Modern Foreign Languages GCSE Subject Content

French grammar appendices (2015 and 2021)

The purpose of this document is to identify the key differences in the grammar content between the 2015 Subject Content and the proposed 2021 Subject Content.

FRENCH [Foundation]	Significance and implications for assessment and teaching		Further questions / observations
	2015	2021	
Noun phrases	gender; singular and plural forms	Formation of feminine nouns (highly frequent irregulars will be listed in the Vocabulary List as separate items, e.g., chef, cheffe; héros, héroïne; Juif, Juive; travailleur, travailleuse) •Add -e •No change (article changes only) •-eur -rice •-er ère •-el -lle •-en -nne	Grammar explained in more detail with full list of what is meant
		Formation of plural nouns (highly frequent irregulars will be listed in the Vocabulary List: œil, yeux) •Add -s to most nouns •Add -x to masculine nouns ending in -(e)au and -eu •Masculine nouns ending in -al change to -aux •No change for nouns ending in -s, -x, -z	Grammar explained in more detail with full list of what is meant

Determiners: Articles	definite, indefinite and partitive, including use of de after negatives.	Agreement of articles with noun for gender and number Functions of definite and indefinite articles, including where their use or omission differs from English (e.g. La santé est importante; le mercredi) Contraction of definite article when used with à and de to agree with the gender and number (à, à la, au, aux; de, de la, du, des) Contraction of definite article (le/la → l') before singular nouns that start with a vowel or h muet Partitive articles when distinguishing between parts and wholes; after jouer with musical instruments; after faire with sports Use of de (and omission of article) before nouns following a verb in negative and after expressions of quantity	Grammar explained in more detail with full list of what is meant
Other determiners	demonstrative (ce, cet, cette, ces); indefinite (chaque, quelque); possessive; interrogative (quel, quelle).	Demonstrative adjectives (ce, cet, cette, ces) Possessive adjectives (mon, ma, mes, ton, ta, tes, son, sa, ses, notre, nos, votre, vos, leur, leurs)	Lists are similar. In 2021 brackets include all morphology rather than just a sample.

		Interrogative adjectives (quel, quelle, quels, quelles) Agreement patterns for indefinite adjectives (chaque, plusieurs, même(s), autre(s), tout, toute, tous, toutes, quelque(s))	
Pronouns	personal: all subjects, including on; reflexive; relative: qui; relative: que (R); object: direct (R) and indirect (R); position and order of object pronouns (R); disjunctive/emphatic; demonstrative (ça, cela); indefinite (quelqu'un); interrogative (qui, que); use of y, en (R).	Pronouns will be listed in the Vocabulary List (including on, and vous as formal 'you'). Their grammar (agreement, position) are laid out in this Grammar Appendix. Preverbal position of direct object pronouns (me, te, le, la) (not juxtaposed with indirect object pronouns) Preverbal position of indirect object pronouns (me, te, lui) (not juxtaposed with direct object pronouns) Preverbal position of singular reflexive pronouns (me, te, se) Contraction of pronouns (me□m', te□ t', le/la □ l') before a vowel or h muet Use of relative pronoun qui in subject relative clauses Use of emphatic pronouns moi and toi after prepositions (as listed in the Vocabulary List)	For 2021, if they are words only, they are in the vocabulary list. If it is a matter of morphology or syntax, it is in the grammar list. F students are currently expected to understand use of relative (que); object and indirect object pronouns, position and order of object pronouns, use of y, en. These are elements that represent complex use of language.
Verb phrases	regular and irregular verbs, including reflexive verbs;	Verbs that do not fit into the grammar detailed here can still be listed in the	The brevity of the 2015 list belies its complexity:

	all persons of the verb, singular and plural; **negative** forms; **interrogative** forms; modes of address: tu, vous; impersonal verbs (il faut); verbs followed by an infinitive, with or without a preposition; tenses; present; perfect; imperfect: avoir, être and faire; other common verbs in the imperfect tense (R); immediate future; future (R); conditional: vouloir and aimer; pluperfect (R); passive voice: present tense (R); imperative; present participle (R).	Vocabulary List to be learnt in the infinitive form only. **Negation** Word order of verbal negation with ne … pas and ne … jamais. Jamais, rien, and personne will be listed in the Vocabulary List as they can occur as isolated words (never, nothing, nobody). **Interrogatives** Interrogatives expressed through: • intonation with SV word order, including when followed by a wh-word (i.e., question words including 'how'); • est-ce que followed by SV word order; • VS word order; • wh-word followed by VS word order **Inflectional morphology** Specific irregular inflected forms (e.g., faites, vont), as a minimum those specified below, will be listed in the Vocabulary List under a section called 'Irregular inflected verb forms'. Some verbs change the spelling in their stems (e.g., accents change (mener, je	all persons, ANY regular and/or irregular verbs, inc. reflexives for production in the following: present, perfect, immediate future, imperative, including (all?) negative forms and (all?) interrogative forms, impersonal verbs, verbs + infinitive And comprehension in the following: imperfect, future, pluperfect, conditional (?), passive (present), present participle 2021 specifies: **negation** (ne..pas, ne..jamais); **interrogative** patterns, **present tense** (-er verbs all persons, 7 clusters of HF patterns, and 4 irregulars) **il y a, il faut, il fait** + weather **perfect tense** (-er verbs, 7 clusters of HF patterns, and any irregular past participles listed) **periphrastic future** **Imperative** (2nd pers. singular and plural only, not etre, not reflexives) **Imperfect** (singular persons

		mène); consonants are doubled (jeter, je jette), softened (manger, nous mangeons; commencer, nous commençons) or lost (mettre, je mets). Such spelling changes will not be credit-bearing. **Regular -er and high frequency patterns* in 1st, 2nd, 3rd persons in singular and plural for**: *Seven clusters of high frequency verbs that all pattern following seven 'anchor' verbs: choisir, entendre, lire, offrir, prendre, partir, venir (the infinitives within each of these clusters will be listed in the Vocabulary List). **Present indicative**, as equivalent of the English simple (I walk) and ongoing (I am walking) functions. Inflected forms of four very high frequency irregular verbs (**aller, avoir, être, faire**) will be listed in the Vocabulary List. **Impersonal verbs** Il y a (listed in the Vocabulary List as a multi-word unit to mean 'there is' and 'there are') Il (fait) + weather-related expressions (as listed in the Vocabulary List, as multi-word units where necessary) Il faut + infinitive **Perfect tense**, as equivalent of the English simple past (I walked, he went) and present	only) of -er verbs, plus allais, allait; avais, avait; étais, était; faisais, faisait, and **il y avait** **Irregular present tense** (singular persons only) of boire, connaître, courir, croire, écrire, rire, suivre, and voir, and past participles listed in vocab **Conditional forms** in 1st, 2nd, 3rd persons in singular only of five high frequency verbs (aurais, aurait; ferais, ferait; irais, irait; serais, serait; voudrais, voudrait **Il y aura** **Modals** in 1st, 2nd, 3rd persons in singular and plural Use of modals in present indicative (devoir, pouvoir, savoir, vouloir) + infinitive (with highly irregular inflected forms of the modals listed in the Vocabulary List). **Reflexive use of verbs** Singular only, for 1st, 2nd, 3rd persons **Infinitive used as a noun** i.e., as equivalent of the English -ing (gerund) There is no future, pluperfect, passive. There are constraints

		perfect (I have walked, he has gone); including past participle formation for -er verbs and the seven verb clusters listed above. Irregular past participles of high frequency verbs (été, eu, fait) and any other irregular past participles (e.g., lu) will be listed in the Vocabulary List. **Periphrastic future expression** (aller + infinitive), as equivalent of the English 'BE + going to + verb' and 'will + verb' **Imperative** (2nd person singular and plural only; not être; not reflexive) **Regular -er pattern in 1st, 2nd, 3rd persons in singular only for**: **Imperfect** for habitual (only for equivalent of English 'used to + verb') and ongoing (BE + ing) functions. Four high frequency irregular verbs (allais, allait; avais, avait; étais, était; faisais, faisait) will be listed in the Vocabulary List Additional English equivalent functions will be listed in the Vocabulary List as follows: étais, était (to mean 'was + adjectival complement'); avais, avait (to mean 'had'); il y avait (to mean 'there was / were', as a multi-word unit) **Other irregular inflected forms**:	placed on irregular verbs in present, reflexives, perfect, imperative.

		Present indicative forms in 1st, 2nd, 3rd persons in singular only of eight high frequency verbs (boire, connaître, courir, croire, écrire, rire, suivre, and voir) and their past participles will be listed in the Vocabulary List **Conditional forms** in 1st, 2nd, 3rd persons in singular only of five high frequency verbs (aurais, aurait; ferais, ferait; irais, irait; serais, serait; voudrais, voudrait), as equivalent of English 'would + verb', will be listed in the Vocabulary List **Il y aura** to mean 'there is going to be' or 'there will be' will be listed in the Vocabulary List as a multi-word unit. **Modals** in in 1st, 2nd, 3rd persons in singular and plural Use of modals in present indicative (devoir, pouvoir, savoir, vouloir) + infinitive (with highly irregular inflected forms of the modals listed in the Vocabulary List). **Reflexive use of verbs** Singular only, for 1st, 2nd, 3rd persons **Infinitive used as a noun** i.e., as equivalent of the English -ing (gerund)	

Adjectival phrases	agreement; position; comparative and superlative: regular and meilleur;	Agreement for gender and number with nouns following regular patterns (of adjectives listed in the Vocabulary List): Gender add -e no change with adjectives ending in mute -e -x □-se -el □ -lle -en □ -nne -f □ -ve -er □ -ère (High frequency irregulars, or those that follow regular patterns other than those listed above, will be listed in the Vocabulary List as separate items, e.g., net/te, bon/ne, nouveau/elle, pareil/le, travailleur/euse) Number add -s no change for masculine forms already ending in -s and -x -al □ -aux for masculine (Irregulars beau/x and nouveau/x in the Vocabulary List as separate items) Position of adjectives in relation to the nouns they refer to: mostly after nouns; before nouns only for the defined set in the Vocabulary List.	

		Use of regular comparative structures (plus…que, moins…que, aussi…que), with irregulars (meilleur and pire) listed in the Vocabulary List.	
Adverbial phrases	comparative and superlative; regular; interrogative (comment, quand); adverbs of time and place (aujourd'hui, demain, ici, là-bas); common adverbial phrases.	Adverbs and adverbial phrases will be listed in the Vocabulary List. Position of adverbs of time, manner, place. Use of regular comparative structures (plus…que, moins…que, aussi…que), with the irregular forms (meilleur and pire) listed in the Vocabulary List.	a mixture of vocabulary and grammar on 2015
Prepositions	common prepositions e.g. à, au, à l', à la, aux; de, du, de l', de la, des; après; avant; avec; chez; contre; dans; depuis; derrière; devant; entre; pendant; pour; sans; sur; sous; vers. common compound prepositions e.g. à côté de; près de; en face de, à cause de; au lieu de.	Appropriate usage of en / à with proper nouns for places (countries, regions/states, cities) Contraction of de to d' when before a word beginning with a vowel De to indicate possession (e.g., le sac de Léa) À / de needed in certain multi-verb phrases before an infinitive. These verb + preposition combinations will be listed in the Vocabulary List alongside the verb entry (e.g., finir 'to finish'; finir de + infinitive 'to finish + verb'). Where the preposition changes or adds to the meaning of the verb, English translations will be listed (e.g., arriver 'to arrive'; arriver à 'to manage to').	The list of prepositions are vocabulary

Conjunctions	common coordinating conjunctions e.g. car; donc; ensuite; et; mais; ou; ou bien; puis. common subordinating conjunctions e.g. comme; lorsque; parce que; puisque; quand; que; si.		These conjunctions are vocabulary
Number, quantity, dates and time	including use of depuis with present tense		Number, quantity, dates, times are vocabulary depuis □ Higher Tier

FRENCH [Higher]	Significance and implications for assessment and teaching		Further questions / observations
	2015	2021	
Noun phrases			
Determiners: Articles		Partitive articles with uncountable and abstract nouns Use of article with dans; omission of article with en	Grammar explained in more detail with full list of what is meant
Other determiners		Use of negative adjective determiner aucun, aucune Use of indefinite adjective determiners tel, telle, tels, telles and certain, certaine, certains, certaines	
Pronouns	use of y, en; relative: que;	Preverbal use of pronouns y, en (not juxtaposed with other object pronouns,	

	relative: dont (R); object: direct and indirect; position and order of object pronouns; demonstrative (celui) (R); possessive (le mien) (R).	except in the phrase 'il y en a' and 'il y en avait') Preverbal position of direct object pronouns (nous, vous, les) (not juxtaposed with indirect object pronouns) Preverbal indirect object pronouns (nous, vous, leur) (not juxtaposed with direct object pronouns) Negative subject pronouns personne ne + verb and rien ne + verb (as equivalent of English nobody + verb and nothing + verb) Position and agreement of singular demonstrative pronouns (le mien, le tien, le sien) Subject relative clauses using wh- pronouns (où, quand) Object relative clauses using que Use of emphatic pronouns (lui, elle, nous, vous, eux, elles) for emphasis and with même(s) Preverbal position of plural reflexive pronouns (nous, vous, se).	
Verb phrases	tenses; future;	Syntax of negation with ne … rien (as equivalent of 'not verb anything' and 'verb	2021 – no pluperfect, no passive (future, imperfect,

	imperfect; conditional; pluperfect; passive voice: future, imperfect and perfect tenses (R); perfect infinitive; present participle, including use after en; subjunctive mood: present, in commonly used expressions (R).	nothing'), ne … personne (as equivalent of 'not verb anyone/body' and 'verb nobody'), ne… plus, ne … ni … (ni …), ne…pas encore, ne … que Passive voice in the present (full form only i.e., with par) Impersonal verbs in phrases (il est difficile/facile/interdit de + infinitive; il manque + noun; il vaut mieux/ la peine de + infinitive) Periphrastic time expressions être en train de (as equivalent of 'BE [in the process of] + verb-ing') and venir de (as equivalent of 'HAVE just done + verb') Verbs used with plural reflexive pronouns, with reflexive and reciprocal meanings (e.g., nous nous écrivons; vous vous parlez; ils se regardent) Inflectional morphology **Present indicative** (in 1st, 2nd, 3rd persons, singular and plural) and past participle formation of three clusters of high frequency verbs that all pattern following the 'anchor' verbs: connaître, écrire, reçevoir (the infinitives within each of these clusters will be listed in the Vocabulary List).	perfect), no perfect infinitive, no subjunctive Several elements included in 2021 that are not mentioned in 2015

		Present tense with depuis (as equivalent of 'have been + ing' for 'x time') **Perfect tense of modals** (devoir, pouvoir, savoir, vouloir) (with past participles listed in the Vocabulary List) **Inflectional future for regular -er, singular and plural forms** (1st, 2nd, 3rd persons), as equivalent of both 'BE + going to' and 'will' Singular forms of four high frequency irregular verbs (aurai, auras, aura; ferai, feras, fera; irai, iras, ira; serai, seras, sera) will be listed in the Vocabulary List. Any other regular or irregular inflected forms will be laid out as separate items in the Vocabulary List **Conditional of regular -er singular forms** only (1st, 2nd, 3rd persons) **Imperfect for regular -er plural forms**, for equivalent of English habitual ('used to + verb') and ongoing ('BE -ing') For all other regular or irregular verbs, inflected forms will be laid out as separate items in the Vocabulary List. **Imperative** of 2nd person singular and plural of être (sois and soyez, each listed in Vocabulary List), and of regular verbs 1st	

		person plural (not reflexive), with the function 'Let's + verb!' **Present participle of regular verbs after en**	
Adjectival phrases	comparative and superlative, including meilleur, pire	Use of regular superlative adjective structures (irregulars (le mieux and le pire) listed in the Vocabulary List).	Slight confusion in the 2015 – comparatives and superlatives also in Foundation. Re-listed in Higher, with addition of pire only? 2021 – comparative only at F, superlative at H.
Adverbial phrases	comparative and superlative, including mieux, le mieux	Use of regular superlative adverb structures (and irregulars as listed in the Vocabulary List)	
Prepositions		Preposition (avant de, pour, sans) + infinitive Preposition (après avoir) + past participle	Preposition (après avoir) + past participle – note: this is what is listed in the 2015 document as the perfect infinitive
Conjunctions			
Number, quantity, dates and time	including use of depuis with imperfect tense		This is not in 2021
Sound-symbol correspondences		silent final consonant a i/y eu e au/eau/closed o/ô ou u silent final e é (-er, -ez)	These are not included in 2015

		en/an/em/am on/om ain/in/aim/im è/ê/ai oi/oy ch ç (and soft 'c') qu j -tion -ien s-liaison t-liaison n-liaison x-liaison h um/un -gn- r open eu/œu open o -s- th -ill-/-ille -aill-/ail -eille-/-eil -euill-/-euil/-ueill-/-ueil/-œill-/-œil -ouill-/ouil	