

WEST AFRICAN SENIOR SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION
FRENCH

GENERAL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

This three year course is intended to meet the general needs of students of French, including those who may wish to pursue vocational or other studies. The aim is to develop the four language skills, namely; Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing as well as to encourage critical thinking.

SCOPE

There will be three papers as follows:

- PAPER I : LANGUAGE AND LITERARY STUDIES
(a) Vocabulary and Structure
(b) Literary Studies
- PART II : COMPOSITION AND TRANSLATION
(a) Composition
(b) Translation into English
- PAPER III : ORAL
(a) Dictation
(b) Listening Comprehension
(c) Reading
(d) Conversation on Background Studies.

SCHEME OF EXAMINATION

- PAPER I : LANGUAGE AND LITERARY STUDIES (Objective) 1 hour 20 minutes
- (a) **Vocabulary and Structure**
This part is designed to test candidates' ability to use in appropriate context, French words, expressions and structural patterns.
- (b) **Literary Studies**
This is to test candidates' ability to read, understand and appreciate literary texts. The test will focus on literary features such as plot, characterization, theme and style. Candidates are expected to select two texts; one simple, the other standard from the prescribed list. 20 multiple-choice questions will be set on the two texts studied.

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PAPER II : COMPOSITION AND TRANSLATION - 1 hour 20 minutes

(a) **Composition** - (1 hour)

This will test candidates' ability to write freely and correctly on topics of general interest using the appropriate structures, registers and tenses. Questions will include topics on letter writing (informal), description, narration and exposition. The length of the composition will be between 200 – 250 words. Five questions will be set in all. Candidates will be required to attempt only one.

(b) **Translation** - (20 minutes)

This will test candidates' ability to translate from French into English. The test will consist of five sentences of reasonable complexity.

PAPER III : ORAL - 1 hour 20 minutes

(a) **Dictation** - (about 30 minutes)

The aim here is to test candidates' ability to listen to, understand and reproduce correctly in writing a simple and non-technical French passage. The text which will be of about 200 words, will be based on common local experiences. The title of the passage which will be in English, will be written on the blackboard and read out. Candidates will be required to write it at the top of their answer sheets. Punctuations will be given in French. Dates should be written in figures. There will be at least one proper noun which will be spelt out in French by the examiner.

(b) **Listening Comprehension**

This paper will test candidates' ability to listen to and understand a straightforward passage in French. The test which will be based on a passage to be read aloud by the examiner will be about 250 words. It will contain no technical or unusual words and will deal with issues of general interest. The candidate is expected at the end of the reading to answer in writing 10 multiple-choice/objective questions based on the passage. About 10 minutes will be allowed to answer these questions.

(c) **Reading**

The aim is to test candidates' ability to read aloud in French. Candidates will be asked to read aloud a simple passage of reasonable length. Particular attention will be paid to candidates' intonation, fluency and expression.

(d) **Conversation**

This is to test candidates' ability to converse freely, fluently and correctly in French. Topics to be discussed will be drawn from background studies and themes of general interest. The conversation test will last about 10 minutes per candidate.

For background studies, candidates are expected to have a general knowledge of one Francophone West African country and France with emphasis on their interrelationship with their home country.

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DURATION OF EXAMINATION

Paper I	-	1 hour 20 minutes
Paper II	-	1 hour 20 minutes
Paper III	-	1 hour 20 minutes
Total	-	4 hours

WEIGHTING

PAPER I	-	LANGUAGE AND LITERARY STUDIES - 40%
	(a)	Vocabulary and Structure - 40 Objective items - 40 marks
	(b)	Literary Studies - 20 Objective items - 20 marks
		Total 60 marks scaled to 40%.
PAPER II	-	COMPOSITION AND TRANSLATION - 30%
	(a)	Composition - 30 marks
	(b)	Translation - 20 marks
		Total 50 marks scaled to 30%.
PAPER III	-	ORAL - 30%
	(a)	Dictation - 30 marks
	(b)	Listening Comprehension - 20 marks
	(c)	Reading - 20 marks
	(d)	Conversation - 30 marks
		Total 100 marks scaled to 30%.

NOTES ON THE SYLLABUS

PAPER I	-	LANGUAGE AND LITERARY STUDIES
(a)	Vocabulary	- This will comprise words and expressions related to such common centres of interest as family, school, leisure, career, festivals, communication, etc. FF I W.A.E.C. including cognates, will be useful in this respect.
(b)	Structure	- This will cover: Parts of speech (Grammatical categories) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Articles – definite, indefinite, partitive, their gender and number where applicable.

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- Verbs:
 - (i) Types: Regular and irregular
 - (ii) Common moods and tenses
 - (iii) Standard expressions such as
 - avoir
 - venir de + infinitive
- Nouns - complements, gender, number.
- Pronouns - personal, possessive, indefinite, demonstrative, relative, impersonal, number and gender where applicable.
- Adjectives - possessive, demonstrative, indefinite, interrogative, (agreement and position), degrees of comparison, number and gender.
- Adverbs - regular formation, position and functions degrees of comparison, special adverbs (mal, vite, fort, tout, etc.).
- Negatives - negative particles, negative expressions.
- Conjunctions - in common use: et, mais, donc, ou, parce que, etc.

Structures of sentences

- Passive voice
- Reported speech
- Compound and complex sentences
- Idiomatic expressions
- Figurative language
- Style
- Levels of speech e.g. to convey politeness.
- Forms of writing e.g. letters, notes.

(c) **Literary Studies**

Candidates will be required to have a fairly detailed knowledge of the texts selected for study. This would enable them identify extracts from these texts and answer multiple-choice questions on them.

PAPER II : TRANSLATION

Candidates should remember that the structure of English is not always the same as that of French.

E.g. Quand il viendra, il mangera.
When he comes he will eat.
Je ne sais pas le jour où il arrivera.
I do not know the day on which he will arrive.

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PAPER III : ORAL

The candidates should be able to speak French correctly, intelligently and at the same time be able to distinguish between French and English on the one hand and on the other between French and their mother tongue.

Listening Comprehension

The passage will be read twice. Candidates will have an opportunity to study the questions for a few minutes before the second reading.

Reading

Candidates will be asked to read aloud a simple passage of reasonable length.

Dictation

Candidates will be required to listen to, understand and reproduce correctly in writing a simple and non-technical French passage.

Conversation

This is based mainly on areas covered by background studies. Candidates are expected to respond in French to questions posed by the examiners.

Background Studies

Candidates should have a general knowledge of the following:

- (i) Political and administrative structure;
- (ii) Social, cultural and family life;
- (iii) Women and development;
- (iv) The Press: radio, television and newspapers;
- (v) Economic activities of the people.

N.B. Information from embassies can be of help to candidates.

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SUGGESTED READING LIST

The following should be of assistance to candidates.

Oral Practice

1. Ajiboye, T. : An introduction to Practice in Oral French
Krystal Pub. Lagos, Nigeria.
2. Grandsaigne, J.: France Afrique 5 - Macmillan

Language: Any one of the following course materials.

1. Boucher and Cappelle: Contacts (méthode de français) Hatier.
2. Antrobus et al: Bonjour l'Afrique, Longman, Nigeria.
3. Grandsaigne, J.: France Afrique, Macmillan.
4. Mauger, G: Cours de langue et de civilisation française, Hachette,
Paris.
5. Chantal, Paisant et al: Trans Afrique, Macmillan, Nigeria
6. Ajiboye, Tunde et al: Nouvel Horizon, Bounty Press Ltd., Nigeria
7. Any other useful course material.

General Grammar Books

1. Ferrar, H.A.: French Reference Grammar, Oxford University Press.
2. Loiseau, R.: Grammaire Française (Hachette)
3. Ajiboye, T.: Common Errors in French - University of Ife.
4. Le Nouveau Bescherelle : L'Art de conjuguer, Hatier.
5. Soyoye, F.A.: Manuel de conjugaison des verbes. Saphire Ed. Resources
6. Any other useful grammar book.

Dictionaries

- (1) Any useful French Dictionary e.g.
 - Micro Robert/Petit Robert
 - Petit Larousse
 - Dictionnaire du français fondamental pour l'Afrique.
- (2) Any useful French-English/English-French dictionary e.g.
 - Shorter Harraps
 - Collins
 - Cassell's

N.B. W.A.E.C. - Le français fondamental - Black Mask Ltd., Accra will prove useful.

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Background Studies: Any useful text on background studies e.g.

1. Paoletti, M.: Civilisation française quotidienne, Hatier
2. Girod, R and Grand_Clement F.: Comment vivent les Français, Hachette
3. Michaud G. and Torres, G.: Nouveau Guide France, Hachette
4. Mbuko Lyn: Background notes on culture and civilization for secondary schools, Lyn Mbuko Publishers
5. Magazines e.g. Jeune Afrique, Almanac Africain, Newspapers, Tourist brochures, etc.

PRESCRIBED FRENCH LITERATURE TEXTS FOR THE YEARS 2006 – 2010

One from each of the following groups:

GROUP A: PROSE

- (1) Aminata Sow Fall: L'Appel des Arènes, Nouvelles Editions Africaines du Sénégal.
- (2) Malot, H: Sans famille, Editions francais facile.

GROUP B: DRAMA

- (1) Pagnol, M: Topaze, Edition Presses Pocket, Paris.
- (2) Mbuko, L: Chaque chose en son temps, Lynette Publishers, Aba, Nigeria.

Supplementary readings in Literature

1. Adegbilero, M. : Les Lauréats, Motunrayo Adegbilero publications
2. Ogike, U. : Contes traditionnels du Nigéria, Africana publications.
3. Cazziol, R. : La gloire d'Afrique, Cambridge University Press.
4. Martin-Kone, M.L.: Pain Sucré, CEDA – HATIER.
5. Ajiboye, Tunde : Le Témoin, Bounty Press Ltd., Nigeria.

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REVISED SYLLABUS FOR WASSCE FRENCH

GENERAL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

This syllabus is intended to test the candidates' ability to use the four language skills, namely: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing to promote communicative competence.

SCOPE

There will be two papers as follows:

PAPER 1 - WRITTEN PRODUCTION

- (a) Comprehension
- (b) Structure
- (c) Composition

PAPER 2 - ORAL

- (a) Listening Comprehension
- (b) Reading
- (c) Conversation

SCHEME OF EXAMINATION

PAPER 1 - WRITTEN PRODUCTION - 2 hours 15 minutes (80 marks)

- (a) Comprehension - **45 minutes (10 marks)**

This is designed to test candidates' ability to read and understand standard written documents in French. Two passages will be provided and a total of ten short questions will be set on both. The questions in this section will be multiple-choice questions only. Candidates will be required to answer **all** questions.

- (b) Structure - **30 minutes (30 marks)**

This part is designed to test candidates' ability to use,

in appropriate communicative contexts, French words, expressions and structural patterns. 30 short questions will be set and candidates will be required to attempt all.

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(c) Composition - **1 hour (40 marks)**

This will test candidates' ability to write freely and correctly on topics of general interest using the appropriate structures, registers and tenses. Questions will include topics on letter writing, description, narration and exposition. Five questions will be set in all. Candidates will be required to attempt two, one of which must be on letter writing. The expected length of each composition will be about 100 words.

PAPER 2 - **ORAL** - **40 minutes (50 marks)**

(a) **Listening Comprehension - 20 minutes (10 marks)**

This paper will test candidates' ability to listen to, and understand a straightforward passage in French. The test which will be based on a passage to be read aloud by the examiner will be about 200 words long. It will deal with issues of general interest.

During the first 10 minutes, the passage will be read twice. Candidates will have the opportunity to study the questions for a few minutes before the second reading. At the end of the second reading, candidates will be allowed *10 minutes* to answer, in writing, 10 questions based on the passage. The questions may *not* be multiple-choice questions only but may also include other forms of language testing such as open-ended questions, completion, cloze procedure, true/false options, transformation and substitution. 10 minutes will be allowed to answer these questions.

(b) **Reading** - **10 minutes (15 marks)**

The aim is to test candidates' ability to read aloud, with the appropriate pronunciation, intonation and fluency, a simple passage of about 100 words. The passage will be of contemporary interest. In principle, candidates will be asked to read once and at a normal pace.

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(c) Conversation - 10 minutes (25 marks)

There will be **2 parts** - dialogue and exposition.

- (i) Dialogue - This will test candidates' ability to react freely in French to a number of topics.
- (ii) Exposition - This will test candidates' ability to speak freely on a given topic in French.

Topics to be discussed will be drawn from themes of general and contemporary interests such as sports, health, leisure, education, politics, culture, etc.

The conversation test will last about 10 minutes per candidate.

DURATION OF EXAMINATION

Paper 1 (Objective & Essay)	-	2 hours 15 minutes
Paper 2 (Oral)	-	40 minutes
Total	-	2 hours 55 minutes

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WEIGHTING

PAPER 1	-	WRITTEN PRODUCTION	-	60%
		(a) Comprehension	-	10 items - 10 marks
		(b) Structure	-	30 items - 30 marks
		(c) Composition	-	Essay - 40 marks:
		(i) Letter Writing	-	1 item - 20 marks
		(ii) One (1) other composition question	-	20 marks
				Total 80 marks scaled to 60%
PAPER 2	-	ORAL	-	40%
		(a) Listening Comprehension	-	10 marks
		(b) Reading	-	15 marks
		i. Fluency	-	5 marks
		ii. Pronunciation	-	10 marks
		(c) Conversation	-	25 marks
		i. Dialogue	-	20 marks
		ii. Exposition	-	5 marks
		Total		50 marks scaled to 40%

NOTES ON THE SYLLABUS

(1)

Structure

This will be tested as far as possible within suitable communicative contexts. To this end, candidates are expected to be familiar with the following:

- Parts of speech (Grammatical categories)
- Articles – definite, indefinite, partitive, their gender and number where applicable.
- Verbs
 - (a) Types: Regular and Irregular
 - (b) Common moods and tenses
 - (c) Standard expressions such as
 - avoir + noun (avoir faim)
 - venir de + infinitive.
- Nouns - Complements, gender, number
- Pronouns – personal, possessive, indefinite, demonstrative, relative, impersonal, number and gender where applicable.

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- Adjectives - possessive, demonstrative, indefinite interrogative, (agreement and position)
- Adverbs - Formation and position, special adverbs: mal,vite, fort, tout,etc
- Negatives - negative particles, negative expressions (ne...pas de, ne...rien, ne...jamais, etc.)
- Conjunctions in common use: et, mais, donc, ou, parce que, etc.
- Preposition - à, de , sur , en , devant, etc
- Sentence patterns (declarative, interrogative, exclamative, etc)
- Active/Passive voice
- Direct speech / Reported speech
- Compound and complex sentences
- Idiomatic expressions
- Forms of writing (formal/informal)
- Context and meaning e.g. to convey politeness, disgust, surprise, disappointment.
- Vocabulary and levels of meaning e.g Prof/professeur, agent/flic, voiture/bagnole boutique/magasin, boy/garçon, mon papa/mon père, copain/camarade, bonjour/salut

(2) **ORAL**

The candidates should be able to distinguish between French and English on one hand **and** where possible, between French and their mother tongue on the other. For example: (between French and English): se reposer/rester

voyager/travailler

blessier/bénir

fréquenter(école)/ attendre

avoir/(être) + faim, besoin, soif, etc

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APPENDIX “A”:
SUGGESTED READING LIST

The following may be of assistance to the candidates:

A. WRITTEN PRODUCTION: Any of the following course materials

1. Course books

- (i) De Grandsaigne, J: - France-Afrique 4, Lagos, Macmillan
- (ii) Plaisant, Chantal, et al: - Trans Afrique 3, Lagos, Macmillan
- (iii) Ajiboye, Tunde et al: - Nouvel Horizon 4, Ibadan, Bounty Press Ltd
- (iv) Mazauric, Catherine et al:- On y va 3, Ibadan, Spectrum Books
- (v) Berard, Evelyne et al: - Tempo 1 & 2 , Didier, Hatier
- (vi) Task Force (MEST): - Et en Français 1 & 3, Freetown

2. General Grammar Books

- (i) Ajiboye, T: - Companion to French Grammar,
Ilorin, Info-Links Publishers
- (ii) Ferrar H.A: - French Reference Grammar,
Oxford University Press
- (iii) Dagnaud-Macé, P & Slynès, G (1995):
Le Français sans Faute, Paris, Hatier
- (iii) Ajiboye, T : - Common Errors in French,
Revised edition, Ibadan, Bounty Press Ltd
- (iv) Le Nouveau Bescherelle: - La Grammaire Pour Tous,
Paris, Hatier
- (v) Soyoye, F.A: - Manuel de Conjugaison de verbes,
Sophire Ed. Resources

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3. Any other useful grammar books

B. ORAL

- (i) Ajiboye, T: - An introduction to Practise in Oral French, Revised edition, Ibadan, Bounty Press Ltd
- (ii) Grandsaigne, J: - France Afrique 5, Lagos, Macmillan
- (iii) Adegbilero, L. M.(2007): - Teach Yourself French (with cassette/ CD), Revised edition Ibadan, Bounty Press Ltd.
- (iv) Chamberlain, Alan & Steele Ross (1991): Guide pratique de la Communication, Paris, Didier

4. Any other useful document designed for Oral Practice

C. Dictionaries/Glossaries

- (i) Any useful French dictionary e.g.
 - Micro Robert/Petit Robert
 - Petit Larousse
 - Dictionnaire du français pour l’Afrique
- (ii) Any useful French – English/English- French dictionary e.g.
 - Shorter Harrap’s
 - Collin’s
 - Cassel’s
- (iii) Any useful French glossary e.g
Français Fondamental for West Africa, WAEC, Accra, Black Mask Ltd, 1993

Special Note

To enhance comprehension skills, extracts from simple modern literary and other texts (magazines, newspapers, brochures, etc) dealing with contemporary issues may be of immense assistance.