



Alliance Française

Alliance Française Institut
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Curriculum

The Alliance Française, Chapitre de Grasse's curriculum is modeled after the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) standards. The CEFR consists of six levels:

Level A1 (basic user)

In Level A1 (basic user), a student can understand and use familiar everyday expressions and very basic phrases aimed at the satisfaction of needs of a concrete type. They can introduce themselves and others and can ask and answer questions about personal details such as where they live, people they know, and things they have. They can interact in a simple way provided the other person talks slowly and clearly and is prepared to help.

Level A2 (basic user)

In Level A2 (basic user), a student can understand sentences and frequently used expressions related to areas of most immediate relevance; e.g., very basic personal and family information, shopping, local geography, employment. They can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar and routine matters. They can describe in simple terms aspects of their background, immediate environment, and matters in areas of immediate need.

Level B1 (independent user)

In Level B1 (independent user), a student can understand the main points of clear, standard input on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. They can deal with most situations likely to arise while traveling in an area where the language is spoken. They can produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. They can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes, and ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions.

Level B2 (independent user)

In Level B2 (independent user), a student can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in their field of specialization. They can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party. They can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various opinions.

Level C1 (proficient user)

In Level C1 (proficient user), a student can understand a wide range of demanding, longer texts and recognize implicit meaning. They can express themselves fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. They can use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic, and professional purposes. They can produce clear, well-structured, detailed text on complex subjects, showing controlled use of organizational patterns, connectors, and cohesive devices.

Level C2 (proficient user)

In Level C2, proficient user, a student can understand with ease virtually everything heard or read. They can summarize information from different spoken and written sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation. They can express themselves spontaneously, very fluently and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in more complex situations.

Using the CEFR standards, the Alliance Française, Chapitre de Grasse ensures that its teachers follow an objective, step-by-step approach to encourage communication in French as well as creating a lively learning environment.



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Course content and descriptions

Language classes at the Alliance Française, Chapitre de Grasse cover three levels: *Beginners, Intermediate, and Advanced*. Each level is divided into steps, with each step being taught for one session (once per week, two hours per class, for 10 weeks; for a total of 20 hours). It takes three sessions to cover each level and to evolve, for instance, from *Beginners 1* to *Beginners 3*.

Adult classes

The following language classes have been designed for the adult learner. Each class is offered four times per year during the spring, summer, fall, and winter sessions.

Beginners 1 (CEFR Level A1)

Prerequisites: No prior experience necessary

Overview: This class is a student's first introduction to the French language. During the class, students learn the alphabet (vowels and consonants), numbers, colors, body parts, time, calendar, seasons, measures, greetings and introductions, and how to ask and respond to simple questions about themselves

Course content (grammar): *Le présent de l'indicatif, les verbes être et avoir, les articles définis et indéfinis, l'accord de l'adjectif qualificatif, les adjectifs possessifs, et les articles partitifs*

Instructional material: G. Mauger, *Cours de Langue et de Civilisation Françaises I*, lessons 1 – 14, French songs and films

Cultural aspects of France and the French-speaking world: Practicing grammar and vocabulary points with various civilization topics

Beginners 2 (CEFR Level A1)

Prerequisites: Beginners 1 or equivalent knowledge

Overview: Students review the material they learned in Beginners 1. They learn how to describe a house, the proper names for their family members, the names for food, meals, and clothes, and the different types of transportation. Students create and use simple dialogues to practice French.

Course content (grammar): *Les trios groupes de verbes, le passé composé, le futur proche, le passé récent et les verbes pronominaux*

Instructional material: G. Mauger, *Cours de Langue et de Civilisation Françaises I*, lessons 15 – 28, French songs and films

Cultural aspects of France and the French-speaking world: Practicing grammar and vocabulary points with various civilization topics

Beginners 3 (CEFR Level A2)

Prerequisites: Beginners 2 or equivalent knowledge

Overview: Students continue to review the material they learned in Beginners 1 and 2. Students learn vocabulary related to hotels, stores, and restaurants. They create and use simple dialogues to talk about hotels, stores, and restaurants.

Course content (grammar): *L'impératif, les comparatifs et les superlatifs, le sujet et l'objet direct et l'indirect, les pronoms possessifs, les pronoms personnels, et les verbes en "-eler," "-eter," "-cer," "-ger," "-ayer," "-oyer," et "-uyer"*

Instructional material: G. Mauger, *Cours de Langue et de Civilisation Françaises I*, lessons 29 – 43, French songs and poetry

Cultural aspects of France and the French-speaking world: Practicing grammar and vocabulary points with various civilization topics

Intermediate 1 (CEFR Level A2)

Prerequisites: Beginners 3 or equivalent knowledge

Overview: Intermediate 1 continues to build on the material covered in Beginners 1, 2, and 3. Students learn about aspects related to the French postal system, shopping, how to use city transportation, the hairstylist, *la gendarmerie*, how to ask and give directions, and the city of Paris. Students are able to understand and use simple conversations to communicate in French.

Course content (grammar): *L'imparfait, les adverbess, les pronoms relatifs, et les démonstratifs composés*

Instructional material: G. Mauger, *Cours de Langue et de Civilisation Françaises I*, lessons 44 – 55, French songs and films

Cultural aspects of France and the French-speaking world: Practicing grammar and vocabulary points with various civilization topics

Intermediate 2 (CEFR Level B1)

Prerequisites: Intermediate 1 or equivalent knowledge

Overview: Students review the material from Beginners 1, 2, and 3 and Intermediate 1. Students learn about *la chasse et la pêche, la moisson et les vendanges, les animaux de la ferme, un mariage, la fête au village, les sports, and l'hôpital*. Students are able to speak easily and freely at a constant pace.

Course content (grammar): *Le futur antérieur, le plus-que-parfait, le participe présent, et le conditionnel présent*

Instructional material: G. Mauger, *Cours de Langue et de Civilisation Françaises I*, lessons 56 – 65, French songs and films

Cultural aspects of France and the French-speaking world: *Pratique de points grammaticaux et lexicaux à partir de divers sujets de civilisation*

Intermediate 3 (CEFR Level B1)

Prerequisites: Intermediate 2 or equivalent knowledge

Overview: Students review material taught in the Beginners-level classes and in Intermediate 1 and 2. Students learn about *les fleuves et les rivières, les villages francophones, les industries de Lille, and les vignobles champenois*. Students understand and carry on everyday conversations.

Course content (grammar): *Les verbes transitifs et intransitifs, le passif, le subjonctif, le passé simple, le plus-que-parfait, et le passé antérieur*

Instructional material: G. Mauger, *Cours de Langue et de Civilisation Françaises II*, lessons 1 – 17, French songs and films

Cultural aspects of France and the French-speaking world: *Pratique de points grammaticaux et lexicaux à partir de divers sujets de civilisation*

Advanced 1 (CEFR Level B2)

Prerequisites: Intermediate 3 or equivalent knowledge

Overview: Students continue to review all material learned in the Beginners- and Intermediate-level classes. They learn about *les fêtes (Noël), les provinces de la Bourgogne et la Provence, and les villes de Lyon, Marseille, et Nice*. Students are able to understand and carry on a normal conversation.

Course content (grammar): *Les pronoms relatifs, l'infinitif passé, les pronoms personnels réfléchis et non réfléchis, les prépositions à et de, et le conditionnel présent et passé*

Instructional material: G. Mauger, *Cours de Langue et de Civilisation Françaises II*, lessons 18 – 36, French songs and films

Cultural aspects of France and the French-speaking world: *Pratique de points grammaticaux et lexicaux à partir de divers sujets de civilisation*

Advanced 2 (CEFR Level B2)

Prerequisites: Advanced 1 or equivalent knowledge

Overview: Students continue to build on material in the Beginners-, Intermediate-level and Advanced 1 classes. They learn about *les fêtes (Pâques), la forêt, la banque et les affaires, l'épargne et les impôts, and les tribunaux*. Students have a very good knowledge of the French language and are able to understand and speak with ease.

Course content (grammar): *Révision des verbes, du passif et des indéfinis, le subjonctif passé, l'imparfait et le plus-que-parfait, le conditionnel passé, et l'interrogation indirecte*

Instructional material: G. Mauger, *Cours de Langue et de Civilisation Françaises II*, lessons 37 – 51, French songs and films

Cultural aspects of France and the French-speaking world: *Pratique de points grammaticaux et lexicaux à partir de divers sujets de civilisation*

Advanced 3 (CEFR Level B2)

Prerequisites: Advanced 2 or equivalent knowledge

Overview: Students continue to build on material in the Beginners-, Intermediate-, and Advanced-level classes. They learn about *les fêtes (le 14 juillet), les élections, les châteaux de la Loire, le Mont St.-Michel, and des régions francophones*. Students are able to understand and carry on a conversation with native speakers without any modifications.

Course content (grammar): *L'épithète, les compléments circonstanciels, les conjonctions de coordination et de subordination, l'analyse logique, et la concordance des temps*

Instructional material: G. Mauger, *Cours de Langue et de Civilisation Françaises II*, lessons 52 – 70, French songs and films

Cultural aspects of France and the French-speaking world: *Pratique de points grammaticaux et lexicaux à partir de divers sujets de civilisation*

Intermediate Conversation (CEFR Level C1)

Prerequisites: Advanced 3 or equivalent knowledge

Overview: This course makes the step from grammatical and theoretical knowledge to practical use of the French language. Through monologues and scenarios (improvised or prepared in advance), work presentations, readings, tape-recordings, role-playing, discussions in small groups, and class debates, students express their opinions about current affairs and topical subjects. The objective of this course is to reduce inhibitions and foster confidence in the ability to speak and discuss topics in French. Students can expect that no more than 20% of the class will be conducted in English.

Instructional material: G. Mauger, *Cours de Langue et de Civilisation Françaises III*, French songs and films

Advanced Conversation (CEFR Level C1)

Prerequisites: Intermediate Conversation or equivalent knowledge

Overview: This course is designed to enhance further the practical use of the French language. Through the use of French literature (poetry, fables, magazines), French documentaries, tape-recordings, discussions in small groups and class debates, students express their opinions about current affairs and topical subjects. The objective of this course is to foster confidence in speaking and discussing topics fluently in French. Students can expect that no more than 10% of the class will be conducted in English.

Instructional material: G. Mauger, *Cours de Langue et de Civilisation Françaises III*, French songs, and French films

Littérature Française (CEFR Level C2)

Prerequisites: Advanced Conversation or equivalent knowledge

Course description: This course is designed to enhance further the practical use of the French language. Through the use of novels, Shakespearean works translated into French, French documentaries, and professional publications, students read and discuss in-depth French literature selected by the instructor. Student should be fluent in French and have a desire to study literature. Recommended for all teachers of French.

Instructional material: G. Mauger, *Cours de Langue et de Civilisation Françaises IV*

Children's classes

The following language classes have been designed for adolescents aged 4 to 15. Each class is offered four times per year, once during the spring, summer, fall, and winter sessions.

Les Poussins (ages 4 – 6)

Prerequisites: No prior experience necessary

Overview: In *Les Poussins*, children discover French words and expressions while looking at pictures and making their own, listening to songs and creating their own music, moving and dancing, playing with different toys, and smelling and tasting French food. They make crafts and socialize while playing games in French. The routine of the class teaches basic sentences used throughout every child's day.

Les Minimes (ages 7 – 10)

Prerequisites: No prior experience necessary

Overview: *Les Minimes* is designed to follow an academic format. Children discover French language and culture in a relaxed atmosphere and through diverse activities. This approach helps them to learn basic grammar and vocabulary of the language and simple communication skills.

Les ados (ages 11 – 15)

Prerequisites: One year of French study or equivalent knowledge

Overview: *Les ados* is designed for teenagers, ages 11 – 15, who have been studying French for at least one year and have a desire to increase their knowledge of French through practice. On the one hand the class consists of grammar and vocabulary discovery (**learning**), and on the other hand, different activities allowing students to use what they have learned (**practice**). Students use videos, pictures, songs, books, films, and comics to learn and practice French.