

SEC SYLLABUS (2009)

FRENCH

SEC 14

**French SEC 14
Syllabus**

(Not available in September)

Paper I : Oral (20 mins) + Written (1 hr) Paper II : 2 hrs

1. Introduction

The syllabus presented here has been designed to lead to a teaching syllabus and scheme of work which will provide:

- a. a system that differentiates between candidates on the basis of positive achievement rather than failure;
- b. a system in which the lower grades represent a useful achievement and an ability to achieve genuine standards of communicative competence in real life situations;
- c. a system which enables all candidates to gain grades according to their competence.

2. Aims

The aims of a course in French leading to the award of a Secondary Education Certificate should be:

- a. to develop the ability to use the language effectively for the purposes of practical communication; to form a sound basis of the language by imparting, the four basic skills;
- b. to develop strategies of learning to learn and autonomous learning as indispensable attitudes for
- c. further study, work and leisure;
- d. to offer insights into French culture and civilisation; to provide enjoyment and intellectual
- e. stimulation.

3. Assessment Objectives

The scheme of assessment will test :

- a. b. the candidates' ability to understand and use the spoken and written language;
- c. the candidates' ability to understand information contained in source material;
- d. the candidates' ability to produce verbally and in writing material in French in response to a variety of stimuli ;
the candidates' ability to complete a passage read out at dictation speed.

Candidates are expected to be aware of the different language registers in use.

4. Scheme of Assessment

The examination will consist of two papers, each with a duration of two hours.

Paper I: (50% of the global mark) This paper is to be taken by all candidates.

Paper II: (50% of the global mark) There will be two versions of this paper: Paper IIA and Paper IIB. Candidates are required to indicate on the registration form which Paper II they wish to sit for. No change in the choice of paper will be allowed after the registration period. The exercises in Paper II will be set at two levels: those in Paper IIA will be more demanding than those in Paper IIB.

5. Results

Candidates sitting for Paper I and Paper IIA may qualify for a grade within the range 1 to 5 (i.e. Grades 1, 2, 3, 4, 5); the results of candidates who do not obtain a Grade 5 shall remain Unclassified (U).

Candidates sitting for Paper I and Paper IIB may qualify for a grade not higher than 4 (i.e. Grades 4, 5, 6, 7); the results of candidates who do not obtain at least a Grade 7 shall remain Unclassified (U).

6. Instructions / rubric

All material given for the various exercises in Paper 1 and Papers IIA and IIB will be based on the notion and function approach. Instructions will be given in French and all questions are to be answered in French.

7. Setup of SEC French (2009)

The setup of the paper shall be as follows:

Paper I (Part 1)	
a. Exploitation Orale d'un Document Authentique	10 marks
b. Jeu de rôles	10 marks
Paper I (Part 2)	
a. Dictée	10 marks
b. Compréhension de l'Oral	10 marks
Paper I (Part 3)	
Culture et Civilisation	10 marks
Paper II	
a. Langue	10 marks
b. Compréhension de l'Écrit	15 marks
c. Rédaction	
i. Production d'un message	10 marks
ii. Tâche à accomplir	15 marks

8. Syllabus

Paper I (Part 1) (approximately 30 min including preparation time)

Part 1 will consist of :

a. *Exploitation orale d'un document authentique* (10 %)

An authentic document will serve as a stimulus for conversation between candidates and their examiner.

The document will be taken from contemporary sources and any wording will be in French. The document may take different forms and functions and may consist of a picture / advert / notice, etc from magazines / newspapers / internet, etc.

Candidates will be given time to examine the document before their test, and will also be presented with the framework upon which the conversation will be run.

Candidates will primarily be asked to show their understanding of the content of the document, but may also be asked to comment further, for example, by identifying the aims of an advertisement, or the public the document may be addressed to. Answering the questions will therefore demand competencies ranging from the expression of the factual / concrete / descriptive elements to a more subtle formulation of hypotheses about the contents and functions of the document as well as the expression of personal opinions thereupon.

b. *Jeu de rôles* (10 %)

A structured role-play, consisting of straightforward tasks enabling even weaker candidates to perform with confidence in everyday situations ensuring that the more able can also perform fundamental transactional or interactional tasks.

Paper 1 (Part 2) (1 hour)

Part II will consist of:

a. *Dictée* (approximately 30 minutes) (10 %)

A passage of about 100 words will be set. It will be read aloud straight through, then in repeated breath groups, and finally straight through again. The candidate will be required to write the whole passage. After the final reading, five minutes will be allowed for revision. All punctuation marks and instructions will be given in French.

Each blank will carry one fourth (1/4) of a mark. This mark will not be split.

b. Compréhension de l'oral (Listening Comprehension) (approx. 30 min.) (10 %)

A text / Texts or A document / Documents of about 250 words will be read out to the candidates. The candidates will then be allowed some time to read the questions. A second reading of the passage/passages follows, after which candidates will be given enough time to write their answers. In the case of short passages these will be read one at a time. The passage/passages will then be read again. Five minutes are then allowed for a final revision.

Paper 1 (Part 3) (30 minutes)

Part 3 will consist of:

Culture et civilisation (30 minutes) (10 %)

Candidates may be tested in this component through the following types of exercises: multiple choice, identification exercises with visual support, acronyms and abbreviations, questions based on a text with a civilisation theme, exercises based on town-plans and maps, sentence pairing and fill-in-the-blank exercises. A choice will be given.

The exercises in the cultural component will be based on Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 8 of '*Chez toi en France*' by Geneviève Brame and Béatrice Tollu (Hachette Jeunesse 1995 - ISBN 2-01-223163-2).

Paper II (2 hours)

Paper II will consist of:

a. Langue (10 %)

The exercise(s) will be meant to test the candidate's grasp of correct French syntax and grammar. The exercise(s) may be presented in various formats such as filling in, multiple-choice, sentence completion, rearrangement or reformulation.

b. Compréhension de l'écrit (Reading Comprehension) (15 %)

A text of :

- i. 300 words for candidates taking Paper IIA , and
- ii. 250 words for candidates taking Paper IIB

will be followed by questions dealing mainly with notion and function.

c. Rédaction

i. Production d'un message

(10 %)

Candidates will be required to write a short message in reaction to a situation which may consist of a narration, a letter, a voice transcription, an e-mail, etc. Candidates will be instructed what form to use in their answer (a short note, an e-mail, an SMS, an informal letter).

Abbreviated language will not be accepted in the composition of this message.

The required length of the answer will be of :

- i. 40 - 45 words for Paper IIA and
- ii. 30 - 35 words for Paper IIB.

ii. Tâche/s à accomplir

(15 %)

This exercise will consist of a task or tasks to be performed in writing, such as writing/answering letters or adverts, writing notes, reports, messages ...

This exercise will require the candidate to produce:

- i. 120 to 130 words for Paper IIA, and
- ii. 100 to 110 words for Paper IIB.