

AP[®] French Language & Culture

About the Advanced Placement Program (AP[®])

The Advanced Placement Program[®] has enabled millions of students to take college-level courses and earn college credit, advanced placement, or both, while still in high school. AP Exams are given each year in May. Students who earn a qualifying score on an AP Exam are typically eligible, in college, to receive credit, placement into advanced courses, or both. Every aspect of AP course and exam development is the result of collaboration between AP teachers and college faculty. They work together to develop AP courses and exams, set scoring standards, and score the exams. College faculty review every AP teacher's course syllabus.

AP French Language & Culture Course Overview

The AP French Language & Culture course emphasizes communication (understanding and being understood by others) by applying interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational skills in real-life situations. This includes vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies, and cultural awareness. The AP French Language and Culture course strives not to overemphasize grammatical accuracy at the expense of communication. To best facilitate the study of language and culture, the course is taught almost exclusively in French.

The AP French Language and Culture course engages students in an exploration of culture in both contemporary and historical contexts. The course develops students' awareness and appreciation of cultural products (e.g., tools, books, music, laws, conventions, institutions); practices (patterns of social interactions within a culture); and perspectives (values, attitudes, and assumptions).

RECOMMENDED PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites; however, students are typically in their fourth year of high school-level French language study. In the case of heritage or native speakers, there may be a different pathway of study leading to this course.

AP French Language & Culture Course Framework

The three modes of communication—Interpretive, Interpersonal, and Presentational—defined in the *World Readiness Standards for Learning Languages*, are foundational to the AP French Language & Culture course. The AP course provides students with opportunities to demonstrate their proficiency in each of the three modes in the Intermediate to Advanced range, as described in the ACTFL Performance Descriptors for Language Learners. As such, the course has been designed to provide advanced high school students with a rich and rigorous opportunity. The AP French Language & Culture course is comprised of the following components:

- **Skills-** At the core of the AP French Language and Culture course are course skills identifying what students should know and be able to do to succeed in the course. Students should develop and apply the described skills on a regular basis over the span of the course.
- **Themes-** The course is based on six required course themes that help teachers integrate language, content, and culture into a series of lessons and activities. Within each theme are recommended contexts and overarching essential questions that engage students, guide their classroom investigations, and promote the use of language in a variety of contexts. The themes of the course are: Families and Communities; Personal and Public Identities; Beauty and Aesthetics; Science and Technology; Contemporary Life; Global Challenges
- **Modes-** Throughout the course, students demonstrate their abilities in the interpretive mode by engaging with written, print, visual, audiovisual, and audio texts; in the interpersonal mode by speaking with and writing to others; and in the presentational mode by speaking to and writing for an audience.
- **Task Models-** Each unit found in the Course and Exam Description features several of the task models that students will encounter on the exam, which build in difficulty and complexity over time to the level that matches the exam's expectations. These task models include a variety of different stimuli: promotional material, letters, charts, email replies, literary texts, articles, audio reports, interviews, and instructions.

AP French Language & Culture Exam Structure

AP FRENCH LANGUAGE & CULTURE EXAM: 3 HOURS, 3 MINUTES

Assessment Overview

The AP French Language & Culture Exam assesses student understanding of the skills and learning objectives outlined in the course framework. All eight of the skill categories from the course framework are assessed on every AP Exam. All questions, directions, and texts on the exam are presented in French. The exam is just over 3 hours long and includes 65 multiple-choice questions and 4 free-response questions. Samples student responses, rubrics, and other exam resources can be found on the AP Central website.

Format of Assessment

Section I (Part A): Multiple Choice | 30 Questions | 40 Minutes | 23% of Exam Score

- Interpretive Communication: Print texts

Section I (Part B): Multiple Choice | 35 Questions | 55 Minutes | 27% of Exam Score

- Interpretive Communication: Print and audio texts combined and audio texts

Section II: Free Response | 4 Questions | ~ 1 Hour, 28 Minutes | 50% of Exam Score (each question is weighted equally)

- Question 1: Email Reply
- Question 2: Argumentative Essay
- Question 3: Conversation
- Question 4: Cultural Comparison

Exam Components

Note: On the AP French Language & Culture Exam, all directions, questions, and texts are presented in French.

Multiple Choice Section

Part A: Interpretive Communication: Print Texts 30 Questions

- Promotional Material
- Literary Text
- Article and Chart
- Letter

Part B: Interpretive Communication 35 Questions

Combined Print and Audio Texts – 17 questions total

- Audio Report and Article
- Conversation and Chart

Audio Texts – 18 questions total

- Interview
- Instructions
- Presentation

Free-Response Section

- Question 1: Email Reply

Requires students to compose an email in the formal register in response to an incoming email in French. In their reply, students are instructed to include a greeting, and a closing, and to respond to all the questions and requests in the message. Additionally, students are instructed to ask for more details about something mentioned in the message. Students have 15 minutes for this task.

- Question 2: Argumentative Essay

Requires students to write an essay to submit to a French writing contest. The essay topic is based on three accompanying sources, which present different viewpoints on the topic and include both print and audio material. Students are given six minutes to read the essay topic and the printed material, and two opportunities to listen to the audio material. Students are encouraged to take notes while they listen. The essay asks students to clearly present and thoroughly defend their own position on the topic, integrate viewpoints and information from all three sources to support their argument (identifying the sources appropriately), and organize their essay into clear paragraphs. Students have 55 minutes for this task.

- Question 3: Conversation

Requires students to participate in a simulated conversation with a recorded interlocutor. They are provided with an outline of the conversation that explains how they are to respond to each of their five turns in the conversation. They have 20 seconds to respond in each turn.

- Question 4: Cultural Comparison

Requires students to compare an aspect of a French-speaking community with which they are familiar to that in their own or another community, demonstrating an understanding of cultural features of this French-speaking community. Students have four minutes to read the prompt and prepare and two minutes to deliver their presentation.

Educators: apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-french-language-and-culture

Students: apstudents.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-french-language-and-culture