

A-LEVEL FRENCH 100 AI PROMPTS

for Smarter Revision *and* Exam Prep

*Active recall, exam technique, and
mark-scheme thinking — without cheating.*



by James R. Martin

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This book is intended to support revision and exam preparation. It does not replace formal teaching, textbooks, or official specifications. Students are responsible for ensuring that all work submitted for assessment is their own.

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How to Use This Book

For a long time, high-quality tutoring has been a major contributor to elite academic achievement. Used well, AI can now act as a powerful tutor that most students and parents could not previously afford.

This book is a **starting point**, not a rulebook. Each prompt is designed to help you revise, test your understanding, and think more clearly — not to give perfect answers. You are encouraged to **adapt, improve, and remix** these prompts.

You are learning how to think carefully about the questions you ask — a skill that will matter far beyond these exams.

Note on Exam Boards and Syllabi

This book has been designed to support students preparing for A-Level French across all major UK exam boards, including AQA, Edexcel, and WJEC/Eduqas. While the specific texts, films, and thematic emphases may differ between specifications, the core linguistic competencies, grammatical structures, and cultural knowledge required at A-Level are consistent across all boards. Every prompt in this book targets skills and content areas that appear in multiple specifications, ensuring broad relevance regardless of which board your school follows.

A-Level French requires students to engage with complex social, political, and cultural themes relating to French-speaking countries and communities. The prompts in this book address topics such as immigration, multiculturalism, the changing family, political engagement, and intellectual movements, all of which feature prominently across AQA, Edexcel, and WJEC/Eduqas specifications. Students are expected to discuss these themes with nuance, supported by evidence and independent thought.

Translation is a key assessed skill at A-Level, with all boards requiring both English-to-French and French-to-English translation. This book provides extensive practice in both directions, focusing on the grammatical accuracy, idiomatic expression, and register awareness that examiners reward. The translation prompts reflect the level of complexity found in actual A-Level papers, including literary and journalistic source material.

The study of a French-language film and a literary text is compulsory across all major exam boards, though the set works differ. The prompts in this book

develop the analytical and essay-writing skills needed to respond to questions on any set text or film, focusing on themes, characterisation, narrative technique, and the ability to construct sustained arguments in French. Students should adapt these prompts by inserting the specific titles they are studying.

The Independent Research Project (IRP) or individual oral presentation is a distinctive feature of A-Level French assessment. This book includes a dedicated section to help students develop their research topic, structure their arguments, and practise defending their views under questioning. The skills developed here, including spontaneous discussion, justification of opinions, and handling unpredictable follow-up questions, are essential for achieving top marks in the speaking assessment across all boards.

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Section 1

Social Issues and Trends in French-Speaking Society

A-Level French requires a thorough understanding of contemporary social issues in the French-speaking world. Students must go beyond surface-level awareness and demonstrate the ability to analyse trends, evaluate different perspectives, and support their arguments with specific examples. Topics including the changing nature of the family, the digital revolution, marginalisation, and the role of voluntary work feature across all exam board specifications.

Success in this area depends on building a rich thematic vocabulary and the confidence to discuss sensitive or complex issues with precision. Examiners reward students who can move beyond description to offer genuine analysis, exploring causes, consequences, and potential solutions to social challenges. The ability to draw on real-world examples from France or other French-speaking countries significantly strengthens responses.

The prompts in this section will test your knowledge of key social themes and push you to articulate your views with the sophistication expected at A-Level. Use them to build fluency in discussing topics that appear frequently in reading, listening, writing, and speaking assessments.

Prompt 1: The Changing Family in France

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Test me on the changing nature of the family in France. Ask me questions in French about trends such as le PACS, les familles recomposees, le taux

de divorce, and the role of grandparents in modern society. Challenge me to give detailed responses using relevant statistics or examples, and correct any errors in my French.

What this helps you practise:

Discussing evolving family structures using precise sociological vocabulary in French

How to use it well:

Before attempting this prompt, review recent data on French family demographics so you can cite specific figures. Focus on using cause-and-effect structures such as 'cela est du au fait que' and 'ce qui entraine' to strengthen your analytical language.

Prompt 2: The Digital Revolution and Society

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Quiz me on the impact of the digital revolution on French-speaking societies. Ask me to discuss topics such as les reseaux sociaux, la cyberharcelement, le commerce en ligne, and la fracture numerique.

Expect me to give balanced arguments and push me to consider both positive and negative effects.

Correct my grammar throughout.

What this helps you practise:

Presenting balanced arguments on digital society using advanced connectives and counterarguments

How to use it well:

Prepare a list of advantages and disadvantages before starting. Practise using concessive structures like 'bien que' followed by the subjunctive, and 'certes... mais...' to demonstrate the balanced analysis examiners value.

Prompt 3: Immigration and Multiculturalism

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Conduct a question-and-answer session with me in French on immigration and multiculturalism in

France. Ask me about government policy, integration challenges, cultural diversity, and the experience of immigrant communities. Probe my answers with follow-up questions and correct any linguistic mistakes.

What this helps you practise:

Articulating nuanced positions on immigration using formal register and political vocabulary

How to use it well:

This topic frequently appears in A-Level exams. Build a bank of key terms such as 'l'insertion', 'la laïcité', 'le communautarisme', and 'le droit d'asile' and ensure you can use them accurately in context.

Prompt 4: Marginalisation in French Society

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Test my understanding of marginalisation and social exclusion in France. Ask me questions in French about homelessness, poverty, discrimination based on ethnicity or gender, and the banlieues. Challenge me to propose solutions and evaluate government initiatives. Correct all errors in my responses.

What this helps you practise:

Evaluating social exclusion and proposing solutions using complex sentence structures

How to use it well:

Research specific French organisations or policies such as le RSA, ATD Quart Monde, or les zones urbaines sensibles. Having concrete examples to cite will elevate your answers from generic to genuinely impressive.

Prompt 5: Voluntary Work and Civic Engagement

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Quiz me in French on the role of voluntary work and civic engagement in French-speaking countries. Ask

about the motivations of young volunteers, the impact of associations such as Les Restos du Coeur, and how le benevolat contributes to social cohesion.

Push me to justify my opinions with examples.

What this helps you practise:

Explaining motivations and social impact using persuasive language and real-world examples

How to use it well:

Focus on expressing purpose and motivation using structures like 'afin de', 'dans le but de', and 'ce qui permet de'. These are highly transferable to essay writing as well as speaking tasks.

Prompt 6: Wealth and Poverty

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Test me on the gap between wealth and poverty in the French-speaking world. Ask me questions in French about income inequality, the working poor, tax policy, and access to healthcare and education.

Require me to compare France with at least one other French-speaking country. Correct my French throughout.

What this helps you practise:

Comparing socioeconomic conditions across French-speaking countries using comparative structures

How to use it well:

Practise comparative and superlative structures thoroughly before using this prompt. Having knowledge of a francophone African country or Belgium for comparison will demonstrate broader cultural awareness.

Prompt 7: The Role of Education in French Society

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Conduct a detailed oral examination with me in French on the French education system. Ask me

about le baccalaureat, les grandes ecoles, egalite des chances, and recent education reforms.

Challenge me to evaluate whether the system promotes or hinders social mobility. Correct errors and suggest more sophisticated vocabulary where possible.

What this helps you practise:

Evaluating educational structures and their impact on social mobility using formal analytical French

How to use it well:

This topic bridges social issues and political culture.

Ensure you can discuss both the structure of the French education system and its broader societal implications, as examiners value this kind of cross-thematic thinking.

Prompt 8: Health and Lifestyle in France

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Quiz me on health issues and lifestyle choices in French-speaking societies. Ask questions in French about obesity, smoking legislation, mental health awareness, the healthcare system, and attitudes to wellbeing. Push me to discuss government campaigns and their effectiveness. Correct my grammar and vocabulary.

What this helps you practise:

Discussing public health policy and lifestyle trends using topic-specific terminology

How to use it well:

Learn vocabulary related to la Securite sociale and French public health campaigns before starting.

Being able to reference specific initiatives like Manger Bouger or Mois sans tabac will add authenticity to your responses.

Prompt 9: Crime and Justice

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Test me on crime, punishment, and the justice system in France. Ask me questions in French about la delinquance juvenile, la recidive, les peines alternatives, and debates around la peine de mort. Require me to present arguments for and against different approaches. Correct all errors.

What this helps you practise:

Constructing arguments about criminal justice using formal debating language and legal vocabulary

How to use it well:

Prepare phrases for presenting opposing viewpoints such as 'les partisans de... soutiennent que' and 'en revanche, les detracteurs affirment que'. This formulaic language scores well in both essays and oral discussions.

Prompt 10: Environmental Issues in French-Speaking Countries

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Conduct a thorough quiz on environmental challenges facing French-speaking countries. Ask me in French about climate change policy, renewable energy, pollution in urban areas, and biodiversity loss. Challenge me to discuss the COP summits and France's environmental commitments. Correct my French and push for greater precision.

What this helps you practise:

Discussing environmental policy and scientific concepts in French with accuracy and depth

How to use it well:

Environmental vocabulary is highly specific. Build a glossary of terms such as 'les energies renouvelables', 'l'empreinte carbone', 'le rechauffement climatique', and 'la transition ecologique' before tackling this prompt.

Prompt 11: Youth Culture and Identity

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Test me on aspects of youth culture and identity in the French-speaking world. Ask me questions in French about how young people express identity through music, fashion, language (including verlan and argot), and social media. Challenge me to analyse generational differences and the concept of la crise d'identite. Correct my responses.

What this helps you practise:

Analysing cultural identity and generational change using register-appropriate French

How to use it well:

This topic allows you to demonstrate awareness of different registers. Show that you understand informal language like verlan while using formal French to analyse it. This contrast impresses examiners.

Section 2

Political and Intellectual Culture in the French-Speaking World

Understanding the political landscape and intellectual traditions of France and the wider francophone world is essential for A-Level success. Students are expected to engage with topics such as the French political system, the legacy of colonialism, the European Union, and the intellectual heritage of movements such as existentialism and the Enlightenment. This goes well beyond memorising facts and requires genuine critical engagement.

The ability to discuss political and intellectual themes with confidence is tested across all four language skills at A-Level. In the speaking exam, you may be asked to defend a position on a political issue. In the writing exam, you may need to construct a sustained argument about an intellectual movement or historical event. Reading and listening assessments frequently draw on political speeches, opinion pieces, and journalistic analysis.

These prompts will test your knowledge of French political institutions, key historical events, and influential thinkers. They will also develop the formal, analytical register that examiners expect when students discuss these weighty subjects.

Prompt 12: The French Political System

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Quiz me on the structure and functioning of the French political system. Ask me in French about the role of le President de la Republique, l'Assemblée nationale, le Senat, and the concept of la cohabitation. Test whether I understand the

difference between the French and British systems.

Correct my French throughout.

What this helps you practise:

Explaining constitutional structures and political processes in formal French

How to use it well:

Create a comparison table of French and British political systems before attempting this prompt.

Being able to draw comparisons fluently demonstrates the analytical skills that earn top marks.

Prompt 13: French Attitudes to the European Union

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Test me on French perspectives on the European Union. Ask questions in French about the historical development of the EU, French euroscepticism, the impact of EU policy on everyday life in France, and the debate around sovereignty. Push me to present multiple viewpoints. Correct all errors.

What this helps you practise:

Evaluating multiple political perspectives on European integration using sophisticated argumentative language

How to use it well:

Review recent events such as European Parliament elections or EU policy debates involving France.

Current examples make your responses feel informed and relevant rather than textbook-rehearsed.

Prompt 14: The Legacy of Colonialism

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Conduct a question-and-answer session with me in French about the legacy of French colonialism. Ask me about the impact on former colonies, the concept

of la Francophonie, ongoing debates about memory and reparations, and the relationship between France and its overseas territories. Correct my language and challenge vague statements.

What this helps you practise:

Discussing postcolonial issues with historical accuracy and appropriate sensitivity in French

How to use it well:

This is a topic where nuance is essential. Avoid oversimplifying. Practise phrases that acknowledge complexity, such as 'il convient de nuancer cette perspective' and 'les avis sont partagés sur cette question'.

Prompt 15: Political Engagement Among Young People

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Test my understanding of political engagement and activism among young people in France. Ask me in French about voter turnout, protest movements such as les gilets jaunes and les manifestations étudiantes, the role of social media in political mobilisation, and alternative forms of engagement. Correct my French and demand specific examples.

What this helps you practise:

Analysing youth political participation using evidence-based argumentation in French

How to use it well:

Prepare at least three specific examples of French youth political movements or campaigns. Examiners reward specificity, so being able to name a movement, date, or figure will distinguish your response.

Prompt 16: The Enlightenment and Its Legacy

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Quiz me on the French Enlightenment and its continuing influence. Ask me in French about key thinkers such as Voltaire, Rousseau, and Montesquieu, their central ideas, and how Enlightenment values such as la liberte, l'egalite, and la laicite shape modern France. Test whether I can connect historical ideas to contemporary debates.

What this helps you practise:

Connecting Enlightenment philosophy to modern French political and social values

How to use it well:

Focus on making connections between historical ideas and current affairs. For example, link Voltaire's defence of free speech to the Charlie Hebdo debate.

This cross-referencing demonstrates intellectual maturity.

Prompt 17: Existentialism and French Intellectual Thought

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Test me on existentialist philosophy and its place in French intellectual culture. Ask me in French about Sartre, de Beauvoir, and Camus, their key works and ideas, and how existentialism influenced French literature, politics, and society. Push me to explain concepts like la liberte, l'engagement, and l'absurde.

Correct all errors.

What this helps you practise:

Explaining abstract philosophical concepts in clear, accurate French

How to use it well:

Philosophical vocabulary can be challenging. Before attempting this prompt, ensure you can explain key terms in your own words in French rather than relying on memorised definitions. Examiners value genuine understanding.

Prompt 18: The Role of Trade Unions and Strikes

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Conduct a quiz with me in French on the role of les syndicats and la greve in French political culture. Ask me about the history of trade unions in France, major strikes, the right to strike as a constitutional principle, and how French attitudes to industrial action differ from those in other countries. Correct my French throughout.

What this helps you practise:

Comparing industrial relations across cultures using formal analytical vocabulary

How to use it well:

Research a recent major strike in France such as the pension reform protests. Being able to discuss a current event in detail shows examiners that your knowledge extends beyond the textbook.

Prompt 19: Media and Press Freedom

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Test me on the role of the media and press freedom in France. Ask me questions in French about state-owned media, the influence of les medias sociaux, press regulation, and debates around la liberte d'expression versus hate speech. Challenge me to evaluate whether the French press is truly free. Correct all errors.

What this helps you practise:

Evaluating media influence and press regulation using nuanced argumentative French

How to use it well:

Learn the names and political leanings of key French media outlets such as Le Monde, Le Figaro, Liberation, and France 24. This contextual knowledge adds credibility to your responses.

Prompt 20: The Death Penalty and Human Rights

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Quiz me in French on France's relationship with the death penalty and broader human rights issues. Ask me about the abolition of la peine de mort in 1981, Robert Badinter's role, France's position in international human rights organisations, and contemporary debates about rights. Push me to construct sustained arguments. Correct my French.

What this helps you practise:

Constructing sustained moral and political arguments using formal persuasive French

How to use it well:

Practise constructing arguments that build logically from premise to conclusion. Use connectives such as 'par conséquent', 'de surcroît', and 'en dernier lieu' to give your reasoning a clear structure.

Prompt 21: French National Identity and La République

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Test me on the concept of French national identity and the values of la République. Ask me in French about laïcité, égalité, liberté, and fraternité, how they are applied in practice, and where tensions arise. Challenge me to discuss the burqa ban, the place of religion in public life, and the meaning of being French today. Correct my language.

What this helps you practise:

Discussing national identity and republican values with cultural sensitivity and precision

How to use it well:

This topic requires you to present different perspectives without imposing your own view inappropriately. Practise hedging language such as

'selon certains', 'on pourrait arguer que', and 'il est difficile de generaliser'.

Prompt 22: Francophonie and Soft Power

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Conduct a detailed quiz with me in French on la Francophonie as a political and cultural force. Ask me about the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, the spread of the French language globally, France's cultural diplomacy, and whether la Francophonie is a form of neocolonialism. Push me to evaluate different perspectives. Correct all errors.

What this helps you practise:

Evaluating geopolitical and cultural concepts using sophisticated French with appropriate register

How to use it well:

Be prepared to discuss la Francophonie from multiple angles: linguistic, cultural, economic, and political. Showing that you can address a topic from different perspectives demonstrates the analytical depth examiners reward.

Section 3

Advanced Grammar and Syntax

Grammatical accuracy is one of the most heavily weighted components of A-Level French assessment. At this level, students are expected to manipulate complex grammatical structures with confidence, including the subjunctive mood, the past historic tense, advanced pronoun usage, and sophisticated clause structures. Errors that might be overlooked at GCSE will cost marks at A-Level, and examiners actively reward ambitious and accurate use of grammar.

Achieving grammatical excellence requires more than knowing the rules. It demands the ability to apply them spontaneously in writing and speech, under timed conditions. The prompts in this section are designed to test your active command of French grammar, identifying weak spots and building the automaticity that allows you to produce accurate French under pressure.

Use these prompts regularly throughout your revision. Grammar is not something you can cram in the final weeks before an exam. Consistent, targeted practice over months will embed the structures so deeply that they become second nature, freeing you to focus on content and argumentation in the exam itself.

Prompt 23: The Subjunctive Mood

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Test me on the French subjunctive mood. Give me sentences in English that require the subjunctive in French and ask me to translate them. Include examples triggered by expressions of doubt, emotion, necessity, and purpose. Also give me

French sentences with errors in subjunctive usage and ask me to correct them. Explain any mistakes I make.

What this helps you practise:

Accurate formation and use of the present and past subjunctive in complex sentences

How to use it well:

Focus particularly on irregular subjunctive forms such as aller, faire, pouvoir, savoir, and etre. These are the forms most commonly tested and most frequently confused under exam pressure.

Prompt 24: The Past Historic Tense

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Quiz me on the passe simple. Give me passages in the passe compose and ask me to rewrite them in the passe simple. Also give me literary extracts using the passe simple and ask me to identify the infinitive of each verb. Test me on irregular forms. Correct all errors.

What this helps you practise:

Recognising and producing past historic forms of regular and irregular verbs

How to use it well:

While you are unlikely to use the passe simple in speaking, you must recognise it in literary texts and may choose to use it in essays on literature or film. Focus on the most common irregular forms: fut, eut, fit, vit, dit, prit, mit.

Prompt 25: Advanced Pronoun Usage

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Test me on advanced French pronoun usage. Give me sentences requiring correct placement of multiple object pronouns, relative pronouns including dont and le quel forms, demonstrative pronouns, and indefinite pronouns such as

quiconque and autrui. Ask me to translate sentences and correct pronoun errors in French passages.

What this helps you practise:

Accurate use of complex pronoun systems including relative, demonstrative, and indefinite pronouns

How to use it well:

Pay special attention to the order of double object pronouns and the correct use of *dont* versus *duquel*. These are areas where even strong candidates make errors, so mastering them gives you a clear advantage.

Prompt 26: Hypothetical and Conditional Structures

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Quiz me on si clauses and conditional structures in French. Test me on all three types: likely, unlikely, and impossible conditions. Give me English sentences to translate into French, and give me French sentences with incorrect tense sequences for me to correct. Include examples using the conditional perfect. Explain all errors.

What this helps you practise:

Constructing all three types of conditional sentence with correct tense sequencing

How to use it well:

Memorise the three patterns firmly: *si* + present/future, *si* + imperfect/conditional, *si* + pluperfect/conditional perfect. Then practise applying them in context rather than in isolation, as this is how they appear in exams.

Prompt 27: The Passive Voice and Alternatives

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Test me on the passive voice in French and its alternatives. Give me active sentences to convert to the passive, and passive sentences to rephrase using

on, se faire, or reflexive constructions. Include examples across different tenses. Ask me when the passive is not possible in French. Correct all errors.

What this helps you practise:

Manipulating active and passive constructions and choosing appropriate alternatives

How to use it well:

Understanding when French avoids the passive voice is as important as knowing how to form it. Practise recognising which English passives require alternative constructions in French, as this is a common translation pitfall.

Prompt 28: Subjunctive vs Indicative

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

*Give me a series of French sentences with a gap where I must choose between the subjunctive and the indicative mood. Include tricky cases such as *après que* (indicative), expressions where the choice depends on whether the statement is affirmative or negative, and verbs that change meaning with each mood. Explain the rule behind each answer.*

What this helps you practise:

Distinguishing between subjunctive and indicative usage in ambiguous contexts

How to use it well:

This is one of the most nuanced areas of French grammar. Keep a notebook of expressions that trigger each mood, paying special attention to exceptions and borderline cases. Review this notebook regularly.

Prompt 29: Advanced Tense Usage

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Test me on the full range of French tenses. Give me a narrative passage in English and ask me to translate it into French, requiring correct use of the

imperfect, passe compose, pluperfect, future, future perfect, and conditional tenses. Then give me a French passage with deliberate tense errors for me to correct. Explain each correction.

What this helps you practise:

Selecting and applying the correct tense across complex narrative and argumentative contexts

How to use it well:

Focus particularly on the distinction between the imperfect and passe compose, which remains a challenge even at A-Level. Practise with narrative passages where both tenses appear in close proximity.

Prompt 30: Negation Beyond Ne...Pas

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Quiz me on advanced negation in French. Test me on ne...que, ne...guere, ne...point, ne...aucun, ne...ni...ni, and the expletive ne. Give me sentences to translate that require these forms, and ask me to distinguish between restrictive and negative constructions. Include questions on the omission of ne in informal French. Correct all errors.

What this helps you practise:

Using the full range of French negative constructions with precision and awareness of register

How to use it well:

Advanced negation structures are an easy way to demonstrate grammatical range. Incorporate ne...que and ne...guere into your essay writing practice, as these are underused by most candidates and impress examiners.

Prompt 31: Prepositions and Verb Constructions

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Test me on French prepositional usage and verb constructions. Give me sentences where I must choose the correct preposition after a verb, including tricky pairs such as jouer a/jouer de, penser a/penser de, and verbs that take no preposition in French but require one in English.

Include sentences requiring a/de/par/en/dans distinctions. Correct all errors.

What this helps you practise:

Accurate use of prepositions with verbs, including distinctions between a, de, and direct constructions

How to use it well:

Create categorised lists of verbs followed by a, de, or no preposition. Test yourself on these regularly, as prepositional errors are among the most persistent at A-Level and can be eliminated through systematic practice.

Prompt 32: Inversion and Formal Register

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Quiz me on subject-verb inversion in formal French.

Give me informal sentences to rephrase using inversion, test me on inversion after adverbs like a peine, peut-etre, and sans doute, and ask me to identify correct and incorrect uses of inversion in literary passages. Include complex inversion with compound tenses. Correct all errors.

What this helps you practise:

Applying subject-verb inversion accurately in formal and literary French contexts

How to use it well:

Inversion is a marker of sophisticated, formal French. Practise incorporating it into your essay writing, particularly after adverbs at the start of sentences. This elevates your register immediately.

Prompt 33: Agreement Rules in Complex Contexts

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Test me on past participle agreement and adjective agreement in complex French sentences. Include sentences with preceding direct objects, reflexive verbs where agreement varies, collective nouns, and compound adjectives. Give me sentences with deliberate agreement errors for me to identify and correct. Explain each rule.

What this helps you practise:

Applying past participle and adjective agreement rules in complex grammatical contexts

How to use it well:

Past participle agreement with preceding direct objects is tested repeatedly at A-Level. Create a set of increasingly complex example sentences and practise until the rules feel automatic.

Prompt 34: Gerunds, Infinitives, and Present Participles

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

*Quiz me on the use of *en* + present participle, infinitive constructions, and the distinction between the gerund and the present participle in French. Give me English sentences to translate that require choosing between these forms. Include examples with *tout en*, *apres avoir/etre*, and *avant de*. Correct all errors and explain the grammar.*

What this helps you practise:

Choosing correctly between infinitive, gerund, and present participle constructions

How to use it well:

These constructions allow you to write more varied and sophisticated sentences. Practise using *apres avoir* + past participle and *tout en* + present participle in your essays to add syntactic variety.

Section 4

Translation Skills

Translation is assessed as a distinct skill at A-Level French and carries significant marks across all major exam boards. Students must demonstrate the ability to translate both from English into French and from French into English with accuracy, fluency, and an awareness of idiomatic expression. The passages used in A-Level exams are drawn from a range of sources including journalism, literature, and academic writing, requiring adaptability in register and style.

Successful translation at this level goes far beyond word-for-word substitution. It requires a deep understanding of grammatical structures in both languages, the ability to recognise and produce idiomatic expressions, and sensitivity to the nuances of meaning that can be lost in literal translation. Students must also be alert to false friends, register shifts, and structural differences between English and French.

The prompts in this section provide intensive practice in both translation directions. Use them to identify your weaknesses, whether in tense usage, pronoun placement, word order, or idiomatic expression, and to build the accuracy and speed needed for timed exam conditions.

Prompt 35: English to French: Social Issues **Copy this prompt into your AI tool:**

Give me five English sentences on social issues in France, at A-Level difficulty, and ask me to translate them into French. The sentences should include complex grammar such as the subjunctive, passive voice, and advanced tenses. After I attempt each

translation, show me an ideal version and explain where my version could be improved.

What this helps you practise:

Translating complex English sentences on social themes into grammatically accurate French

How to use it well:

After receiving corrections, note down the specific errors you made and the correct forms. Build a personal error log and review it weekly. Patterns in your mistakes will reveal which grammar areas need focused revision.

Prompt 36: French to English: Journalistic Texts

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me a passage of approximately 100 words in French, written in a journalistic style about a contemporary issue. Ask me to translate it into natural, fluent English. After I attempt the translation, provide an improved version and highlight where my English was too literal, awkward, or inaccurate.

What this helps you practise:

Producing fluent, natural English translations from formal French journalistic prose

How to use it well:

The key to French-to-English translation is producing English that reads naturally rather than as translated text. After each attempt, read your translation aloud. If any phrase sounds unnatural in English, it needs reworking.

Prompt 37: English to French: Literary Register

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Provide me with a short English passage in a literary or narrative style and ask me to translate it into French. The passage should require use of the passe

simple or passe compose, descriptive adjectives with correct agreement and placement, and sophisticated vocabulary. Compare my attempt with an ideal translation and explain the differences.

What this helps you practise:

Translating literary English into stylistically appropriate French with correct tense and register choices

How to use it well:

Literary translation requires attention to style as well as accuracy. Focus on choosing the appropriate tense for narrative context and on placing adjectives correctly, remembering that some adjectives change meaning depending on position.

Prompt 38: False Friends and Idiomatic Traps

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

*Create a translation exercise specifically designed to test me on French-English false friends and idiomatic expressions. Give me ten sentences in each direction that contain common pitfalls such as *actuellement/actually, assister/assist, sensible/sensible, and idiomatic phrases that cannot be translated literally. Correct my attempts and explain each trap.**

What this helps you practise:

Identifying and avoiding false friends and non-literal idiomatic expressions in translation

How to use it well:

Compile a list of every false friend you encounter during your revision. Review this list before each translation practice session. False friends are a predictable trap, and eliminating them from your translations is one of the easiest ways to improve your mark.

Prompt 39: Translation Under Timed Conditions

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me a translation passage of exam-appropriate length, approximately 70 words in English, to translate into French. Tell me I have 15 minutes.

After I submit my translation, mark it as an examiner would, identifying errors in grammar, vocabulary, and style. Give me a mark out of 10 and explain how to improve.

What this helps you practise:

Producing accurate French translations under realistic time pressure

How to use it well:

Actually time yourself when using this prompt. Developing a sense of pace is essential for the exam. If you cannot complete the passage in time, practise shorter passages first and gradually increase the length.

Prompt 40: Translating Complex Sentence Structures

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me five English sentences containing complex structures such as relative clauses, reported speech, and embedded questions, and ask me to translate them into French. Focus on sentences where the word order or structure differs significantly between the two languages. Correct my translations and explain the structural changes required.

What this helps you practise:

Restructuring complex English syntax into grammatically correct French equivalents

How to use it well:

When translating complex sentences, identify the main clause first, then work outwards to subordinate clauses. This methodical approach prevents the

jumbled syntax that results from trying to translate linearly.

Prompt 41: French to English: Literary Extracts

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Provide a literary passage in French of approximately 100 words, including complex vocabulary and stylistic features. Ask me to translate it into English that preserves the tone and style of the original. After my attempt, provide an improved version and discuss where my translation lost the register or meaning of the original.

What this helps you practise:

Preserving literary tone and stylistic nuance in French-to-English translation

How to use it well:

Read the French passage twice before beginning your translation: once for overall meaning and once for tone and style. Consider the author's choices carefully and try to find English equivalents that produce the same effect rather than just the same meaning.

Prompt 42: Translating Modal and Conditional Nuance

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me sentences in both English and French that use modal verbs and conditional structures with subtle differences in meaning. Ask me to translate them, paying careful attention to the difference between could/would/should/might and their French equivalents. Highlight where I have lost or changed the nuance in my translation.

What this helps you practise:

Conveying precise modal and conditional meaning across English and French

How to use it well:

Modal nuance is where many translations fall down. Before translating, ask yourself exactly what degree of certainty, obligation, or possibility the original sentence expresses, then find the French or English structure that matches that degree precisely.

Prompt 43: Register and Tone in Translation

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me pairs of sentences in French that say the same thing but in different registers (formal/informal, spoken/written, neutral/emotional).

Ask me to translate each version into English, preserving the register difference. Then give me English sentences and ask me to translate them into French at a specified register. Assess my register accuracy.

What this helps you practise:

Maintaining appropriate register and tone distinctions in both translation directions

How to use it well:

Register awareness is a distinguishing feature of strong candidates. Build awareness by reading French texts at different formality levels and noting the vocabulary, grammar, and structures that signal each register.

Prompt 44: Translating Abstract and Analytical Language

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Provide sentences and short passages in English that contain abstract, analytical language typical of essay writing, such as discussions of cause and effect, evaluation, and comparison. Ask me to translate them into French. Correct my translations, focusing on whether I have used appropriately

formal and precise vocabulary. Suggest improvements.

What this helps you practise:

Translating academic and analytical English into precise, formal French

How to use it well:

Build a bilingual glossary of analytical phrases: 'it could be argued that' = 'on pourrait soutenir que', 'this raises the question of' = 'cela souleve la question de'. Having these phrases ready will improve both your translation accuracy and your essay writing.

Prompt 45: Proofreading Translations

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me a French translation of an English passage that contains exactly ten errors covering grammar, vocabulary, and style. Ask me to find and correct all ten errors. After I submit my corrections, reveal any errors I missed and explain why the original was wrong. Test me across different error types.

What this helps you practise:

Identifying and correcting grammatical, lexical, and stylistic errors in French translations

How to use it well:

Proofreading is a skill you must use in the exam. After completing any translation, always leave time to check for common errors: agreement, accents, verb endings, and prepositions. Train yourself to check systematically rather than just reading through once.

Section 5

Film and Literary Analysis

All major A-Level French specifications require the study of at least one French-language film and one literary text. Students must demonstrate the ability to analyse themes, characters, narrative techniques, and directorial or authorial choices, all while writing in accurate and sophisticated French. This component carries substantial marks and rewards students who can construct well-structured, evidence-based arguments.

Successful analysis at A-Level goes beyond plot summary. Examiners want to see engagement with how a text or film creates meaning: the significance of structure, symbolism, visual imagery, dialogue, and narrative perspective. Students must also be able to place works in their social, historical, and cultural contexts, exploring how they reflect or challenge the society in which they were produced.

The prompts in this section are designed to work with any set text or film. Replace the placeholder references with the specific works you are studying. The skills developed here, including close textual analysis, thematic comparison, and evaluative argument, are transferable across all texts and films on the specification.

Prompt 46: Theme Analysis in Film

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

I am studying a French-language film for A-Level. Ask me a series of questions in French about the key themes of the film. Push me to go beyond identifying themes and instead analyse how they are presented through cinematography, dialogue, mise-en-scene,

and narrative structure. Correct my French and challenge superficial responses.

What this helps you practise:

Analysing thematic presentation through cinematic techniques using appropriate film terminology in French

How to use it well:

Before using this prompt, tell the AI which film you are studying. Prepare a list of key scenes that illustrate each theme so you can reference specific moments. Examiners reward precise textual and visual evidence.

Prompt 47: Character Study in Literature

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

I am studying a French literary text for A-Level. Quiz me on a specific character by asking questions in French about their role in the narrative, their development throughout the text, their relationships with other characters, and what they represent thematically. Challenge me to support every point with textual evidence. Correct my French.

What this helps you practise:

Constructing evidence-based character analysis in sustained, accurate French

How to use it well:

Tell the AI which text and character you want to focus on. Prepare key quotations in advance so you can cite them during the discussion. Even short quotations of a few words demonstrate close engagement with the text.

Prompt 48: Narrative Technique and Structure

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Test me on the narrative techniques used in my A-Level French literary text. Ask me in French about the narrative voice, the use of chronology and

flashback, the significance of the opening and closing, and any structural patterns. Push me to explain why the author made these choices and what effect they create. Correct my French.

What this helps you practise:

Explaining authorial choices regarding structure and narrative technique using literary terminology

How to use it well:

Learn key narrative terminology in French: le narrateur omniscient, le recit a la premiere personne, le retour en arriere, la prolepse, le denouement. Using these terms accurately shows examiners that you can analyse literature at the expected level.

Prompt 49: Visual Imagery and Cinematography

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Quiz me on the visual techniques used in my A-Level French film. Ask me in French about the use of lighting, colour, camera angles, editing, and sound. For each technique I discuss, push me to explain its effect on the audience and its connection to the film's themes. Correct my French and suggest more precise vocabulary where possible.

What this helps you practise:

Analysing visual and auditory cinematic techniques using specialist film vocabulary in French

How to use it well:

Build a glossary of cinematographic terms in French: le plan rapproche, le contre-plongee, le montage parallele, la bande sonore, l'eclairage. Being able to use these terms fluently transforms a descriptive answer into a genuinely analytical one.

Prompt 50: Social and Historical Context

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Test me on the social and historical context of my A-Level French film or literary text. Ask me in French how the work reflects the time and place in which it was produced or set. Challenge me to discuss how historical events, social conditions, or cultural movements shaped the text. Push me beyond plot summary to contextual analysis. Correct all errors.

What this helps you practise:

Connecting literary and cinematic works to their social, historical, and cultural contexts

How to use it well:

Research the historical period of your text or film independently. Understanding the context enriches your analysis enormously. For example, if studying a film set during the Occupation, knowing about collaboration and resistance allows much deeper interpretation.

Prompt 51: Comparing Themes Across Works

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

I am studying both a film and a literary text for A-Level French. Ask me questions in French that require me to compare how both works treat a shared theme such as identity, freedom, justice, or love. Push me to identify similarities and differences in approach, technique, and perspective. Correct my French throughout.

What this helps you practise:

Drawing thematic comparisons across different texts and media using sophisticated comparative language

How to use it well:

Even if your exam does not require direct comparison, the ability to draw connections between your set works demonstrates intellectual range. Prepare comparative notes on three or four themes that both your works address.

Prompt 52: Writing an Analytical Essay on Film

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me an A-Level style essay question in French about a film, then ask me to write an essay plan in French with an introduction, three main paragraphs, and a conclusion. After I produce my plan, critique it: assess the strength of my argument, the quality of my evidence, and the coherence of my structure. Suggest improvements. Then ask me to write one full paragraph.

What this helps you practise:

Planning and structuring analytical essays on film with clear argumentation and evidence

How to use it well:

Essay planning is a skill in itself. Practise producing plans in five minutes, ensuring each paragraph has a clear point, supporting evidence, and analysis. A strong plan leads to a strong essay; a weak plan leads to waffle.

Prompt 53: Writing an Analytical Essay on Literature

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Provide me with an A-Level style essay question in French on a literary text, then guide me through planning my response. Ask me to state my thesis, identify my three main arguments, select supporting quotations, and outline my conclusion. Critique my plan and then ask me to draft one paragraph. Assess my French and my analytical quality.

What this helps you practise:

Constructing thesis-driven literary essays with integrated quotation and analysis

How to use it well:

Always start with a clear thesis that directly answers the question. Every paragraph should advance this thesis with a new point. Avoid the temptation to

narrate the plot; instead, analyse specific moments and explain their significance.

Prompt 54: Close Reading Practice

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me a short extract in French from a literary text, approximately 50 to 80 words. Ask me to perform a close reading, identifying and analysing language choices, imagery, tone, rhythm, and any literary devices. Push me to explain the effect of specific words and phrases rather than just naming techniques. Correct my French.

What this helps you practise:

Performing detailed close reading analysis with attention to language, imagery, and literary effect

How to use it well:

When performing close reading, start with what is unusual or striking about the passage. Ask yourself why the author chose this particular word, image, or structure rather than an obvious alternative. This questioning approach generates genuine analysis.

Prompt 55: Symbolism and Motifs

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Test me on the use of symbolism and recurring motifs in my A-Level French text or film. Ask me in French to identify key symbols, explain what they represent, and trace how they develop throughout the work. Challenge me to explain how symbolism contributes to the overall meaning. Correct my French and push for deeper interpretation.

What this helps you practise:

Identifying and interpreting symbolic and motif-based meaning in literary and cinematic texts

How to use it well:

Create a symbol and motif tracker for your text or film, noting every appearance and its context.

Tracing how a symbol evolves across a work allows you to write about it with the depth and specificity that examiners reward.

Prompt 56: Evaluating Critical Perspectives

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Present me with two contrasting critical interpretations of a theme or character from a French A-Level text or film. Ask me in French to evaluate both perspectives, deciding which I find more convincing and why. Push me to engage with the arguments rather than simply choosing one.

Correct my French throughout.

What this helps you practise:

Engaging with and evaluating competing critical interpretations of literary and cinematic texts

How to use it well:

Examiners at A-Level reward students who can engage with multiple perspectives. Even if your exam does not require you to cite critics, the ability to consider alternative interpretations and argue for your own reading demonstrates intellectual maturity.

Section 6

Essay Writing in French

Essay writing in French is a core skill at A-Level and is assessed in both the writing paper and the literature and film components. Students must be able to construct sustained, well-argued essays entirely in French, demonstrating not only linguistic accuracy but also the ability to develop a coherent argument, marshal evidence effectively, and write with appropriate register and style.

A strong A-Level essay in French requires a clear structure with an introduction that frames the question, body paragraphs that each develop a distinct point, and a conclusion that synthesises the argument. The language must be formal and precise, avoiding colloquialisms and repetition. Examiners reward ambitious vocabulary, varied sentence structures, and the confident use of connectives to guide the reader through the argument.

These prompts will help you develop every aspect of French essay writing, from planning and structuring to refining your expression and building a repertoire of high-level phrases. Regular practice with these prompts will build the fluency and confidence needed to produce impressive essays under exam conditions.

Prompt 57: Structuring an Argument

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me a discursive essay question in French on a social or political topic. Ask me to produce an essay plan with a clear thesis, three developed arguments, counterarguments, and a conclusion. After I submit my plan, assess its logical coherence and the quality

of my argumentation. Suggest improvements to the structure.

What this helps you practise:

Organising complex arguments into a coherent, logical essay structure

How to use it well:

Train yourself to plan every essay before writing. In the exam, spend five minutes on a plan. The clarity of your argument is worth more than additional content, and a plan prevents you from losing your thread mid-essay.

Prompt 58: Writing Introductions

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me five different A-Level French essay questions on various themes. For each one, ask me to write an introduction in French that defines the key terms, establishes the context, outlines the debate, and states my thesis. Assess each introduction for clarity, relevance, and linguistic quality. Provide model introductions for comparison.

What this helps you practise:

Crafting focused, engaging essay introductions that frame the question and state a clear thesis

How to use it well:

A strong introduction sets up your entire essay. Develop a reliable template: contextual sentence, definition of key term, outline of the debate, thesis statement. Practise until you can produce a solid introduction in under five minutes.

Prompt 59: Developing Paragraphs

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me a topic sentence for an essay paragraph in French. Ask me to develop it into a full paragraph of approximately 80 to 100 words, including a clear point, supporting evidence or examples, analysis of

*the evidence, and a link to the overall argument.
Assess my paragraph for coherence, depth, and
linguistic accuracy.*

What this helps you practise:

Constructing fully developed analytical paragraphs
with point, evidence, and analysis

How to use it well:

Follow the PEEL structure: Point, Evidence,
Explanation, Link. This is not just for English
literature essays; it works equally well in French.
Practise developing paragraphs until the structure
becomes instinctive.

Prompt 60: Writing Conclusions

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

*Give me an essay question and a summary of the
main arguments I have made. Ask me to write a
conclusion in French that synthesises the
arguments, offers a final evaluation, and leaves the
reader with a thought-provoking closing statement.
Assess my conclusion for its effectiveness and
linguistic quality. Provide a model for comparison.*

What this helps you practise:

Writing effective conclusions that synthesise
arguments and offer genuine evaluation

How to use it well:

Avoid simply repeating your introduction in the
conclusion. Instead, show how your argument has
developed. Use phrases like 'en fin de compte', 'tout
bien considere', and 'force est de constater que' to
signal mature evaluation.

Prompt 61: Connectives and Linking Phrases

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

*Test me on advanced French connectives and linking
phrases. Give me pairs of sentences and ask me to
combine them using an appropriate connective.*

Include concessive, causal, consecutive, and temporal connectives. Then give me an essay paragraph with weak or repetitive linking and ask me to improve it. Correct all errors.

What this helps you practise:

Using a wide range of advanced connectives to create fluent, cohesive argumentation

How to use it well:

Build a categorised list of connectives: addition (de surcroit, par ailleurs), contrast (neanmoins, toutefois), cause (etant donne que, du fait que), consequence (de sorte que, si bien que). Use at least one from each category in every essay.

Prompt 62: Expressing and Justifying Opinions

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me a series of controversial statements in French on A-Level topics. For each one, ask me to write two to three sentences expressing my opinion and justifying it with a reason and an example.

Assess whether my opinion is clearly stated, genuinely justified, and expressed in varied language. Push me beyond 'je pense que'. Correct all errors.

What this helps you practise:

Articulating and supporting personal opinions using varied expression and genuine justification

How to use it well:

Move beyond basic opinion phrases. Instead of 'je pense que', use 'il me semble que', 'je suis convaincu(e) que', 'a mon sens', 'j'estime que'.

Varying your opinion phrases demonstrates linguistic range.

Prompt 63: Handling Counterarguments

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me a position statement in French on an A-Level topic. Ask me to write a counterargument paragraph that acknowledges the opposing view, presents evidence for it, and then refutes it. Assess whether I engage genuinely with the counterargument rather than dismissing it superficially. Correct my French.

What this helps you practise:

Engaging with and refuting counterarguments using concessive and adversative structures

How to use it well:

Strong essays engage genuinely with opposing views. Use the structure: 'certes... cependant...' or 'bien que... il n'en demeure pas moins que...' to show that you can acknowledge a counterargument while maintaining your own position.

Prompt 64: Using Evidence and Examples

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me an essay question in French and ask me to write a paragraph that incorporates at least two specific pieces of evidence: one statistic or factual reference and one example from French-speaking society. Assess whether I integrate the evidence smoothly into my argument or simply drop it in. Correct my French and suggest improvements.

What this helps you practise:

Integrating factual evidence and real-world examples smoothly into argumentative prose

How to use it well:

Evidence must be integrated, not inserted. Use phrases like 'comme en temoigne', 'a titre d'exemple', and 'les chiffres revelent que' to embed evidence within your argument rather than listing it separately.

Prompt 65: Improving Vocabulary Range

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me an A-Level French essay paragraph that uses basic, repetitive vocabulary. Ask me to rewrite it using more sophisticated, varied, and precise vocabulary while keeping the same meaning. Then assess my rewrite, highlighting any improvements and any remaining weak vocabulary choices.

Suggest further refinements.

What this helps you practise:

Elevating essay vocabulary from functional to sophisticated through precise lexical choices

How to use it well:

Keep a vocabulary upgrade list: basic word on the left, sophisticated alternatives on the right. For example, 'important' becomes 'primordial, essentiel, capital, determinant'. Review and test yourself on this list regularly.

Prompt 66: Writing Under Timed Conditions

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me an A-Level essay question in French and tell me I have 40 minutes. After I submit my essay, assess it as an examiner would, giving marks for content, quality of argument, range of vocabulary, accuracy of grammar, and overall coherence. Provide specific, actionable feedback and a mark out of 20.

What this helps you practise:

Producing well-structured, accurate essays within realistic A-Level time constraints

How to use it well:

Time yourself strictly when using this prompt. In the exam, you cannot spend unlimited time perfecting your language. Practise writing to time regularly so you develop a realistic sense of how much you can write in the time available.

Prompt 67: Analysing Model Essays

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Write a model A-Level French essay of approximately 250 words on a social or cultural topic. Then ask me to analyse it: identifying the thesis, the structure, the use of evidence, the range of vocabulary and grammar, and the effectiveness of the conclusion. Test whether I can identify what makes it a strong essay. Correct my analysis where needed.

What this helps you practise:

Critically evaluating essay quality by identifying structural, linguistic, and argumentative strengths

How to use it well:

Reading and analysing strong model essays is one of the best ways to internalise what examiners are looking for. After analysing a model, try to write your own essay on a similar topic, applying the techniques you identified.

Section 7

Listening and Reading Comprehension Strategies

Listening and reading comprehension are assessed in dedicated papers at A-Level French, and together they typically account for a substantial portion of the overall marks. The texts and recordings used at A-Level are significantly more challenging than those at GCSE, featuring complex syntax, idiomatic language, regional accents, and sophisticated arguments drawn from authentic French-language sources.

Success in these papers depends on more than just linguistic knowledge. Students need effective strategies for approaching different question types, managing time across multiple texts, and extracting meaning from unfamiliar vocabulary through context and inference. The ability to identify tone, purpose, and implicit meaning is just as important as understanding explicit content.

These prompts develop both the linguistic skills and the strategic approaches needed for the comprehension papers. They train you to engage with complex authentic materials, to read and listen with purpose, and to answer questions with the precision that examiners demand.

Prompt 68: Listening: Identifying Key Information

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Simulate an A-Level French listening exercise.

Provide me with a transcript of a short spoken passage on a social or political topic, approximately 80 words. Then ask me five comprehension questions in French that test my ability to identify

specific facts, opinions, and attitudes expressed in the passage. Assess my answers for accuracy and precision.

What this helps you practise:

Extracting specific factual and attitudinal information from complex spoken French

How to use it well:

In the actual exam, you hear the recording twice. On the first listen, focus on overall meaning and main arguments. On the second listen, focus on the specific details needed for each question. Practise this two-stage approach with every exercise.

Prompt 69: Reading: Inference and Implicit Meaning

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me an A-Level standard French reading passage of approximately 120 words on a cultural or political topic. Ask me five questions, at least two of which require me to infer meaning or interpret the author's attitude rather than simply locate information. Assess my answers for depth and accuracy. Explain where I missed implicit meaning.

What this helps you practise:

Inferring implicit meaning, tone, and authorial attitude from complex French texts

How to use it well:

When a question asks 'what does the author suggest' or 'what is the author's attitude', you cannot simply quote from the text. You must interpret. Look for loaded vocabulary, rhetorical questions, and tone markers that reveal the author's position.

Prompt 70: Vocabulary Inference from Context

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me a French passage containing eight words or phrases that are likely to be unfamiliar to an A-Level

student. Ask me to guess the meaning of each from context without using a dictionary. After I attempt all eight, reveal the correct meanings and explain the contextual clues I should have used. Assess my inference skills.

What this helps you practise:

Deducing the meaning of unfamiliar French vocabulary through contextual and etymological clues

How to use it well:

In the exam, you will encounter unfamiliar words. Develop strategies: look at the word root, check for cognates, consider the surrounding context, and identify the word class. These techniques combined will help you make educated guesses.

Prompt 71: Listening: Following Complex Arguments

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Provide me with a transcript of a French debate or discussion between two speakers with opposing views, approximately 120 words. Ask me to summarise each speaker's position in French, identify where they agree and disagree, and explain which arguments are strongest. Assess my comprehension and analytical quality.

What this helps you practise:

Following and analysing opposing arguments in extended spoken French

How to use it well:

Practise distinguishing between speakers' positions by listening for discourse markers: 'en revanche', 'au contraire', 'je ne suis pas du tout d'accord'. These signpost changes in position and help you follow the structure of a debate.

Prompt 72: Reading: Matching Statements to Texts

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me three short French texts on related topics, each approximately 40 to 50 words. Then give me eight statements and ask me to match each statement to the correct text, or identify if a statement does not match any text. Assess my accuracy and explain any errors I make.

What this helps you practise:

Matching detailed statements to appropriate source texts through careful comparative reading

How to use it well:

This question type requires you to read carefully rather than quickly. Underline key words in each statement before scanning the texts. Beware of statements that seem to match but contain a key word that changes the meaning.

Prompt 73: Listening: Gap-Fill Exercises

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Create an A-Level standard gap-fill listening exercise. Give me a summary of a spoken passage with ten gaps, then provide the full transcript. Ask me to fill in the gaps using the exact words from the transcript. After I submit my answers, check for accuracy including spelling and grammatical agreement.

What this helps you practise:

Capturing precise vocabulary and grammatical forms from spoken French in gap-fill format

How to use it well:

Gap-fill exercises test both listening accuracy and spelling. When practising, focus on verb endings, agreement, and accents, as marks are often lost on these details rather than on identifying the wrong word entirely.

Prompt 74: Reading: Answering in French

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me an A-Level French reading passage of approximately 100 words. Ask me five comprehension questions in French that I must answer in French. After I submit my answers, assess them for accuracy, relevance, and linguistic quality. Highlight where I have lifted text inappropriately instead of using my own words, and where my answers lack precision.

What this helps you practise:

Formulating precise, relevant answers to comprehension questions in accurate French

How to use it well:

When answering in French, avoid copying large chunks from the text. Examiners want to see that you have understood and can reformulate. Change the structure, use synonyms, and ensure your answer directly addresses the question asked.

Prompt 75: Listening: Note-Taking Skills

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Provide a transcript of a French monologue of approximately 100 words on an A-Level topic. Ask me to take notes in French on the key points, capturing the main argument, supporting evidence, and the speaker's conclusion. Then assess whether my notes are accurate and complete. Identify any key points I missed.

What this helps you practise:

Capturing key information from extended spoken French through efficient note-taking

How to use it well:

Develop a personal shorthand for note-taking: abbreviations for common words, symbols for concepts like 'therefore' or 'because'. This allows you

to capture more information during listening exercises without falling behind.

Prompt 76: Reading: True, False, or Not Mentioned

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me a French reading passage of approximately 100 words on a current affairs topic. Provide eight statements and ask me to identify each as vrai, faux, or pas mentionne. After I answer, explain any errors, particularly where I confused 'false' with 'not mentioned', which is the most common mistake in this question type.

What this helps you practise:

Distinguishing between false information and information not present in the source text

How to use it well:

The distinction between 'faux' and 'pas mentionne' is crucial. A statement is 'faux' only if the text directly contradicts it. If the text simply does not address the topic, it is 'pas mentionne'. Practise this distinction carefully.

Prompt 77: Speed Reading for Gist

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me a long French text of approximately 200 words. Give me 90 seconds to read it, then remove the text and ask me five questions about the main ideas, overall argument, and tone. Assess my answers and discuss which reading strategies would have helped me capture the key information more efficiently.

What this helps you practise:

Extracting main ideas and overall meaning from lengthy French texts under time pressure

How to use it well:

Speed reading is about reading with purpose, not

about reading every word faster. Before reading, look at the title, any subheadings, and the first and last sentences. These often contain the main argument and conclusion, giving you a framework for understanding the detail.

Prompt 78: Listening: Regional Accents and Varied Speech

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Play the role of an A-Level French listening examiner. Read me a passage in French that includes colloquial expressions and informal speech patterns, then ask me comprehension questions about it. After I answer, assess whether I understood the gist and the detail, and point out any expressions I may have misunderstood. Then ask me to identify which features of the language suggest informal or regional usage.

What this helps you practise:

Understanding non-standard French speech patterns including informal contractions and regional features

How to use it well:

A-Level listening papers may include speakers from different parts of the French-speaking world.

Familiarise yourself with common informal speech features such as the dropping of *ne* in negation, the use of *on* for *nous*, and liaisons that differ from standard pronunciation.

Section 8

Speaking and Discussion Skills

The speaking assessment at A-Level French is a demanding examination that tests students' ability to discuss complex topics spontaneously, defend their opinions under questioning, and demonstrate sophisticated command of French in real-time conversation. It typically includes a discussion of a stimulus card and, for the full A-Level, a presentation and discussion of the Independent Research Project. Marks are awarded for quality of language, interaction, and the ability to develop and justify ideas.

Preparing for the speaking exam requires more than memorising prepared answers. Examiners are trained to detect rehearsed responses and will use unpredictable follow-up questions to test genuine understanding and spontaneous language production. Students must develop the ability to think on their feet in French, to respond to unexpected angles, and to maintain fluency even when discussing challenging or unfamiliar aspects of a topic.

These prompts simulate the conditions of the speaking exam, providing opportunities to practise discussion, defence of opinion, and spontaneous response. Use them regularly with the AI acting as an examiner, and focus on developing both the content knowledge and the linguistic agility needed for a confident performance.

Prompt 79: Stimulus Card Discussion

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Act as an A-Level French speaking examiner.

Present me with a stimulus card containing a short

French text and a visual element related to an A-Level theme. Give me one minute to prepare, then ask me questions about the card, starting with straightforward comprehension and moving to opinion and analysis. Probe my answers with follow-up questions. Assess my performance.

What this helps you practise:

Responding to stimulus material with comprehension, opinion, and analysis under exam conditions

How to use it well:

When preparing for a stimulus card, quickly identify the main topic, any statistics or opinions presented, and your own view. Structure your initial response around these three elements, then be ready for the examiner to push you further.

Prompt 80: Defending a Position Under Pressure

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Choose a controversial topic related to the A-Level French specification and ask me to state my position on it in French. Then aggressively challenge my position with counterarguments, playing devil's advocate. Push me to defend my view while acknowledging the validity of opposing perspectives. Assess my ability to maintain my argument under pressure. Correct my French.

What this helps you practise:

Maintaining and defending a coherent argument when challenged with counterarguments

How to use it well:

In the speaking exam, the examiner will challenge you. Prepare for this by practising with prompts that push back. Develop a toolkit of defensive phrases: 'je maintiens que...', 'malgre cet argument...', 'il faut neanmoins reconnaitre que...'.
neanmoins reconnaitre que...'

Prompt 81: Spontaneous Response to Unpredictable Questions

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Ask me a series of ten rapid-fire questions in French on a range of A-Level topics. The questions should be unpredictable and require me to think on my feet.

Some should ask for opinions, some for factual knowledge, and some should require me to speculate or hypothesise. Assess my fluency, accuracy, and the quality of my content.

What this helps you practise:

Producing spontaneous, coherent French responses to unexpected questions across diverse topics

How to use it well:

Speed of thought is crucial in the speaking exam.

When faced with an unexpected question, buy yourself a moment to think by using filler phrases such as 'c'est une question tres interessante', 'il faudrait considerer que', or 'a vrai dire'. Then answer substantively.

Prompt 82: Discussing a Social Issue in Depth

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Choose a social issue from the A-Level French specification and conduct a five-minute discussion with me in French. Begin with general questions and gradually increase the complexity. Ask me to consider causes, consequences, different perspectives, and potential solutions. Push me to use evidence and examples. Assess my performance at the end.

What this helps you practise:

Sustaining an extended, in-depth discussion on a social issue with increasing complexity

How to use it well:

The best speaking performances demonstrate depth

rather than breadth. It is better to discuss one aspect of a topic thoroughly than to skim across many points. Practise developing your ideas fully before moving on to the next point.

Prompt 83: Pronunciation and Intonation Practice

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me ten French sentences that contain sounds commonly mispronounced by English speakers, including the French u/ou distinction, nasal vowels, the French r, and liaisons. Ask me to identify the key pronunciation features in each sentence and explain the rules. Then give me sentences with common intonation patterns for questions, emphasis, and enumeration.

What this helps you practise:

Identifying and articulating challenging French phonological features and intonation patterns

How to use it well:

While an AI cannot hear your pronunciation, it can teach you the rules. Use this prompt to learn the patterns, then practise aloud using recordings of native speakers as models. Record yourself and compare.

Prompt 84: Circumlocution and Paraphrasing

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me ten advanced French vocabulary words and ask me to explain each one in French without using the word itself or any direct translation. Then give me five concepts and ask me to express them in French using at least two different phrasings for each. Assess the accuracy and clarity of my paraphrases. Correct my French.

What this helps you practise:

Explaining complex vocabulary and concepts through circumlocution and varied expression

How to use it well:

In the speaking exam, you will inevitably forget a word. The ability to paraphrase and explain your way around a gap is essential. Practise this skill regularly so that vocabulary lapses do not derail your fluency.

Prompt 85: Interacting Naturally in Discussion

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Conduct a natural conversation with me in French about an A-Level topic. During the conversation, assess whether I interact naturally: do I ask for clarification when needed, react to what you say, build on your points, and manage turn-taking appropriately? At the end, give me feedback on my interactional skills and suggest improvements.

Correct my French.

What this helps you practise:

Demonstrating natural interactional skills including turn-taking, clarification, and responsive engagement

How to use it well:

Interaction marks are often overlooked in speaking preparation. Practise using phrases that show engagement: 'vous avez raison de souligner que...', 'c'est un point de vue que je n'avais pas envisagé', 'pourriez-vous préciser ce que vous entendez par...?'

Prompt 86: Discussing Abstract Concepts

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Ask me to discuss abstract concepts in French such as justice, freedom, identity, or progress. Start with a definition question, then ask me to apply the concept to a specific context, evaluate different interpretations, and offer my own perspective. Push

me to go beyond concrete examples to genuine abstract thinking. Correct my French.

What this helps you practise:

Articulating abstract ideas and philosophical concepts in fluent, precise French

How to use it well:

Abstract discussion is where top-grade candidates distinguish themselves. Prepare by thinking about how key concepts relate to your studied themes. For example, how does the concept of 'liberte' apply to the social issues or the literary texts you have studied?

Prompt 87: Handling Questions You Cannot Answer

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Ask me questions in French about A-Level topics, including some that are extremely difficult or that I may not know the answer to. Test whether I can handle these situations gracefully: acknowledging gaps in my knowledge, offering partial responses, redirecting the discussion, or speculating intelligently. Assess my strategies and correct my French.

What this helps you practise:

Managing difficult or unanticipatable questions with grace and strategic redirection

How to use it well:

Not knowing an answer is not a disaster in the speaking exam. What matters is how you handle it. Practise saying 'je ne suis pas certain(e) mais je crois que...' or 'bien que je ne connaisse pas les details precis, je pense que...' to maintain fluency and composure.

Prompt 88: Comparing and Contrasting Perspectives

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Present me with two contrasting opinions on a French A-Level topic, expressed in French. Ask me to summarise both positions, evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of each, and explain which I find more convincing and why. Push me to engage with both sides genuinely rather than dismissing one.

Correct my French throughout.

What this helps you practise:

Comparing, evaluating, and adjudicating between contrasting perspectives in spoken French

How to use it well:

This exercise mirrors the kind of critical thinking required in both speaking and writing exams. Develop a repertoire of comparative phrases: 'tandis que X soutient que..., Y affirme que...', 'les deux perspectives se rejoignent sur...', 'la position de X me semble plus convaincante dans la mesure où...'.

Prompt 89: Summarising and Reporting

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Give me a short French text of approximately 60 words on an A-Level topic. Ask me to summarise the main points orally in French without looking at the text, then ask me follow-up questions about the content. Assess the accuracy and completeness of my summary and the quality of my French. Correct any errors.

What this helps you practise:

Summarising written content accurately in spoken French and responding to follow-up questioning

How to use it well:

The ability to absorb, retain, and re-express information is tested in the stimulus card discussion. Practise reading a short text, covering it, and summarising the key points. This builds the memory and reformulation skills needed for the exam.

Section 9

Independent Research Project Preparation

The Independent Research Project is a distinctive and highly rewarding component of the A-Level French speaking assessment. Students choose a topic related to the French-speaking world, conduct independent research, and present their findings before defending their conclusions in a discussion with the examiner. This component assesses not only linguistic competence but also research skills, critical thinking, and the ability to engage in sustained academic discussion.

Choosing the right topic is crucial. It must be specific enough to allow genuine depth of analysis but broad enough to generate discussion. The topic should relate to French-speaking culture, society, politics, or history and should allow the student to explore different perspectives and reach a personal conclusion. Students must use French-language sources in their research, demonstrating genuine engagement with francophone material.

The prompts in this section guide you through every stage of the IRP process: selecting and refining a topic, conducting research, structuring a presentation, and preparing for the examiner's questions. Use them systematically as you develop your project, returning to relevant prompts at each stage of preparation.

Prompt 90: Choosing and Refining a Topic

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

I need to choose a topic for my A-Level French Independent Research Project. Ask me about my interests in French culture, society, and politics. Then suggest five potential research questions, each

specific enough to allow depth but broad enough to sustain discussion. For each suggestion, explain why it would work well for the IRP. Conduct this conversation in French.

What this helps you practise:

Identifying and formulating viable research questions for independent academic investigation

How to use it well:

Choose a topic you are genuinely interested in, as your engagement will show in the oral discussion. Avoid topics that are too broad such as 'immigration in France' and instead narrow to something like 'the impact of immigration on cultural identity in Marseille'.

Prompt 91: Evaluating Source Material

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

I am researching a topic for my A-Level French IRP. Give me advice in French on how to evaluate the reliability and usefulness of French-language sources. Then present me with descriptions of five different sources and ask me to evaluate each one for reliability, bias, and relevance. Correct my French and assess my critical evaluation skills.

What this helps you practise:

Critically evaluating French-language source material for reliability, bias, and academic relevance

How to use it well:

Your examiner will expect you to have used French-language sources. Prepare to discuss where your sources came from, why you chose them, and how they influenced your conclusions. This demonstrates genuine independent research.

Prompt 92: Structuring a Presentation

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Help me structure my IRP presentation. Ask me to tell you my research question and main findings in French, then suggest a clear structure for a two-minute presentation: introduction, key findings, analysis, and conclusion. Assess my proposed structure for clarity and coherence. Then ask me to deliver the presentation and give feedback.

What this helps you practise:

Organising research findings into a clear, coherent two-minute oral presentation in French

How to use it well:

Your presentation must be two minutes long. Time yourself precisely during practice. A presentation that is too short suggests insufficient research; one that is too long will be cut off. Aim for a natural, confident delivery rather than reading from notes.

Prompt 93: Defending Your Research

Conclusions

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

I will present my IRP findings to you in French. After my presentation, act as an examiner and challenge my conclusions with probing questions. Ask me why I reached my conclusions, what alternative interpretations I considered, what the limitations of my research are, and what further research might be needed. Assess my ability to defend my work.

What this helps you practise:

Defending research conclusions under rigorous academic questioning in French

How to use it well:

The examiner will probe your conclusions. Prepare for questions like 'pourquoi avez-vous rejete cette perspective?', 'quelles sont les limites de votre recherche?', and 'si vous deviez refaire cette recherche, que feriez-vous differemment?'. Have answers ready.

Prompt 94: Discussing Methodology

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Ask me questions in French about my IRP research methodology. Probe how I selected my sources, how I decided what to include and exclude, whether my approach was balanced, and what challenges I faced in my research. Push me to reflect critically on my own process. Correct my French throughout.

What this helps you practise:

Articulating and reflecting critically on research methodology in academic French

How to use it well:

Examiners value self-awareness about your research process. Be prepared to discuss not just what you found but how you found it. Acknowledging limitations honestly is a strength, not a weakness.

Prompt 95: Handling Unexpected Angles

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

I will tell you my IRP topic. Then ask me questions that approach the topic from angles I may not have considered: ethical implications, historical parallels, comparisons with other countries, or perspectives I may have overlooked. Test whether I can engage with these unexpected directions. Assess my flexibility and depth. Correct my French.

What this helps you practise:

Responding to unexpected perspectives and angles on a researched topic with flexibility and insight

How to use it well:

The examiner may push you into territory you have not specifically researched. This is not designed to catch you out but to test your ability to think independently. Practise responding to unexpected questions by drawing on your broader knowledge of French-speaking society.

Prompt 96: Presenting Evidence and Data

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Ask me to present key evidence from my IRP research in French. Challenge me on the reliability and significance of each piece of evidence. Test whether I can explain statistics, evaluate testimonies, and distinguish between fact and opinion. Push me to connect each piece of evidence to my overall argument. Correct my French.

What this helps you practise:

Presenting, explaining, and defending research evidence in academic spoken French

How to use it well:

Select three or four key pieces of evidence from your research and practise presenting each one fluently in French. For each, prepare to explain where it came from, why it is reliable, and how it supports your argument.

Prompt 97: Linking the IRP to Specification

Themes

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Ask me questions in French that require me to connect my IRP topic to broader themes from the A-Level French specification, such as social issues, political culture, or cultural identity. Test whether I can make meaningful connections between my specific research and wider thematic areas. Assess the quality of my links and correct my French.

What this helps you practise:

Connecting independent research to broader A-Level thematic content with genuine analytical insight

How to use it well:

Examiners are impressed when students can link their IRP to the wider specification. Before the exam, identify two or three links between your topic and

the themes you have studied. Being able to make these connections spontaneously shows intellectual breadth.

Prompt 98: Practising the Full IRP Oral

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Conduct a full IRP oral simulation with me in French. Allow me to present my project for two minutes, then ask me follow-up questions for five to six minutes, covering my findings, methodology, sources, and personal conclusions. At the end, give me detailed feedback on my linguistic performance, the quality of my content, and my interactive skills. Provide a mark out of 20.

What this helps you practise:

Completing a full IRP oral assessment under realistic conditions with sustained performance

How to use it well:

This prompt is best used in the final stages of preparation when you have completed your research and practised individual elements. Treat it as a dress rehearsal: present formally, time yourself, and take the feedback seriously.

Prompt 99: Reflecting on Personal Learning

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Ask me questions in French about what I have learned through the IRP process, both about my chosen topic and about myself as a researcher and language learner. Push me to reflect critically and honestly on my strengths and areas for development. This conversation should prepare me for reflective questions the examiner might ask. Correct my French.

What this helps you practise:

Articulating personal academic growth and self-evaluation in reflective spoken French

How to use it well:

Examiners sometimes ask reflective questions such as 'qu'est-ce que cette recherche vous a appris?' or 'comment cette expérience a-t-elle changé votre perspective?'. Having thoughtful, honest answers ready shows maturity and genuine engagement with the learning process.

Prompt 100: Exploring Cultural Significance

Copy this prompt into your AI tool:

Ask me questions in French about the cultural significance of my IRP topic. Challenge me to explain why my topic matters to French-speaking society, what it reveals about broader cultural values or tensions, and why it is relevant today. Push me beyond factual reporting to genuine cultural analysis. Correct my French.

What this helps you practise:

Articulating the broader cultural significance and contemporary relevance of a research topic

How to use it well:

Demonstrating that you understand why your topic matters, not just what happened, shows the analytical depth that distinguishes top candidates. Prepare a clear statement about the significance of your research that you can deliver confidently if asked.

Final Closing Note

You have now worked through 100 prompts designed to help you think more clearly, revise more effectively, and prepare more confidently for your GCSE.

Remember: the goal was never to rely on AI for answers. The goal was to use it as a tool to test, challenge, and strengthen your own understanding.

The strongest students are not those who avoid difficulty, but those who engage with it deliberately. Each mistake you identified, each explanation you improved, and each gap you filled has strengthened your thinking.

As you continue your studies, aim to depend less on prompts and more on your own judgement. AI can support you — but your reasoning, clarity, and persistence are what earn marks.

Approach your exams calmly. Think carefully. Write clearly.

You are more prepared than you think.

Using AI Beyond This Book

The prompts in this book are starting points, not final forms.

As you grow more confident, begin modifying them:

- Add constraints (for example, “limit to three key points”).
- Increase difficulty gradually.
- Ask the AI to challenge your reasoning.
- Request alternative explanations.
- Ask it to critique your thinking rather than provide answers.

The most powerful use of AI is not asking it to tell you things — it is asking it to test and refine your thinking.

In the future, those who understand how to use tools intelligently will have an advantage. Treat AI as a tutor, not a shortcut. The skill of asking better questions will continue to matter long after your exams are over.

About the Author

James R. Martin holds an MSci in Physics from the University of Bristol and a PGCE with a Physics focus from the University of Oxford. He has over a decade of experience teaching and tutoring students aged 11–18 across a range of subjects, including Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Economics, and Electronics.

He has worked with multiple syllabi, including GCSE, A-Level, KS3, and the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP), supporting students of varying abilities to develop clarity, confidence, and exam success.

His work focuses on effective revision strategies, independent thinking, and the responsible use of artificial intelligence as a tool to strengthen — not replace — understanding.

Other Titles in This Series

The *100 AI Prompts for Smarter Revision* series supports students across GCSE, A-Level, and IB DP subjects.

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