

SYLLABUS COURS D'ETE

GROUP C1 SUPERIOR LEVEL

At this level, students are free to select the areas they would like to study during their stay: French literature, oral and written stylistic techniques, media and civilization, translation into English, legal and commercial French et grammar. This syllabus is therefore a summary of all of these possible subject matters.

1. OUTCOMES

Students will understand long and challenging texts with the ability to comprehend implicit meanings. Students will be able to express themselves fluently and spontaneously on complex subjects. Students at this level will perfectly use discourse tools (organization, articulation et logic).

2. Linguistic themes

- French civilization
- Sociological mapping of France
- France and its countryside
- Economy and politics
- Business law
- History of French literature
- Humour and irony
- Accents and intonation
- The cinema
- Foreign media

3. Specific Objectives

A. FUNCTIONAL OBJECTIVES

Listening and speaking :

- Understanding a lecture or an exposé
- Recognizing idiomatic expressions and different levels of speech.
- Understanding complex technical information
- Characterizing (people, objects, places, facts)
- Analyzing and demonstrating
- Developing arguments or giving nuances to speech

- Giving an expository explanation

Reading and writing :

- Recognizing stylistic differences
- Understanding long specialized articles
- Identifying precise (or implicit) details
- Stating one's option in writing (main and secondary points)
- Summarizing long and detailed texts
- Synthesizing written documents
- Analyzing journalistic style
- Using specialized vocabulary

B. LINGUISTIC OBJECTIVES

Grammar :

- Statements of positive reaction (attenuating et reenforcing)
- Different levels of intensity (superlatives, adverbs, prefixes and suffixes)
- Tenses used in narration
- Expressions of time : precedence, posteriority, simultaneity
- Subjunctive tenses (passé, imparfait, plus-que-parfait)
- Linking expressions
- Statements of opinion : certainty and doubt
- Statements of cause, effect, hypothesis, concession and opposition
- Types of texts (descriptive, poetic, literary, journalistic, supported arguments)
- Figures of speech
- Different levels of language

Vocabulary :

- Idiomatic expressions
- Specialized vocabulary
- Spoken French (argot, etc.)
- Nuances in the language
- Plays on words
- The professional word and specialized vocabulary
- Expanding vocabulary : synonyms, antonyms

C. SOCIO-CULTURAL OBJECTIVES

- Connotations and speech-acts

- Implicit meanings
- Jargon
- Supported arguments
- Meanings based on accents and intonation
- The art of debating
- Styles used in writing (narration, burlesque, lyrical)

D. OBJECTIVES IN CIVILIZATION

- An overview of French society, numeric data, sociological changes.
- Redrawing of the territorial map of France: economic and political implications.
- France's political structure: the consolidation of the Republic.
- Political parties in France, pluralism and new political behaviors of the French.
- Does France's educational system still educate model citizens ?
- The 13 major metropolitan areas, an urban France connected to the rest of the world.
- France and Africa : special relationships between a continent and a country.
- Work and Free-time in France : sociological changes.
- The baccalauréat in France : a social ritual.
- Recent floods in France : climate risks.
- Commemorations : in a France changed by its wars, what obligation is there to the past ?
- Male/female inequality in France.
- The French family : a changing social unit.
- Youth of today's France.
- May 1968, a major turning-point in French history.
- Symbols of the French nation.
- Is high fashion still representative of France ?
- Immigration as a major challenge in today's world.
- Food in France: the many changes in eating habits in the past 20 years !
- France as a part of the European Union.

4. METHODOLOGY

- Close listening to lectures with note taking
- Simple and open-ended questions with discussion
- Finding precise information
- Presenting a topic and giving shades of meaning
- The art of the debate : clarifying an author's point of view : agreeing or disagreeing
- Expressing an evaluation or an opinion
- Expressing a negative or positive emotion
- Learning to digress from a topic
- In depth reading of longer and more complex texts excerpted from print media
- Close listening to recorded lectures, investigative reports and documentaries
- Compose a written report or position paper
- Compose a synthesis of related documents

- Detailed analysis of structures in texts
- Analysis of texts with detective approach to constructing grammar rules
- Analysis of discreet grammar points in texts
- Systematic grammatical exercises
- Introduction to different literary movements
- Analysis of major texts from canon authors
- Recognition of different literary styles

5. REALIA

- Excerpts from long speeches, lectures and films
- Excerpts from grammar texts
- Various interviews
- Excerpts from course lectures
- Excerpts from radio and television programs : news, investigative reports, interviews, documentaries.
- Excerpts from cultural shows
- Popular print media articles
- Articles from specialized print media
- Excerpts from literary, philosophical and sociological essays
- Excerpts from literary works
- Advertising pictures and slogans

6. EVALUATION METHOD

Students will be evaluated on their ability to :

- Listen to a long document in order to compose a written summary
- Create a short exposé based on subject excerpted from the social sciences
- Analyze a long written document.
- Compose a lengthy well-structured text in an appropriate style.
- Analyze a series of texts and complete grammatical exercises based on the texts.
- Correctly respond to questions on civilization and current events
- Correctly respond to questions on literary topics
- Translate a passage into English
- Translate a passage into French