



Key information for the French Beginners Stage 6 Syllabus

- The French Beginners Stage 6 course is a 2-year course designed for students who wish to begin their study of French at senior secondary level with little or no prior knowledge or experience of the French language, or whose experience is limited or equivalent to study for 100 hours or less in Stage 4 or Stage 5.
- Students wishing to undertake the French Beginners Stage 6 course must apply for an [eligibility determination](#).
- Schools and teachers use syllabuses to develop educational programs for students. The [French Beginners Stage 6 Syllabus](#) requires students to study prescribed topics from 2 interdependent perspectives – the personal world and the French-speaking communities.
- The French Beginners Stage 6 Syllabus has 3 objectives – Interacting, Producing Texts and Understanding Texts. Each objective has related outcomes which summarise the associated knowledge, understanding and skills that students are expected to achieve at the end of the course. ‘Learn about’ and ‘Learn to’ statements unpack the outcomes in further detail.
- Students may be expected to produce the following written texts in the external examination – article, diary/journal entry, email, informal letter, message, note, postcard and script of a talk.
- While there is no vocabulary list, it is expected that students will be familiar with a range of vocabulary relevant to the topics prescribed in the French Beginners Stage 6 Syllabus.
- Students are expected to recognise and use grammatical structures which are included in the French Beginners Stage 6 Syllabus.
- The [Assessment and Reporting in French Beginners Stage 6 webpage](#) includes the recommended (for Year 11) and mandated (for Year 12) course components and weightings. Also refer to this document for assessment and reporting updates.

HSC examinations

- The HSC French Beginners examination consists of a written paper worth 80 marks and an oral examination worth 20 marks.
- The written paper will consist of 3 sections, Section I – Listening (30 marks), Section II – Reading (30 marks) and Section III – Writing in French (30 marks). Students are able to use monolingual and/or bilingual dictionaries in the written examination.
- The oral examination will consist of a 5-minute interview-style conversation between the student and the examiner, relating to the prescribed topics from the perspective of the personal world.
- Past HSC papers by NESA are a useful resource to help students to become familiar with the examination format and structure. Past papers for French Beginners can be found on [NESA's website](#).
- The [HSC Standards Materials](#) provide a collection of resources of sample responses typical of work at the boundaries between HSC bands.

Support materials

The Languages and Culture curriculum team provides resources to support NSW teachers in the implementation of the French Beginners Stage 6 Syllabus and can be located on the [Languages K-12 webpage](#).

Generic support for Stage 6 languages courses can be found on the department's [Planning, programming and assessing languages 11-12 webpage](#), including a video on how to approach the HSC examination in Beginners, and advice on developing a notice of assessment.



Support for the French Beginners Stage 6 Syllabus can be found on the [French Beginners webpage](#). Support includes a student advice document, sample unit templates, practice speaking questions (organised by topic), sample listening and reading resources, a sample unit, and an interactive resource.

Resources can also be found in the Languages Statewide Staffroom. NESA also has a range of support materials on the [French Beginners Stage 6 Syllabus webpage](#).

Professional learning

There is a range of 'on demand' professional learning resources to support the implementation of the French Beginners Stage 6 Syllabus including:

- microlearning – [HSC speaking tasks in Beginners and Continuers modern language courses](#) (code AC00380)
- statewide staff meeting recordings
 - [Strategies for HSC success](#)
 - [Stage 6 Beginners and Continuers speaking skills](#).

We also offer a range of live online and face to face professional learning events throughout the year. To view any upcoming events, go to the [Languages Professional Learning calendar](#).

marks based on exam results, making them comparable across schools.

- The [ACE rules](#) outline HSC school-based assessment integrity, task development, marking, appeals, and record-keeping. They cover malpractice policies, illness/misadventure procedures, task notifications, ranking, and restrictions on reporting final marks, ensuring compliance with NESA's assessment standards.
- HSC monitoring advice, Section 1.6 outlines HSC record-keeping requirements, including teaching programs, assessment documentation, interventions and work samples. Visit [Stage 6 – monitoring implementation and support](#) for more information.
- School-based assessment for the HSC contributes to a student's final mark and is designed to evaluate students' understanding and skills based on syllabus outcomes.

General HSC information

- The [NSW Education Standards Authority \(NESA\)](#) oversees the Higher School Certificate (HSC), offering resources for students on exam preparation, course selection, and academic integrity.
- The [NESA HSC glossary](#) provides teachers with guidance on how to use key terms consistently, ensuring students understand their meanings and apply them appropriately across various subjects for effective exam preparation.
- The NESA [HSC assessment moderation](#) process ensures fairness by adjusting school assessment

Contact us

If you would like further information or support, please email LanguagesandCulture@det.nsw.edu.au or reach out to our team via the Languages Statewide Staffroom – join by completing [this short survey](#).