

French Exam Board Criteria A*/A

Candidates show understanding of a variety of spoken language that contains some complex language and relates to a range of contexts. They can identify main points, details and points of view and draw simple conclusions.

They initiate and develop conversations and discussions, present information and narrate events. They express and explain ideas and points of view and produce extended sequences of speech using a variety of vocabulary, structures and verb tenses. They speak confidently with reasonably accurate pronunciation and intonation. The message is clear but there may be some errors especially when they use more complex structures.

They show understanding of a variety of written texts relating to a range of contexts. They understand some unfamiliar language and extract meaning from more complex language and extended texts. They can identify main points, extract details, recognise points of view, attitudes and emotions and draw simple conclusions.

They write for different purposes and context about real or imaginary subjects. They express and explain ideas and points of view. They use a variety of vocabulary, structures and verb tenses. Their spelling and grammar are generally accurate. The message is clear but there may be some errors, specially when they write more complex sentences.

What it means

Essentially, it means you must be able to recognise and use vocabulary and information in a range of skills and contexts ie different situations

The skills are writing, listening, reading and speaking. But to work at this level, it is not enough to just recognise vocabulary or bits of information, you also need to be able to guess using the context. You need to think of this as trying to reconstruct the picture of a puzzle and only knowing some of the pieces.

You must be able to use your French skills in both written and spoken work at a fairly high and complex level but note that you are still allowed to make mistakes. To get an A or A*, your work needs to have the 'Wow factor'. To work at this level you must attempt to use more complex language in both these skills. So for example the way you express and justify opinions must be of high quality and you should aim to use lots of connectives and adverbs to enhance the quality of your work. Select adjectives and words which are more unusual and use lots of synonyms. Think of them as 'Wow' words. Use a variety of tenses to show the examiner you are confident in their handling. Your teachers will give you lots of examples during your studies.

To be successful and get an A/A* in reading and listening, you must practice regularly out of lessons. Use the AQA website but challenge yourself and try the following website for reading.

<http://1jour1actu.com/>