

National French Contest

Specifications for 2009

Levels 01 - 5

The specifications for each level are cumulative and include all material listed for lower levels

Level 01

Vocabulary

- o Greetings and introductions, including asking name and age
- o Common French names
- o Family members, immediate family
- o Physical description and personality characteristics
- o Weather: *il fait beau, mauvais, il fait du vent, il fait chaud, froid*
- o Numbers up to 100
- o Days, months, calendar
- o Expressions of time, such as *mois, semaine, année, journée, demain*
- o Expressions of quantité, *beaucoup + de, + d'*
- o How to tell time
- o Adverbs of time such as *souvent, toujours, quelquefois, maintenant*
- o Classroom furniture
- o Common prepositions of location: *dans, sur, sous devant, derrière, avec, chez, pour, après, avant*
- o Colors and common clothing
- o Common foods
- o Leisure activities *j'aime faire du ski, j'adore le tennis*
- o Countries bordering France, adjectives of nationality, languages
- o Questions words: *Qu'est-ce que, qu'est-ce qui, comment, combien, pourquoi, où*

Grammar

- o *Elision*
- o *Articles*, definite, indefinite, (partitive in reading and listening only), contractions
- o Regular plural of nouns
- o Form of common adjectives, *blond, blonde*
- o How to make questions and *negations*. Use of *est-ce que* for questions
- o Possessive adjectives *mon, ton, ma, ta* only
- o Demonstrative adjectives *ce, cette, ces*
- o Possession with *de*
- o Subject pronouns *je, tu, il*, etc. Limited use of *moi, toi*
- o Regular verbs in -er at present, few regular common -ir verbs such as *finir, choisir*
- o -er verbs at imperative—*mange! mangez!*
- o *Il y a vs il est, voilà, voici*
- o Four irregular verbs: *être, avoir, faire, aller*

Cultural sensitivity

- o *Vous vs tu*
- o Proper greetings, *Monsieur* vs. first name
- o Eating customs in France vs. U.S.

Level 1

Vocabulary

- o Class schedule, subjects and school supplies
- o Rooms of the house, basic furniture,
- o Cities, places, activities and transportation
- o Shopping, restaurants and common food, simple restaurant menu
- o Prepositions of location *à côté de, près de, loin de, en face de, entre, etc.*
- o Expressions such as: *Combien coûte, j'ai besoin de, c'est cher, c'est bon marché, je veux, tu veux, je voudrais, tu voudrais.*
- o Leisure time activities *jouer à, faire de*
- o Name of cognate-based professions
- o Expressions of time: *le mois prochain, l'année prochaine*
- o Expressions with *avoir -- avoir tort, avoir raison, avoir soif, avoir faim, avoir besoin de, etc.*
- o Simple expressions with *faire*: *faire la vaisselle, faire des maths, faire du ski*

Grammar

- o Near future *aller + infinitive*
- o *J'ai chaud vs. il fait chaud*
- o Interrogative *quel, quelle, quels, quelle*
- o *de, négatif de un, du, des...*
- o *Il ya* versus *C'est....*
- o Opposition of « *j'aime le...je mange du...* »

Cultural sensitivity

- o Eating customs in France vs. U.S.
- o School schedule in France vs. U.S.

Level 2

Vocabulary

- o Daily routine
- o Rooms of the house and chores
- o Food, typical French meal
- o School related activities, such as *la fanfare, la chorale*
- o Health, fitness and expressions such as *j'ai mal à, tu as l'air malade, ça va bien?*
- o Shopping for special events, such as birthdays and proms
- o Travel plans and activities
- o Giving and asking directions
- o Expressions with *avoir* such as *avoir envie de, avoir le temps de, avoir peur de, avoir de la chance, etc.*
- o Expressions with *être* such as: *être en train de, être en forme, être de Toulouse, c'est à moi*

Grammar

- o Add all common regular -ir and -re verbs
- o Add to the four irregular verbs *avoir, être, aller, faire*. Eight additional irregulars: *mettre, prendre, dormir, sortir, partir, vouloir, pouvoir, savoir*
- o Regular -er, -ir and -re verbs at *passé composé*, along with *passé composé* of the above mentioned irregular verbs *avoir, être, aller, faire, mettre, prendre, dormir, sortir, partir*. Common « *être* » verbs vs. « *avoir* »
- o Pronominal verbs only at present
- o Imperfect might be used in listening comprehension and reading selections, but not tested as a grammar item
- o Agreement and position of all adjectives
- o Comparatives and superlatives of regular adjectives and adverbs *plus, que, moins... que*
- o Interrogative pronouns: *qui, qui est-ce qui, que, qu'est-ce que, quoi*
- o Object pronouns with verbs at present tense, use of one pronoun only – *le, lui, y, en...*, etc...
- o Use of prepositions with geographical names *à, en, au, aux*
- o Simple negations *rien, jamais, personne, plus*
- o All regular imperatives, including *mangeons, finissons*
- o All possessive adjectives, *notre..., leur....*

Cultural sensitivity

- o House construction, size, rooms
- o Differences in daily life, energy conservation, extra curricular activities
- o Health care
- o School life
- o The many facets of Francophone lifestyles

Level 3

Vocabulary.

Wider scope vocabulary related to: school, daily schedule, parts and rooms of house, extended family, clothing and appearance, more complex menus, leisure, sports and entertainment, future plans for education and job, health, city life and environment, holidays and traditions.

Grammar

- o Use of inversion to make questions
- o All regular verbs at *passé composé*, including pronominals
- o Contrast of *imparfait* and *passé composé*
- o Simple agreement of past participle with *être* and common pronominals
- o Pronominal verbs at *impératif*
- o Future and conditional
- o Subjunctive of common verbs will be used in reading and listening comprehension but will not be tested as a grammar item
- o Common verbs requiring a preposition followed by infinitive *commencer à, etc.*
- o Correct use of *sortir, partir, laisser, quitter*
- o *Depuis + present tense*
- o Use of *ne....que*
- o Adjectives followed by *de*
- o Relative pronouns *qui, que, dont, lequel* used only in reading and listening comprehension, **not tested** as grammar item.
- o Common negative structures, including *ni...ni*
- o Expanded comparative structures *aussi...que, autant...que, etc*

Cultural sensitivity

- o Driving and car use among teenagers
- o Secondary studies and college in France and US
- o Teen life and dating in France and US
- o Communities and the environment
- o The many facets of Francophone lifestyles

Level 4

Vocabulary and culture

- o Social issues, such as human rights, equality between sexes, crime and violence, *diversity*, emigration, prejudice and discrimination, science and medicine, nature and ecology in France and the Francophonie
- o Culture, celebrations and traditions, arts, historical events, literature in France and the Francophonie

Grammar

- o Verbs with spelling changes such as *espérer, acheter*
- o All interrogative pronouns
- o All possessive pronouns
- o *Si* clauses with present and *imparfait*
- o *En* with present participle
- o Past infinitive with *après*
- o Relative pronouns including *dont, lequel....*
- o Demonstrative pronouns
- o Developed negative words, *aucun, ni....ni...*
- o Correct use of *manquer de, manquer à*
- o Use of present and *imparfait* with *depuis, il y a, ça fait...que*
- o Most simple uses of *subjunctive*,
- o Use of *descendre, monter, sortir, rentrer, passer + direct object at passé composé*
- o *C'est vs. il est*, more complex uses
- o Recognition of *futur antérieur* and *passé simple* in readings only.

Level 5

Vocabulary

Globalization and technology, such as current events, politics, communications, media in France and the Francophonie

Grammar

- o *Plus-que-parfait* and *conditionnel passé*
- o Correct use of *imparfait* and *passé composé*
- o Agreement of past participles with all *passés composés*
- o All *si* clauses, including *plus-que-parfait*
- o Double object pronouns
- o More elaborate use of *subjunctive*
- o Expanded use of relative and demonstrative pronouns

Cultural sensitivity

- o All the preceding topics expanded