now (1 detail)

(1)

(Total for Question 5 = 7 marks)



A successful rugby player

6 Read this text that Louis has written for a school project.

Lorsque notre professeur nous a demandé d'écrire un texte sur une personne que nous respectons beaucoup, j'ai pensé à Richard, le mari de mon frère. Pour moi, c'est un modèle !

Aujourd'hui, Richard a confiance en lui mais quand il était adolescent, il n'était ni grand ni fort. Il n'aimait pas le sport. Un jour, il regardait un match de rugby à la télé et il a vu un joueur qui lui ressemblait. Cela a été une révélation extraordinaire !

(a) What does Louis say?

Put a cross ☒ next to each one of the **two** correct statements.

(2)

☐	A He admires Richard.
☐	B He and Richard are cousins.
☐	C Richard was tall for his age.
☐	D Richard was inspired by someone he saw on TV.



Louis' text continues.

Richard a décidé de **s'inscrire*** dans un club. Avec sa petite taille, il était différent des autres joueurs. Au début, sur le terrain, ils ne lui faisaient pas confiance mais Richard a montré qu'il était rapide et efficace.

Il a travaillé dur pour trouver sa place. Après des années passées dans l'équipe nationale, la Fédération de rugby l'a choisi comme président pour le remercier de son travail. Nous sommes fiers de l'avoir dans notre famille !

**s'inscrire* – to enrol

(b) How do people respond to Richard?

Complete the following tables **in English**. You do not need to write in full sentences.

(i)

How the rugby team reacted to Richard at first

.....

(1)

(ii)

How the Rugby Federation rewarded Richard

.....

(1)

(iii)

How the family feels about Richard

.....

(1)

(Total for Question 6 = 5 marks)



S 7 8 2 7 7 A 0 1 5 2 4

Beaches in Paris

7 Read this online article about artificial beaches in Paris.



Comme chaque année, la capitale invite les touristes à profiter de ses plages en bord de **Seine***. Ouvertes du 9 juillet au 21 août, ceux qui aiment le soleil peuvent venir sans réserver.

Des activités gratuites pour les enfants y sont proposées tous les après-midis : jeux, chansons, châteaux de sable ...

Pour vous reposer, nous vous recommandons la bibliothèque de plage où vous pourrez lire un livre. Si vous voulez rester en forme, l'office de tourisme vous donnera le détail de toutes les activités sportives disponibles.

À noter : nous vous proposons un parc naturel avec des animaux en liberté et des voyages en bateau sur la Seine. Pour acheter vos billets, présentez-vous à l'office de tourisme !

*(La) Seine – a river in Paris

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(a) Complete the sentences below.

Put a cross ☒ in the correct box for each question.

(i) The beaches are open ...

(1)

☐	A all year.
☐	B in July and August.
☐	C only when the sun is out.

(ii) Children's activities ...

(1)

☐	A are free.
☐	B must be booked.
☐	C are in the mornings.

(iii) To relax, tourists can go to the ...

(1)

☐	A park.
☐	B library.
☐	C tourist office.

(b) Answer the following questions **in English**. You do not need to write in full sentences.

(i) What is special about the animals in the park?

(1)

.....

(ii) How can tourists book a boat trip?

(1)

.....

(Total for Question 7 = 5 marks)

.....



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A school project

- 8 Read this article that your Swiss friend has written in his school magazine.

Salut les copains ! Notre classe est partie en montagne le week-end dernier pour travailler sur les problèmes d'environnement et de pollution avec l'aide du président de la région.

Vous avez probablement vu sur Internet les terribles conséquences du changement climatique dans notre pays. De nombreux poissons sont malheureusement morts car il n'y avait pas assez d'eau dans les lacs. Aussi, des feux ont détruit nos forêts et nous avons vu que les animaux étaient malades parce qu'ils mangeaient les sacs en plastique jetés par les touristes.

Dès la semaine prochaine, nous allons travailler dur. Nous allons mettre des **panneaux*** pour encourager les touristes à ne pas jeter leurs déchets et à ne pas faire de feu.

Voulez-vous nous aider à sauver notre belle planète ? Si vous avez d'autres idées, vous pouvez les envoyer par e-mail au président de la région. Nous devons agir ensemble pour protéger la nature !

**panneaux* – signs

Answer the following questions **in English**. You do not need to write in full sentences.

- (a) Name **one thing** the class worked on when visiting the mountain reserve.

(1)

- (b) Why have so many fish died recently?

(1)

- (c) What made the animals ill?

(1)

- (d) Name **one thing** tourists are asked not to do?

(1)



(e) How can students share their ideas?

(1)

(Total for Question 8 = 5 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 40 MARKS



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My plans

(10)

Je fais une formation professionnelle au lycée cette année. Plus tard, je voudrais ouvrir mon propre restaurant. Mes parents et moi rêvons de vivre au Canada. Nous partons donc l'année prochaine à Montréal et j'ai déjà trouvé un poste ! Je travaillerai dans un fastfood qui a besoin de jeunes qui parlent français.

(Total for Question 9 = 10 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 10 MARKS
TOTAL FOR PAPER = 50 MARKS

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Picture credits

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Question 7: 503465451 – Loic Lagarde/Getty Images (RF)

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GCSE French Reading Higher tier

Paper 3 Mark scheme

SECTION A: READING COMPREHENSION

Question number	Answer	Mark
1(a)	comfortable	(1)

Question number	Answer	Mark
1(b)	museum	(1)

Question number	Answer	Mark
1(c)	theatre	(1)

Question number	Answer	Mark
2(a)(i)	C	(1)

Question number	Answer	Mark
2(a)(ii)	B	(1)

Question number	Answer	Mark
2(a)(iii)	C	(1)

Question number	Answer	Mark
2(a)(iv)	A	(1)

Question number	Answer	Mark
2(b)	C	(1)

Question number	Answer	Mark
3(a)(i)	medicine	(1)

Question number	Answer	Mark
3(a)(ii)	beautiful	(1)

Question number	Answer	Mark
3(a)(iii)	white	(1)

Question number	Answer	Mark
3(b)(i)	B	(1)

Question number	Answer	Mark
3(b)(ii)	C	(1)

Question number	Answer	Mark
3(c)(i)	a (birthday) cake	(1)

Question number	Answer	Mark
3(c)(ii)	EITHER trainers OR (a) dress	(1)

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
4(a)(i)	attend/go to a concert (with him)	concert	(1)

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
4(a)(ii)	they help him to /he can understand society (better)	write songs	(1)

Question number	Answer	Mark
4(b)	A	(1)

Question number	Answer	Mark
5(a)	B, C, E	(3)

Question number	Answer	Mark
5(b)(i)	EITHER (gives him) headaches OR (gives him) tummy/stomach ache	(1)

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
5(b)(ii)	EITHER to change the way he eats/his diet OR to become a vegan / eat a vegan diet	to become a vegetarian	(1)

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
5(b)(iii)	EITHER tea OR fruit	Any other food or drink.	(1)

Question number	Answer	Mark
5(b)(iv)	EITHER (He feels) better. OR (He feels) healthy/healthier.	(1)

Question number	Answer	Mark
6(a)	A, D	(2)

Question number	Answer	Mark
6(b)(i)	(They) did not trust him/no trust/no confidence.	(1)

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
6(b)(ii)	(They) chose him to be president.	They thanked him for his work.	(1)

Question number	Answer	Mark
6(b)(iii)	(They are) proud.	(1)

Question number	Answer	Mark
7(a)(i)	B	(1)

Question number	Answer	Mark
7(a)(ii)	A	(1)

Question number	Answer	Mark
7(a)(iii)	B	(1)

Question number	Answer	Mark
7(b)(i)	They are/run free.	(1)

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
7(b)(ii)	EITHER by going to the tourist office OR by buying a ticket (at the tourist office)	Isolated words such as tourist office, ticket.	(1)

Question number	Answer	Mark
8(a)	EITHER environmental problems OR pollution	(1)

Question number	Answer	Mark
8(b)	insufficient/not enough water (in the lakes)	(1)

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
8(c)	(They) ate plastic bags (thrown away by tourists).	forest fires	(1)

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
8(d)	EITHER (They are asked not to) throw rubbish. OR (They are asked not to) start fires.	throw plastic bags	(1)

Question number	Answer	Reject	Mark
8(e)	by email (to the president of the region)	Isolated words such as president, writing, contacting.	(1)

SECTION B: TRANSLATION INTO ENGLISH

Question 9

Mark	AO2: Response to stimulus
9–10	The meaning of the original language is fully and appropriately transferred; any errors do not detract from the overall clarity of the message.
6–8	The meaning of the original language is mostly transferred appropriately. Occasional errors affect the clarity of the message, e.g. incorrect words, omitted words, inexact syntax.
3–5	The meaning of parts of the original language is appropriately transferred. Some errors prevent the message being conveyed, e.g. some use of incorrect words, omitted phrases, incorrect tenses.
1–2	Intermittent parts of the original language are appropriately transferred. Frequent errors prevent the message being conveyed, e.g. frequent use of incorrect words, omitted phrases, incorrect tenses.
0	No rewardable communication.

The following example response gives an appropriate transference of meaning. Any alternative, appropriate wording will also be rewarded.

Question number	Model response
9	I'm doing vocational training in sixth form this year. In the future, I would like to open my own restaurant. My parents and I dream of living in Canada. We are going to Montréal next year and I have already found a job! I will work in a fast food restaurant which needs young people who speak French.

Exemplification of the mark scheme: Translation example responses

Example Response 1

I am doing professional training at high school this year. Later on, I would like to open my own restaurant. Living in Canada is mine and my parents' dream. We leave for Montreal next year and I have already found a job. I will be working in fast food restaurant which needs young people who speak French.

Total marks: 10 marks

The meaning of the original language is fully and appropriately transferred, despite using words which differ from the model response. There aren't any errors which detract from the overall clarity of the message so the response sits in the 9-10 mark band.

Example Response 2

I am doing work training at college for a year. Later on, I would like to open my own restaurant. My parents and I dream of living in Canada. We leave Montreal next year and I have already found a job. I can't wait! I will work in a fast food restaurant for children in France.

Total marks: 5 marks

The meaning of most parts of the original language is appropriately transferred, but some errors prevent the message being conveyed (e.g., "for a year", "We leave Montreal"). There is also some use of incorrect words (e.g., "for children in France"). For this reason, the best fit would be at the upper end of the 3-5 mark band.

Example Response 3

I do professional training on a bike every year. I would like to have a proper restaurant. My parents and me want to go to Canada. We want to move in Montreal and I have sent a letter. I travel with my fast food job..... French.

Total marks: 2 marks

Intermittent parts of the original language are appropriately transferred (e.g., "My parents and me", "professional training", "restaurant"), but frequent errors such as incorrect words and omitted phrases prevent the message being conveyed (e.g., "on a bike every year", "proper", "sent a letter"). For this reason, the response best sits in the 1-2 mark band.

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