Welcome to GCSE success

Key features

*Nous espérons que ce livre va
vous plaire et vous aidera à
réussir vos examens.*

Edward Neather

Mike Ounsworth

Edward Neather and
Mike Ounsworth

Everything you need to improve your grade GCSE is in this book, and the way you use it will depend on your own needs.

- One very good approach would be to work through methodically from Unit 1. This will give you a full coverage of the topic areas and also builds up your knowledge, information and skills in the techniques of tackling the various tests. Watch out, though, for Unit 10. If you want to offer Higher Writing in the examination, it is best to tackle the various tasks of Chapter 10 from time to time, rather than attempt them all together.
- If you want to strengthen a particular skill or knowledge of one topic, go straight to the Unit on that particular topic, so that you become really familiar with the vocabulary. If you feel weak in a particular skill, work intensively on the exercises for that skill, for example by spending more time listening to the recorded material on tape.

The cassette tapes

The two tapes are particularly valuable

- The Listening Tape gives you plenty of examination and listening tasks. They are all printed out in the book, so you can check the transcript while you listen. All references in the book to this tape are numbered in the book L1-L49.
- The Speaking Tape is full of oral activities by pupils, spoken under exam conditions with commentaries to help you improve your performance. References to this tape are numbered S1-S19. The pronunciation section is also recorded on this tape.

Grammar

Detailed grammar points do not appear in the text, but the Grammar Reference Section gives you all you need, with almost all the examples drawn from the text in the book.

Good design

for ease of revision

The words you need All the essential vocab. to deal with every topic

Real exam tasks Just like you'll meet in the papers with key giving full answers at back of book

The words you need

People you want to talk about

ma famille my family
ma mère my mother
mon père my father
ma sœur my sister
mon frère my brother
mes grands-parents my grandparents
mon oncle my uncle
ma tante my aunt
mon cousin my cousin (boy)
ma cousine my cousin (girl)
les parents parents or relatives
ma belle-sœur my sister-in-law
mon beau-frère my brother-in-law
mon mari my husband
sa femme his wife
un enfant (singulier) an only child
un bébé a baby
un fils a son
une fille a daughter
mes amis my friends
mon meilleur ami my best friend (boy)
ma meilleure amie my best friend (girl)
un copain a mate (boy)
une copine a mate (girl)
son prénom his/her first name
son nom de famille his/her surname

Pets

le chien dog
le poisson (singulier) the fish
le cochon d'Inde the hamster
le souris mouse
le chat cat
le lapin rabbit
le hamster hamster
un éléphant elephant
le cerf-de-papier paper butterfly

Words for describing them

une description a description	grand(e) tall
petit(e) small	gros(se) big
de taille moyenne of medium height	
mince thin	
maigre slim	
maigre (boy) thin	
les cheveux hair	
une barbe a beard	
gris(e) grey	
blond(e) blond	
noir(e) black	
bleu(e) blue	
noir(e) brown	
roux(ruse) red-haired	
vert(e) green	
rouge(rouge) red	
brun(e) dark	
fruits(e) curly	
long(e) long	
marier(e) married	
divorcé(e) divorced	
célibataire single	
sympathique nice	
content(e) happy	
triste(sad)	
double funny	
gentil(e) nice	
bien (être) good-looking	
mignon(ne) charming	
vilain(e) naughty	
cadette younger	
les yeux eyes	
une monticule a mound	
blanche white	
brun(e) brown	
noir(e) black	
roux(ruse) red-haired	
vert(e) green	
rouge(rouge) red	
brun(e) dark	
fruits(e) curly	
long(e) long	
marier(e) married	
divorcé(e) divorced	
célibataire single	
sympathique nice	
content(e) happy	
triste(sad)	
double funny	
gentil(e) nice	
bien (être) good-looking	
mignon(ne) charming	
vilain(e) naughty	

Exercise 1 Questions 11-15

You are staying with a French family. One afternoon the telephone rings and you take a message from Philippe to give to Michelle.

Look at questions 11-15 below.

Now listen to Philippe and make a note of the information in English. You will hear the message twice.

11 Where can Philippe not go tonight? [1]

12 Who has had an accident? [1]

13 What happened? [2]

14 Where has Philippe to go? [1]

15 What must Michelle do and when? [1]

(a) [2]

(b) [8]

Technique tips clearly presented so you know the pitfalls, and the short cuts well in advance

Over 60 taped exercises fully transcribed in the back of the book

Listening

Basic Level

You are likely to get sample post-office situations, or situations where people talk about feeling unwell. Most other areas are for Higher Level only. A typical task would be one where you have to understand a chemist's instructions. (L47 on cassette)

READING

Basic Level

Again, you won't find many tasks at Basic Level on this topic. Notices outside banks, in post offices, simple instructions on medicine, etc. are the most likely tasks.

You have been prescribed some cough medicine while on a skiing holiday in France. The instructions are written on the label.

POSOLOGIE: Une cuillerée à soupe toutes les quatre heures diluée dans l'eau chaude.

When and how do you have to take this medicine? (1)

Speaking

Basic Level

Role-plays on this topic are very common. Here are three for you to look at and prepare, with a few notes on each to help you.

(a) You are on a camping holiday in France with some friends. You arrive at the camp-site which you wrote to before leaving home in order to make a reservation.

The part of the camp-site owner is played by the examiner:

- Say you have made a reservation.
- Say there are four of you.
- Tell the owner you would like to stay for 5 nights.
- Ask if there are any showers.
- Find out if you must pay for the showers.

MEC, Autumn 1988

Basic Writing

The only task you are likely to get is a lost-property exercise. Suppose you have lost your wallet or purse and are asked to describe it and mention four things which were in it. This is how you could do such a task.

Mon porte-monnaie.

Description: petit, rouge et noir.

Contenu: 1. 20 livres en argent anglais.
2. Des timbres français.
3. Une photo de ma famille.
4. Les clés de mon maison et ma valise.

Grammar Reference Section

Grammar Summary

This summary does not, of course, claim to be a complete grammar of French. It does, however, cover all the grammar normally required for the GCSE examination. The Table of Contents gives you a general indication of where to find the information you want about verbs, nouns, adjectives and so on. Many of the examples given have been taken from the text in the book. A reference such as (L47) directs you to Listening text number 4 so that you find the example given in the Key to the Exercises for Chapter 10.

Table of Contents

- Nouns
- Articles
- Adjectives
- Possessives
- Demonstratives
- Prepositions
- Asking Questions
- Numbers and Quantities
- Conjugation of Regular and Irregular Verbs
- Verbs and the Way They Are Used
- Verbs - Reflexive and Impersonal
- Indefinites and Particles
- Adverbs
- Negatives
- Prepositions
- The Grammar of Spoken French

Index

Pick off each skill, one by one Just like the exam, Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing are practised separately - it's much easier that way

Grammar Reference and pronunciation also at the back of the book, but no more than you really need

Good design

for effective revision

Me, My Family and Other People

Topic analysis
Shows you in detail what is covered in the chapters. Each chapter is a KEY TOPIC in the GCSE syllabus

What you need to be able to do

Understand when someone speaks to you about yourself, your family and friends

Talk and write about these subjects

Understand details about other people when you hear or read them

Date attempted

Date completed

Self Assessment

Start and completion column Keeps tabs on your progress – see at a glance which areas still need to be worked through

Self assessment
For you to note how well you've done or areas which need to be revised again

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Edward Neather and Mike Ounsworth

French GCSE

Your guide to GCSE

Check your board

There is variation between exam boards, in the syllabuses and the forms of the exam. For that reason you must be certain which Board's exam you will be taking. Of course, your teacher will tell you, and for any details you should write to the Board. They can send the full syllabus for your exam including word lists. See page viiii for their addresses.

Be authentic!

The National Criteria, which are a sort of checklist, tell us who the exam is for, and what a French course should do. They ask for the kind of French which you need to understand and use when dealing with French people who are in Britain, or who you meet travelling in France or another French-speaking country.

So the French materials you study must be 'authentic'. When you do a listening or a reading task, the setting and the content are taken from real life, and from the situations where you hear spoken French and read the language in signs, adverts, articles and public notices.

Skills and grades

For the exam, language is divided into the four main skills, Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Each of these skills is tested separately. There are also two levels of examination called Basic, and Higher or Extended. You can choose which skills and which levels you want to be examined in, which is another advantage of the new system. *But* you must do the common core. This consists of:

- Basic Listening
- Basic Reading
- Basic Speaking.

In the whole scale of GCSE grades which go from A* to G, the common core can gain a maximum of Grade E. As you add on extra elements, your possible maximum grade increases by one each time, as you can see from the table at the top of the page opposite.

Most people who are aiming at Grades A* or B do all 8 elements (Basic Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing, and the same four skills at Higher Level).

Most people aiming at Grade C do all four Basic tests and at least 2 Higher tests (usually, but not always, Listening and Reading). One Board (MEG) divides the Higher Level papers into Part 1 and Part 2.

The form of the exam

The *form* of the exam varies from Board to Board. Some Boards set all the Basic Level papers in one sitting and all the Higher Level papers in another sitting on a different day. Others group papers by skills, and have Basic Level Listening followed by Higher Level Listening, etc. Whichever Board you do, you will only have *one* oral exam, either at Basic, or at Basic + Higher Level. The oral will be conducted by your own teacher. It will be held earlier than the other parts of the exam.

Grade	Basic Listening	Basic Reading	Basic Speaking	Basic Writing	Higher Listening	Higher Reading	Higher Speaking	Higher Writing
A*				Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory
A				Compulsory	Choice of 2 of These 3 Elements			Compulsory
B				Compulsory	Choice of 1 of These 3 Elements			Compulsory
C				Compulsory	Choice of 1 of 4 Higher Elements			
D				Choice of 1 of 5 Non-Core Elements				
E								
F								
G								

Points and grades

The last thing to explain is the grading system. For each element of the exam, the marks you score are converted into a number of *points*. The total number of points you get decides your grade. Here is an example of how this works:

Total number of points available for each element

	Listening	Reading	Speaking	Writing
Basic	4	4	4	4
Higher	3	3	3	3

Total = 28 points

Points required for each grade:

Grade	A*/A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Points	24–28	21–23	18–20	14–17	10–13	5–9	1–4

If you are aiming at Grade C you need at least 18 points, so you must take all four Basic elements + at least one Higher element. This would give you a maximum possible score of 19 points if you got all the points in each part of the exam. To be sure of your grade it would be better to take at least two if not three Higher elements.

To get all four points in a Basic Level exam, you do *not* have to get full marks, but generally you have to get about 80%. To get at least one point at Higher Level you normally have to get about 35–40%.

The system seems very complicated, doesn't it? Now for the good news! *Because of the points system, it is easier to get a Grade A in French (and other languages) than any other subject.* About 20% got Grade A in the first two years of the exam. So, aim high, take all the elements you have a reasonable chance of scoring a point in. (It doesn't cost more if you take three elements or all eight.) And *Good Luck!* or rather, *Bonne Chance!*

Exam Board Addresses

For syllabuses and past papers contact the Publications office at the following addresses:

Midland Examining Group (MEG)
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1 Hills Road
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**Remember to check your syllabus
number with your teacher!**