



CAMBRIDGE
International Education

Syllabus

Cambridge IGCSETM French 0520

Use this syllabus for exams in 2028, 2029 and 2030.

Exams are available in the June and November series.

Exams are also available in the March series in India.



Français

Version I

For the purposes of screen readers, any mention in this document of Cambridge IGCSE refers to Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education.

Why choose Cambridge?

We work with schools worldwide to build an education that shapes knowledge, understanding and skills. Together, we give learners the confidence they need to thrive and make a positive impact in a changing world.

As part of the University of Cambridge, we offer a globally trusted and flexible framework for education from age 3 to 19, informed by research, experience, and listening to educators.

With recognised qualifications, high-quality resources, comprehensive support and valuable insights, we help schools prepare every student for the opportunities and challenges ahead.

Qualifications that are recognised and valued worldwide

From the world's top-ranked universities to local higher education institutions, Cambridge qualifications open doors to a world of opportunities.

Setting a global standard

With over 160 years of experience in delivering fair, valid and reliable assessments to students worldwide, we offer a global, recognised performance standard for international education.

Your path, your way

Schools can adapt our curriculum, high-quality teaching and learning resources and flexible assessments to their local context. Our aligned offer helps Cambridge schools support every learner to reach their potential and thrive.

Learning with lasting impact

Cambridge learners build subject knowledge and conceptual understanding, and develop a broad range of skills, learning habits and attributes to help make them ready for the world.

Improving learning outcomes through data-led insight and action

Our trusted baseline and diagnostic assessments, together with our insights and evaluation service, help schools turn data into knowledge and actionable insights, to inform teaching decisions and improve learner outcomes.

Bringing together a community of experts

We bring together the collective knowledge of experts and our diverse community of educators worldwide, supporting them to learn from one another and share ideas and information.

Tackling the climate crisis together

We believe that education is key to tackling the climate crisis. Together with Cambridge schools, we can empower young people with the skills and knowledge to take action on climate change, helping them be ready for the world.

School feedback: 'We think the Cambridge curriculum is superb preparation for university.'

Feedback from: Christoph Guttentag, Dean of Undergraduate Admissions, Duke University, USA

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Important: Changes to this syllabus

For information about changes to this syllabus for 2028, 2029 and 2030, go to page 32.



1 Why choose this syllabus?

Key benefits

Cambridge IGCSE is the world's most popular international qualification for 14 to 16 year olds, although it can be taken by students at any age. Taught by over 5000 schools in 150 countries, it is tried, tested and trusted.

Students can choose from 70 subjects in any combination, including 30 languages.

Our programmes promote a thorough knowledge and understanding of a subject and help to develop the skills learners need for their next steps in education or employment.

Cambridge IGCSE French helps candidates develop transferable skills for understanding and communicating in everyday situations in French. Learners begin to develop cultural awareness of countries and communities where French is spoken. They gain the essential linguistic skills required for progression to further studies or employment.

Our approach in Cambridge IGCSE French encourages learners to be:

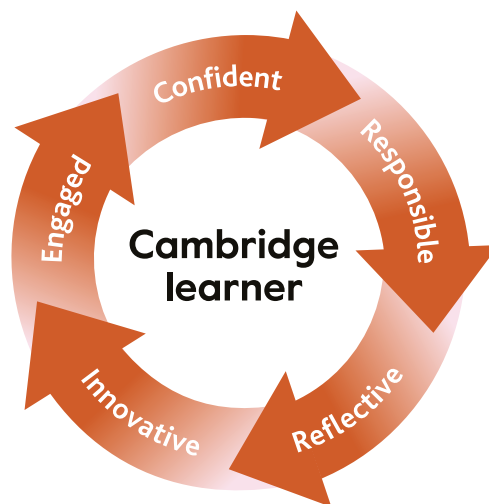
confident, using new and familiar language to communicate with others in everyday situations

responsible, seeking opportunities to use and develop their language skills

reflective, considering how to communicate different ideas and attitudes

innovative, applying new and familiar language to a variety of everyday situations

engaged, developing learning strategies to help express their ideas and understanding.



School feedback: ‘The strength of Cambridge IGCSE qualifications is internationally recognised and has provided an international pathway for our students to continue their studies around the world.’

Feedback from: Gary Tan, Head of Schools and CEO, Raffles Group of Schools, Indonesia

Qualifications that are recognised and valued worldwide

Cambridge qualifications prepare and equip learners with the skills they need to thrive at university and beyond. The world's best higher education institutions recognise our qualifications and value the critical thinking skills, independent research abilities and deep subject knowledge that Cambridge learners bring.

We continually work with universities and colleges in every part of the world to ensure that they understand and accept our qualifications. Cambridge IGCSE provides a springboard to the Cambridge Advanced stage, as well as other post-16 routes. The combination of knowledge and skills in Cambridge IGCSE French gives learners a solid foundation for further study. Candidates who achieve grades A* to C are well prepared to follow a wide range of courses including Cambridge International AS Level French Language.

Many universities require a combination of Cambridge International AS & A Levels and Cambridge IGCSEs or equivalent to meet their entry requirements.

UK ENIC, the national agency in the UK for the recognition and comparison of international qualifications and skills, has carried out an independent benchmarking study of Cambridge IGCSE and found it to be comparable to the standard of the GCSE in the UK. This means students can be confident that their Cambridge IGCSE qualifications are accepted as equivalent to UK GCSEs by leading universities worldwide.

Cambridge IGCSE French has been designed to help candidates develop language proficiency to level A2 (Basic User) with some elements of proficiency at level B1 (Independent User) of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment (CEFR).

Assessment objectives, subject content, mark schemes and task types have been designed with reference to the CEFR to ensure that candidates have opportunities to demonstrate proficiency at the intended levels.

Learn more at www.cambridgeinternational.org/recognition

School feedback: 'Cambridge IGCSE is one of the most sought-after and recognised qualifications in the world. It is very popular in Egypt because it provides the perfect preparation for success at advanced level programmes.'

Feedback from: Managing Director of British School of Egypt BSE

Supporting teachers

We believe education works best when teaching and learning are closely aligned to the curriculum, resources and assessment. Our high-quality teaching support helps to maximise teaching time and enables teachers to engage learners of all backgrounds and abilities.

We aim to provide the following support for each Cambridge qualification:

- Syllabus
- Specimen question papers and mark schemes
- Specimen paper answers
- Schemes of Work
- Example candidate responses
- Past papers and mark schemes
- Principal examiner reports for teachers

These resources are available on the School Support Hub at www.cambridgeinternational.org/support, our secure online site for Cambridge teachers. Your exams officer can provide you with a login.

Additional teaching & learning resources are also available for many syllabuses and vary according to the nature of the subject and the structure of the assessment of each syllabus. These can include ready-built lesson materials, digital resources and multimedia for the classroom and homework, guidance on assessment and much more. Beyond the resources available on the Schools Support Hub, a wide range of endorsed textbooks and associated teaching and learning support are available from Cambridge at www.cambridge.org/education and from other publishers. Resources vary according to the nature of the subject and the structure of the assessment of each syllabus.

You can also contact our global Cambridge community or talk to a senior examiner on our discussion forums.

Sign up for email notifications about changes to syllabuses, including new and revised products and services, at www.cambridgeinternational.org/syllabusupdates

Professional development

Find the next step on your professional development journey.

- **Introduction courses** – An introduction to Cambridge programmes and qualifications. For teachers who are new to Cambridge programmes or new to a specific syllabus.
- **Focus on Teaching courses** – These are for teachers who want to explore a specific area of teaching and learning within a syllabus or programme.
- **Focus on Assessment courses** – These are for teachers who want to understand the assessment of a syllabus in greater depth.
- **Marking workshops** – These workshops help you become more familiar with what examiners are looking for, and provide an opportunity to raise questions and share your experiences of the syllabus.
- **Enrichment Professional Development** – Transform your approach to teaching with our Enrichment workshops. Each workshop focuses on a specific area of teaching and learning practice.
- **Cambridge Professional Development Qualifications (PDQs)** – Practice-based programmes that transform professional learning for practicing teachers. Available at Certificate and Diploma level.

For more information visit www.cambridgeinternational.org/support-and-training-for-schools

Supporting exams officers

We provide comprehensive support and guidance for all Cambridge exams officers.
Find out more at: www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide



2 Syllabus overview

Aims

The aims describe the purposes of a course based on this syllabus.

Students following a course based on this syllabus will:

- develop the language proficiency required to communicate effectively in French at level A2 (CEFR Basic User), with elements of level B1 (CEFR Independent User)
- gain understanding of the culture and society of countries and communities where French is spoken
- develop awareness of the nature of language and language learning
- develop positive attitudes towards speakers of other languages and a sympathetic approach to other cultures
- gain enjoyment and intellectual stimulation
- develop transferable skills (e.g. memorising, drawing of inferences) to complement other areas of the curriculum
- develop a sound base of the skills, language and attitudes required for progression to work or further study, either in French or another subject area.



We are an education organisation and politically neutral. The contents of this syllabus, examination papers and associated materials do not endorse any political view. We endeavour to treat all aspects of the exam process neutrally.

Content overview

The subject content is organised in five broad topic areas (A–E below). These provide contexts for the learning of vocabulary and the study of grammar and structures. The study of these topic areas enables students to gain an insight into the cultures, countries and communities where French is spoken. The five topic areas listed below are described in more detail in section 3.

- A Everyday activities
- B Personal and social life
- C The world around us
- D The world of work
- E The international world

A course based on this syllabus should provide learners with opportunities to develop and apply a wide range of foreign language skills.

Learners will read and understand a variety of written and spoken texts on familiar topics. They will demonstrate understanding of ideas, opinions and attitudes, as well as select and extract relevant details and deduce the meaning of occasional unknown words from context.

They will also have opportunities to write in French on familiar, everyday topics, and to speak the language by taking part in everyday conversations.

Assessment overview

All candidates take **four** components. Candidates will be eligible for grades A* to G.

All candidates take:		and:	
Paper 1	Approximately 50 minutes	Paper 2	1 hour
Listening	25%	Reading	25%
40 marks		40 marks	
Candidates listen to a number of recordings and answer multiple-choice and matching questions.		Candidates read a number of texts and answer multiple-choice and matching questions.	
Externally assessed		Externally assessed	
and:		and:	
Paper 3	Approximately 10 minutes	Paper 4	1 hour
Speaking	25%	Writing	25%
40 marks		40 marks	
Candidates complete one role play and conversations on two topics.		Candidates complete one form-filling task, one directed writing task and one task in the format of an email/letter or article/blog.	
Internally assessed and externally moderated		Externally assessed	

Information on availability is in the **Before you start** section.

Check the timetable at www.cambridgeinternational.org/timetables for the test date window for Paper 3.

Check the samples database at www.cambridgeinternational.org/samples for submission information, forms and deadlines for Paper 3.

Assessment objectives

The assessment objectives (AOs) are:

AO1 Listening

Candidates will be assessed on their ability to:

- L1 understand the main points and key information in simple everyday material
- L2 understand clear speech on a range of familiar topics
- L3 understand the description of events and expression of ideas, opinions and attitudes in simple texts
- L4 identify and select relevant information in predictable texts

AO2 Reading

Candidates will be assessed on their ability to:

- R1 understand the main points and key information in simple everyday material
- R2 understand authentic factual texts on a range of familiar topics
- R3 understand the description of events and expression of ideas, opinions and attitudes in simple texts
- R4 identify and select relevant information in predictable texts

AO3 Speaking

Candidates will be assessed on their ability to:

- S1 communicate clearly and effectively in a range of predictable everyday situations
- S2 engage in conversations on familiar topics, expressing opinions and feelings
- S3 use a range of structures and vocabulary with reasonable accuracy
- S4 demonstrate some ability to maintain interaction
- S5 show some control of pronunciation and intonation

AO4 Writing

Candidates will be assessed on their ability to:

- W1 communicate simple factual information clearly for everyday purposes
- W2 write simple phrases and sentences on a familiar topic
- W3 write simple connected texts describing events, experiences, opinions and hopes and ambitions
- W4 use a range of simple vocabulary and language structures reasonably accurately

Weighting for assessment objectives

The approximate weightings allocated to each of the assessment objectives (AOs) are summarised below.

Assessment objectives as a percentage of the qualification

Assessment objective	Weighting in IGCSE %
AO1 Listening	25
AO2 Reading	25
AO3 Speaking	25
AO4 Writing	25
Total	100

Assessment objectives as a percentage of each component

Assessment objective	Weighting in components %			
	Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3	Paper 4
AO1 Listening	100	0	0	0
AO2 Reading	0	100	0	0
AO3 Speaking	0	0	100	0
AO4 Writing	0	0	0	100
Total	100	100	100	100

3 Subject content

This syllabus gives you the flexibility to design a course that will interest, challenge and engage your learners. Where appropriate you are responsible for selecting resources, texts and examples to support your learners' study. These should be appropriate for the learners' age, cultural background and learning context as well as complying with your school policies and local legal requirements.

Skills

The skills covered in the syllabus are outlined below.

Listening

- Understand short recordings dealing with everyday needs (e.g. simple transactions in shops, simple directions or instructions).
- Understand factual information and ideas from a range of sources (e.g. announcements, phone messages, news items, interviews, dialogues) on familiar topics.
- Understand descriptions of events, opinions, emotions, hopes and ambitions in simple texts (e.g. in radio broadcasts, interviews, dialogues).
- Identify main points, specific information and details on everyday topics (e.g. personal and family information, shopping, local area, employment, school, leisure activities).
- Identify main points, themes, opinions, ideas, emotions and attitudes in predictable texts (e.g. news reports, conversations, interviews, simple monologues).
- Deduce the meaning of occasional unknown words and expressions from the context.

Reading

- Understand short, simple texts (e.g. signs and notices in public places, such as streets, restaurants and bus/railway stations and airports).
- Understand authentic texts on familiar topics and situations (e.g. newspaper/magazine articles, email messages, blogs and letters).
- Understand descriptions of events, opinions, emotions, hopes and ambitions in simple texts (e.g. in articles, interviews or personal messages).
- Identify main points, specific information and details in predictable texts (e.g. advertisements, brochures, menus, timetables, instructions, messages).
- Identify main points, themes, opinions, ideas, emotions and attitudes in predictable texts (e.g. newspaper/magazine articles, simple plots of films or books).
- Deduce the meaning of occasional unknown words and expressions from the context.

Speaking

- Participate in short social exchanges (e.g. greet people, make and respond to invitations, apologies) and communicate on familiar topics to meet simple needs (e.g. order food and drink, simple transactions in shops, use public transport, ask and give directions, request information).
- Participate in unprepared conversations on familiar topics of personal interest or relevant to everyday life (e.g. family, friends, home environment, hobbies and interests, education, work, travel).
- Describe past events and experiences, hopes and ambitions and give brief reasons for opinions and plans.
- Communicate with reasonable accuracy, using a range of structures, tenses and vocabulary relevant to the given situation.
- Use simple connectors (e.g. and, but, because, then) to link a series of shorter discrete elements into a connected sequence of points.
- Use appropriate strategies to maintain interaction.
- Use features of pronunciation and intonation to convey meaning and attitude.

Writing

- Fill in forms providing simple details.
- Communicate simple factual information in writing using everyday vocabulary and expressions.
- Write a series of simple phrases and sentences linked with simple connectors, relating to personal life, immediate environment and everyday topics (e.g. writing about a holiday).
- Write simple connected texts (e.g. email messages, articles) on familiar topics (e.g. plans and arrangements, likes and dislikes, family, home environment, hobbies and interests, education, work and travel).
- Describe past events and experiences, opinions, hopes and ambitions and give brief reasons for opinions and plans.
- Communicate with reasonable accuracy, using a range of structures, tenses, time frames and vocabulary relevant to the given situation.
- Use simple connectors (e.g. and, but, because, then) to link a series of shorter discrete elements into a connected sequence of points.

Topic areas

Candidates will be required to show knowledge and understanding of the broad topic areas listed below. These provide contexts for the learning of vocabulary and the study of grammar and structures. Through the study of these broad topic areas, candidates gain insight into the cultures, countries and communities where French is spoken.

The sub-topics listed are provided as examples of what teachers may choose to focus on. They are examples only and are not intended to be prescriptive or exhaustive.

Area	Topic areas	Sub-topics
A	Everyday activities	- Time expressions (e.g. telling the time, days, months, seasons) - Food and drink (e.g. meals, fruit and vegetables, meat, fish and seafood, snacks, drinks, cutlery and utensils) - The human body and health (e.g. parts of the body, health and illness) - Travel and transport
B	Personal and social life	- Self, family and friends - In the home (e.g. rooms, living room, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, furniture and furnishings, garden, household appliances) - Colours - Clothes and accessories - Leisure time (e.g. things to do, hobbies, sport, holidays)
C	The world around us	- People and places (e.g. continents, countries and nationalities, compass points) - The natural world, the environment, the climate and the weather - Communications and technology (e.g. the digital world, documents and texts) - The built environment (e.g. buildings and services, urban areas, shopping) - Measurements (e.g. size, shape) - Materials
D	The world of work	- Education (e.g. learning institutions, education and training, the classroom, learning tools, subjects, studying) - Work (e.g. jobs and careers, the workplace)
E	The international world	- Countries, nationalities and languages - Culture, customs, faiths and celebrations

Faculty feedback: ‘Understanding how and why our climate is changing and providing the knowledge and skills to explore the challenges plays a key role in every student’s education.’

Feedback from: Dr Amy Munro-Faure, Head of Education and Student Engagement of Cambridge Zero

4 Details of the assessment

Dictionaries are **not** allowed in the examinations.

Paper 1 – Listening

Multiple-choice, approximately 50 minutes (including 6 minutes' transfer time), 40 marks

This paper has 37 multiple-choice and matching questions. Candidates answer **all** questions by selecting the correct option or options. The questions test comprehension of recorded texts, for example, dialogues, announcements and conversations. Candidates hear each recorded text twice. At the end of the test candidates will be asked to transfer their answers onto the separate answer sheet.

Centres must check the *Cambridge Handbook* for the year candidates are taking the assessment. The *Cambridge Handbook* tells you when and how to access the audio material for each examination series.
www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide

Teachers/invigilators must consult the relevant sections of the *Cambridge Handbook* about administering the listening examination and for details about rooms, equipment, guidance on acoustics and checking the audio material in advance.

Description of questions

Questions 1–8

<i>Assessment objective</i>	L1
<i>Task</i>	Candidates listen to short texts and answer eight multiple-choice questions with four options.
<i>Text types</i>	Announcements, phone messages, news items or dialogues
<i>Total marks</i>	8

Questions 9–14

<i>Assessment objectives</i>	L1, L2, L4
<i>Task</i>	Candidates listen to a monologue or dialogue containing factual information and answer six multiple-choice questions with four options.
<i>Text types</i>	Short monologue or dialogue
<i>Total marks</i>	6

Questions 15–19

<i>Assessment objectives</i>	L2, L3, L4
<i>Task</i>	Candidates listen to a conversation and match the names of people, places, items or activities with the correct statements.
<i>Text types</i>	Informal conversation
<i>Total marks</i>	5

continued

Description of questions continued**Questions 20–28**

<i>Assessment objectives</i>	L2, L3, L4
<i>Task</i>	Candidates listen to a dialogue or, alternatively, two shorter dialogues (each with a different person, on a common theme) and answer nine multiple-choice questions with three options.
<i>Text types</i>	Conversation, discussion or interview
<i>Total marks</i>	9

Questions 29–34

<i>Assessment objectives</i>	L2, L3, L4
<i>Task</i>	Candidates listen to a dialogue and answer six multiple-choice questions with four options.
<i>Text types</i>	Conversation, discussion or interview
<i>Total marks</i>	6

Questions 35–37

<i>Assessment objectives</i>	L2, L3, L4
<i>Task</i>	Candidates listen to a dialogue. In each question there are five options and candidates must select the two options which are true.
<i>Text types</i>	Conversation, discussion or interview
<i>Total marks</i>	6

Paper 2 – Reading

Multiple-choice, 1 hour, 40 marks

This paper has six groups of multiple-choice and matching questions. Candidates answer **all** questions by selecting the correct option. The questions test comprehension of written texts.

Description of question groups

Question group 1

<i>Assessment objective</i>	R1
<i>Task</i>	Candidates match a series of short statements with the correct pictures.
<i>Text types</i>	Simple statements
<i>Total marks</i>	5

Question group 2

<i>Assessment objective</i>	R1
<i>Task</i>	Candidates match a series of short notices or signs commonly found in public places with an explanatory statement. The texts are all set in the same context.
<i>Text types</i>	Signs, notices, instructions, messages, advertisements
<i>Total marks</i>	5

Question group 3

<i>Assessment objectives</i>	R2, R4
<i>Task</i>	Candidates read a short text and answer multiple-choice questions with four options.
<i>Text types</i>	Email, message or letter
<i>Total marks</i>	7

Question group 4

<i>Assessment objectives</i>	R2, R4
<i>Task</i>	Candidates read a short text and complete a gap fill exercise, selecting one from four multiple-choice options.
<i>Text types</i>	Email, message, letter, article or blog
<i>Total marks</i>	8

Question group 5

<i>Assessment objective</i>	R3
<i>Task</i>	Candidates read four texts and eight short statements which link to the texts. They match each sentence to one of the four texts.
<i>Text types</i>	Descriptions, advertisements
<i>Total marks</i>	8

continued

Description of question groups continued**Question group 6**

<i>Assessment objectives</i>	R3, R4
<i>Task</i>	Candidates read a longer text and answer multiple-choice questions with four options.
<i>Text types</i>	Articles
<i>Total marks</i>	7

Paper 3 – Speaking

Approximately 10 minutes (plus 10 minutes of preparation time), 40 marks

Each speaking test lasts approximately 10 minutes, and is structured as follows:

- a warm-up section which is not assessed (approximately 30 seconds)
- one role play – candidates respond to five transactional questions to, for example, accomplish a task or obtain goods or services (approximately two minutes)
- two topic conversations – candidates respond to questions on each topic to share views, opinions and experiences (four minutes per topic conversation).

The speaking test must be conducted in French and all candidate responses must be in French.

Both the role play and the topic conversations are set in predictable, everyday contexts and are based on the topic areas outlined in the syllabus.

During the 10-minute preparation time, candidates read a role play scenario provided on a candidate card. Candidates are allowed to make notes and they must be supervised and under exam conditions. The notes must be handed to the teacher/examiner before the start of the test and stored securely until certificates are issued.

The tests are conducted and marked by the teacher/examiner using the speaking assessment materials and assessment criteria provided. They are moderated by Cambridge International.

Speaking tests take place before the main examination series (see the relevant series' timetable). Before the speaking test period, centres will receive materials for the test. Teachers/examiners must allow sufficient time to familiarise themselves with the materials and procedures (see the *Cambridge Handbook* for details).

Cambridge International supplies a teacher/examiner booklet comprising instructions, assessment criteria and teacher/examiner scripts for the role plays and topic conversations. Candidate cards containing the role play scenarios are also supplied. The teacher/examiner booklet is confidential and must not be made available to candidates either directly or indirectly at any point. The candidate cards are confidential and must not be viewed by candidates until the start of their 10 minutes of preparation time immediately prior to their speaking test.

The teacher/examiner allocates a role play and two topic conversations to each candidate according to a randomisation grid provided in the teacher/examiner booklet.

Administration of the speaking test

Further information about the administration of speaking tests is provided in the *Cambridge Handbook* for the relevant year of assessment. For copies of the forms required for the speaking test as well as information about the deadlines, sample size and methods of submission, please refer to the samples database at **www.cambridgeinternational.org/samples**

Using the samples database

The samples database refers you to key information about the administration of speaking tests.

Use the samples database to find out:

- when and how to submit your marks for the speaking tests
- when and how to submit the speaking tests
- which forms to complete and submit with the speaking tests.

The samples database at **www.cambridgeinternational.org/samples** will ask you for:

- the qualification type (e.g. Cambridge International AS & A Level, Cambridge IGCSE and O Level, Cambridge Checkpoint Global Perspectives)
- your country / territory
- the series (e.g. June, November)
- the syllabus code (i.e. 0520 for this syllabus).

The samples database will then take you to the information you need, including dates and methods of submission of candidates' marks and work, as well as any forms you may need to complete.

Cover sheets

You should upload a completed cover sheet with the samples you submit. Download the cover sheet from the samples database at **www.cambridgeinternational.org/samples**. Follow the instructions on the form to complete it.

Recording and submitting candidates' marks and speaking tests

Please refer to the samples database at **www.cambridgeinternational.org/samples** for information, dates and methods of submission of candidates' marks and speaking tests. You should follow the instructions for 0520/03 on the samples database.

You should record marks on the required form which you should download each year from the samples database at **www.cambridgeinternational.org/samples**. Follow the instructions on the form to complete it. The marks on this form must be identical to the marks you submit to Cambridge International.

Internal moderation

If more than one teacher in your centre is marking internal assessments, you must make arrangements to moderate or standardise your teachers' marking so that all candidates are assessed to a common standard. After work has been internally assessed, you must arrange for an internal moderation stage to check the marking of each teacher. This is to ensure that all marking within the centre is consistent. If only one teacher is marking internal assessments, no internal moderation is necessary. You can find further information on the process of internal moderation in the *Cambridge Handbook* and on the samples database for the relevant year of assessment.

You should record the internally moderated marks for all candidates on the required Working Mark Sheet and submit these marks to Cambridge International according to the instructions on the samples database at www.cambridgeinternational.org/samples

External moderation

Cambridge International will externally moderate all internally assessed components.

- You must submit the marks of all candidates to Cambridge International.
- You must also submit the marked speaking tests of a sample of candidates to Cambridge International.

The samples database at www.cambridgeinternational.org/samples provides details of how to submit the marks and speaking tests.

External moderators will produce a short report for each centre with feedback on your marking and administration of the assessment.

Guidance on using levels-based mark schemes

Marking of work should be positive, rewarding achievement where possible, but clearly differentiating across the whole range of marks, where appropriate.

The marker should look at / listen to the work and then make a judgement about which level statement is the best fit. In practice, work does not always match one level statement precisely so a judgement may need to be made between two or more level statements.

Once a best-fit level statement has been identified, use the following guidance to decide on a specific mark:

- If the candidate's work **convincingly** meets the level statement, award the highest mark.
- If the candidate's work **adequately** meets the level statement, award the most appropriate mark in the middle of the range (where middle marks are available).
- If the candidate's work **just** meets the level statement, award the lowest mark.

Speaking assessment criteria grids

Role play

Each of the five role play tasks is assessed using the mark scheme below:

Mark	Descriptor
2	- The information is fully communicated. - Language is appropriate to the situation. - If a verb is used, the time frame is clear and appropriate. - Minor errors (such as adjective endings and use of prepositions) are allowed.
1	The information is partly communicated and/or the meaning is ambiguous. Errors impede communication.
0	No creditable response.

Topic conversations

When **both** topic conversations have been completed, award a mark out of 15 for **Communication** and a mark out of 15 for **Quality of Language**.

Communication

Award a mark out of 15 for the candidate's performance in **both** topic conversations.

Mark	Level	Descriptor
13–15	Very good	- Responds confidently to questions; may require repetition of occasional words or phrases. - Communicates information which is consistently relevant to the questions. - Frequently develops ideas and opinions. - Justifies and explains some answers.
10–12	Good	- Responds well to questions; may require occasional repetition of questions and/or occasional use of the alternative questions provided. - Communicates information which is almost always relevant to the questions. - Sometimes develops ideas and opinions. - Gives reasons or explanations for some answers.
7–9	Satisfactory	- Responds satisfactorily to questions; requires repetition of some questions and/or use of the alternative question(s) provided. - Communicates most of the required information; may occasionally give irrelevant information. - Conveys simple, straightforward opinions.
4–6	Weak	- Responds with difficulty; requires repetition of many questions but still attempts an answer. - Communicates some simple information relevant to the questions.
1–3	Poor	- Frequently has difficulty understanding the questions, despite repetition, and has great difficulty in replying. - Communicates one or two basic pieces of information relevant to the questions.
0		No creditable response.

Quality of Language

Award a mark out of 15 for the candidate's performance in **both** topic conversations.

Mark	Level	Descriptor
13–15	Very good	- Consistently accurate use of a wide range of the structures listed in the syllabus, with occasional errors in more complex language. - Accurate use of a wide range of vocabulary with occasional errors. - Very good pronunciation, fluency, intonation and expression; occasional errors or hesitation.
10–12	Good	- Good use of a range of the structures listed in the syllabus, with some errors. - Good use of a range of vocabulary with some errors. - Good pronunciation and fluency despite some errors or hesitation; a good attempt at correct intonation and expression.
7–9	Satisfactory	- Satisfactory use of some of the structures listed in the syllabus, with frequent errors. - Satisfactory use of vocabulary with frequent errors. - Satisfactory pronunciation and fluency despite frequent errors and hesitation; some attempt at intonation and expression.
4–6	Weak	- Limited range of structures and vocabulary, rarely accurate and/or complete; frequent ambiguity. - Pronunciation can be understood with some effort; very noticeable hesitations and stilted delivery.
1–3	Poor	- Very limited range of structures and vocabulary, almost always inaccurate. - Poor pronunciation, rarely comprehensible; many serious errors.
0		No creditable response.

Paper 4 – Writing

Written paper, 1 hour, 40 marks

This paper consists of a form-filling task, a directed writing task and an extended writing task in response to given contexts and prompts. All responses must be written in French.

Description of questions

Question 1

<i>Assessment objectives</i>	W1, W4
<i>Task</i>	Candidates fill in a form with single words or short phrases in response to a given context.
<i>Total marks</i>	5

Question 2

<i>Assessment objectives</i>	W2, W4
<i>Task</i>	Candidates complete a directed writing task in approximately 80 to 90 words on a familiar, everyday topic.
<i>Total marks</i>	10

Question 3

<i>Assessment objectives</i>	W3, W4
<i>Task</i>	Candidates choose between two tasks (an email/letter and an article/blog) and complete one of these in approximately 130 to 140 words.
<i>Total marks</i>	25

List of grammar and structures

The list of grammar and structures provides students with an indication of the grammatical knowledge they are expected to demonstrate in all of their assessments for IGCSE French. The list is not intended to be restrictive.

Articles	definite, indefinite, partitive, use of de after negative verb forms
Nouns	gender singular and plural forms
Adjectives	agreement possessive demonstrative (<i>ce, cet, cette, ces</i>) interrogative (e.g. <i>quel, quelle, quels, quelles</i>) indefinite (e.g. <i>autre, chaque, même, n'importe quel, pareil, plusieurs, quelques, tel</i>) comparative: regular forms (e.g. <i>aussi, moins, plus + que</i>) irregular forms (e.g. <i>meilleur, pire</i>) superlative: regular forms (e.g. <i>le/la plus ..., le/la moins ...</i>) irregular forms (e.g. <i>le meilleur, le pire, le moindre</i>)
Adverbs	adverbs of time and place interrogative (e.g. <i>combien, comment, où, quand, depuis quand</i>) common adverbial phrases comparative: regular forms (e.g. <i>aussi, moins, plus + que</i>) irregular forms (e.g. <i>mieux</i>) superlative: irregular forms (e.g. <i>le mieux</i>) quantifiers (e.g. <i>assez, beaucoup plus/moins, bien, comme, fort, peu, un peu, si, tellement, tout, très, trop</i>)
Pronouns	personal reflexive object: direct and indirect including position, order, agreement demonstrative (e.g. <i>ça, cela, celui, celle, -ci, -là, celui/celle de, celui/celle qui, celui/celle que, celui/celle dont</i>) interrogative (e.g. <i>qui ? que ? qui est-ce que/qui ? lequel ?</i>) relative (e.g. <i>qui, que, dont, où, quoi, ce qui, ce que, lequel/laquelle</i>) disjunctive possessive (e.g. <i>le mien</i>) indefinite (e.g. <i>quelque chose, quelqu'un, chacun, certain, n'importe qui, n'importe quoi</i>)

Verbs	regular and irregular forms of verbs, including reflexive verbs all persons of verbs, singular and plural negative forms interrogative forms imperative modes of address: <i>tu, vous</i> impersonal verbs indicative tenses • present • imperfect • perfect • immediate future • future • conditional • pluperfect perfect infinitive present participle verbs governing an infinitive, including <i>à</i> and <i>de</i> + infinitive use of <i>depuis</i> with present and imperfect tenses use of <i>venir de</i> + infinitive in present and imperfect tenses passive voice (receptive) subjunctive mood: in commonly used expression (receptive)
Conjunctions	co-ordinating (e.g. <i>car, donc</i>) subordinating (e.g. <i>quand, où, parce que, si, puisque</i>)
Prepositions	place (e.g. <i>chez, entre, devant, à côté de</i>) time (e.g. <i>avant, après, pendant, pour</i>) movement (e.g. <i>jusqu'à, vers</i>) other (e.g. <i>contre, malgré, sans, sauf, selon</i>)
Number	all cardinal/ordinal numbers
Quantity	<i>assez, beaucoup, demi, moitié, peu, un peu, tant, trop, tellement</i>
Time	date (e.g. <i>le 12 septembre</i>); time, including 24-hour clock, years

Vocabulary list

The full vocabulary list for this syllabus is available to download from our website, in the Syllabus overview section of the IGCSE French (0520) page here [**www.cambridgeinternational.org/0520**](https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/0520)

The vocabulary list provided is intended as a guide for teachers to assist in the planning of lessons and schemes of work. It is not intended to be prescriptive or exhaustive and the assessment tasks will require students to understand and respond to words (and/or forms of words) that are not on the list.

Although the skill of deduction is not directly tested, students should be taught the skill of deducing the meaning of unknown words from the context on familiar topics.

Vocabulary is listed under particular topic headings but should be considered transferable, as appropriate, to other topics.

Students are expected to be familiar with plural and feminine forms of nouns and adjectives where these are not given.

5 What else you need to know

This section is an overview of other information you need to know about this syllabus. It will help to share the administrative information with your exams officer so they know when you will need their support. Find more information about our administrative processes at www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide

Before you start

Previous study

We recommend that learners starting this course should have studied a broad curriculum such as the Cambridge Lower Secondary programme or equivalent national educational framework.

Guided learning hours

We design Cambridge IGCSE syllabuses to require about 130 guided learning hours for each subject. This is for guidance only. The number of hours a learner needs to achieve the qualification may vary according to each school and the learners' previous experience of the subject.

Availability and timetables

All Cambridge schools are allocated to one of six administrative zones. Each zone has a specific timetable. Find your administrative zone at www.cambridgeinternational.org/adminzone

You can view the timetable for your administrative zone at www.cambridgeinternational.org/timetables

You can enter candidates in the June and November exam series. If your school is in India, you can also enter your candidates in the March exam series.

Check you are using the syllabus for the year the candidate is taking the exam.

Private candidates can enter for this syllabus. For more information, please refer to the *Cambridge Guide to Making Entries*.

Combining with other syllabuses

Candidates can take this syllabus alongside other Cambridge International syllabuses in a single exam series. The only exceptions are:

- Cambridge IGCSE (9–1) French (7156)
- Cambridge O Level French (5020)
- Cambridge IGCSE First Language French (0501)
- syllabuses with the same title at the same level.

Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge IGCSE (9–1) and Cambridge O Level syllabuses are at the same level.

Group awards: Cambridge ICE

Cambridge ICE (International Certificate of Education) is a group award for Cambridge IGCSE. It encourages schools to offer a broad and balanced curriculum by recognising the achievements of learners who pass exams in a range of different subjects.

Learn more about Cambridge ICE at www.cambridgeinternational.org/cambridgeice

Making entries

Exams officers are responsible for submitting entries. We encourage them to work closely with you to make sure they enter the right number of candidates for the right combination of syllabus components. Entry option codes and instructions for submitting entries are in the *Cambridge Guide to Making Entries*. Your exams officer has access to this guide.

Exam administration

To keep our exams secure, we produce question papers for different areas of the world, known as administrative zones. We allocate all Cambridge schools to an administrative zone determined by their location. Each zone has a specific timetable.

Some of our syllabuses offer candidates different assessment options. An entry option code is used to identify the components the candidate will take relevant to the administrative zone and the available assessment options.

Support for exams officers

We know how important exams officers are to the successful running of exams. We provide them with the support they need to make entries on time. Your exams officer will find this support, and guidance for all other phases of the Cambridge Exams Cycle, at **www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide**

Retakes and carrying forward marks

Candidates can retake the whole qualification as many times as they want to.

Learn more about retake entries, including definitions and information on entry deadlines, at **www.cambridgeinternational.org/retakes**

Candidates cannot resubmit, in whole or in part, speaking tests from a previous series for remarking. For information, refer to the *Cambridge Handbook* for the relevant year of assessment at **www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide**

Marks achieved in Paper 3 Speaking **cannot** be carried forward to future series. See the regulations for carry forward set out in the *Cambridge Handbook* for the relevant year of assessment and the *Carry-forward regulations supplement* at **www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide**

To confirm what entry options are available for this syllabus, refer to the *Cambridge Guide to Making Entries* for the relevant series. Regulations for carrying forward component marks can be found in the *Cambridge Handbook* for the relevant year of assessment at **www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide**

Language

This syllabus is available in English only. The assessment materials are in French.

Accessibility and equality

Syllabus and assessment design

At Cambridge we recognise that our candidates have highly diverse socio-economic, cultural and linguistic backgrounds, and may also have a variety of protected characteristics. Protected characteristics include special educational needs and disability (SEND), religion and belief, and characteristics related to gender and identity.

We follow accessible design principles to make our syllabuses and assessment materials as accessible and inclusive as possible. We review language accessibility, visual resources, question layout and the contexts used in questions. Using this approach means that we give all candidates the fairest possible opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding.

Access arrangements

Our design principles aim to make sure our assessment materials are accessible for all candidates. To further minimise barriers faced by candidates with SEND, illness or injury, we offer a range of access arrangements and modified papers. This is the principal way in which we comply with our duty to make 'reasonable adjustments', as guided by the UK Equality Act 2010.

Important:

Requested access arrangements should be based on evidence of the candidate's barrier to taking an assessment and should also reflect their normal way of working. For Cambridge to approve an access arrangement, we need to agree that it constitutes a reasonable adjustment and does not affect the security or integrity of the assessment. This is explained in section 1.3 of the *Cambridge Handbook* www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide

Applying for access arrangements

- Details of our standard access arrangements and modified question papers are available in section 1.3 of the *Cambridge Handbook* www.cambridgeinternational.org/eoguide
- Centres are expected to check the availability of access arrangements and modified question papers at the start of the course. Check the *Cambridge Handbook*, the assessment objectives listed in the syllabus document and, where applicable, any access arrangement restrictions listed in the syllabus document.
- Contact us at the start of the course to find out if we can approve an access arrangement that is not listed in the *Cambridge Handbook*.
- All applications should be made by the deadlines published in the *Cambridge Handbook*.

Some access arrangements are not allowed in this syllabus because they affect the assessment objectives:

- candidates must **not** use voice-activated software to dictate their written work
- candidates must **not** use word processing technology which uses word prediction and/or phrase prompting including spell check and grammar check
- candidates must **not** use a human reader.

After the exam

Grading and reporting

Grades A*, A, B, C, D, E, F or G indicate the standard a candidate achieved at Cambridge IGCSE.

A* is the highest and G is the lowest. 'Ungraded' means that the candidate's performance did not meet the standard required for grade G. 'Ungraded' is reported on the statement of results but not on the certificate.

In specific circumstances your candidates may see one of the following letters on their statement of results:

- Q (PENDING)
- X (NO RESULT).

These letters do not appear on the certificate.

On the statement of results, Cambridge IGCSE is shown as INTERNATIONAL GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION (IGCSE).

On certificates, Cambridge IGCSE is shown as International General Certificate of Secondary Education.

How students and teachers can use the grades

Assessment at Cambridge IGCSE has two purposes:

- 1 to measure learning and achievement
The assessment confirms achievement and performance in relation to the knowledge, understanding and skills specified in the syllabus.
- 2 to show likely future success
The outcomes help predict which students are well prepared for or likely to be successful in a particular course or career.
The outcomes help students choose the most suitable course or career.

Changes to this syllabus for 2028, 2029 and 2030

The syllabus has been reviewed and revised for first examination in 2028.

You must read the whole syllabus before planning your teaching programme.

Changes to assessment (including changes to specimen papers)

Paper 1 Listening

- There are no changes to Paper 1 Listening.

Paper 2 Reading

- The total number of marks is 40.
- All questions are multiple-choice.
- Questions 3, 4, 5 and 6 have been updated.

Paper 3 Speaking

- Candidates are allowed to write notes during the supervised preparation time.
- We have updated the randomisation grid and wording in the instructions for teachers/examiners to improve clarity.

Paper 4 Writing

- The total number of marks is 40.
- The mark scheme has been updated to reflect the new allocation of marks.
- Question 1 is out of 5 marks. 1 mark is awarded for each correct item.
- Question 2 is out of 10 marks. 5 marks are awarded for Task Completion and 5 marks are awarded for Range and Accuracy.
- Question 3 is out of 25 marks. 9 marks are awarded for Task Completion, 9 marks are awarded for Range and 7 marks are awarded for Accuracy.

continued

**Changes to assessment
(including changes to
specimen papers)** continued

Vocabulary list

- The following words have been added to the vocabulary list from 2028:

Word	Topic
ambition (f)	Work
céréales (fpl)	Food and drink
chorale (f)	Hobbies
cochon (m)	Animals
corriger	Studies
crevette (f)	Food and drink
documentaire (m)	Hobbies
doué(e)	Common adjectives
émission (f)	Hobbies
girafe (f)	Animals
intelligence artificielle (f)	The digital world
orchestre (m)	Hobbies
plongée (f)	Hobbies
faire de la poterie (f)	Hobbies
respecter	Common verbs
robot (m)	The digital world
steak (m)	Food and drink
talentueux / talentueuse	Common adjectives
télétravail (m) / faire du télétravail	Work
tortue (f)	Animals
vache (f)	Animals

- The following words have been removed from the vocabulary list from 2028:

Word	Topic
araignée (f)	Animals
serpent (m)	Animals

- The full vocabulary list is available in the Syllabus overview section here www.cambridgeinternational.org/0520

In addition to reading the syllabus, you should refer to the updated specimen assessment materials. The specimen papers will help your students become familiar with exam requirements and command words in questions. The specimen mark schemes show how students should answer questions to meet the assessment objectives.



Any textbooks endorsed to support the syllabus for examination from 2021 are suitable for use with this syllabus. You should take account of the changes described above when using these textbooks.

Syllabuses and specimen materials represent the final authority on the content and structure of all of our assessments.

With a Customer Services team available 24 hours a day, 6 days a week, and dedicated regional teams supporting schools in 160 countries, we understand your local context and are here to guide you so you can provide your learners with everything they need to prepare for Cambridge IGCSE.



Quality management

We are committed to providing exceptional quality. In line with this commitment, our quality management system for the provision of international education programmes and qualifications for students aged 5 to 19 is independently certified as meeting the internationally recognised standard, ISO 9001:2015.

Learn more at www.cambridgeinternational.org/about-us/our-standards/

School feedback: ‘While studying Cambridge IGCSE and Cambridge International A Levels, students broaden their horizons through a global perspective and develop a lasting passion for learning.’

Feedback from: Zhai Xiaoning, Deputy Principal, The High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China

We are committed to making our documents accessible in accordance with the WCAG 2.1 Standard. We are always looking to improve the accessibility of our documents. If you find any problems or you think we are not meeting accessibility requirements, contact us at **info@cambridgeinternational.org** with the subject heading: Digital accessibility. If you need this document in a different format, contact us and supply your name, email address and requirements and we will respond within 15 working days.

Cambridge International Education, The Triangle Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
t: +44 (0)1223 553554 email: info@cambridgeinternational.org www.cambridgeinternational.org