

Oxford Revise | AQA French Foundation | Update

Since publication of the *Oxford Revise AQA GCSE French Foundation* revision guide, the examination board AQA have made some changes to the GCSE French exam specification. The following chart gives you guidance to support you in your 2026 exams in light of these updates.

What has AQA changed	Oxford Revise Page(s)	What you need to know
<p>You are expected to understand how the meaning of core words on the AQA set vocabulary list can be changed using certain prefixes and suffixes. Previously, these word formation rules only applied to the Reading paper. Now, they can be used in other papers as long as the original base word is clearly recognisable in the new word formed.</p> <p>Some words have been removed from the set vocabulary list and the base forms added instead. This is because the derived forms can be tested using the word formation rules.</p> <p><i>(Spec ref: 3.2 Grammar; 3.2.1.6 and 3.2.2.6 Derivational morphology)</i></p>	<p>156, 173, 176, 178, 183</p>	<p>Your book says that ‘These grammar rules are only required for the Reading exam’, but now you may need to recognise or apply the rules for word formation using prefixes and suffixes in any of the four papers (Listening, Speaking, Reading or Writing papers).</p> <p>Make sure you know that the prefix <i>mal-</i> changes the meaning of certain words on the vocabulary list to their opposite. For example: <i>heureux</i> (happy) - <i>malheureux</i> (unhappy).</p> <p>You should also understand that words which appear in a base form in the vocabulary list (<i>extrême, final, heureux, lent, probable</i>) may appear in the exam with suffixes or prefixes. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>extrêmement</i> (extremely) - <i>finaleme</i> (finally) - <i>malheureusement</i> (unfortunately) - <i>lentement</i> (slowly) - <i>probablement</i> (probably)

<p>Previously, only the singular forms of reflexive verbs and singular reflexive pronouns were required at Foundation tier. This has been changed to include plural forms of reflexive verbs and plural reflexive pronouns, along with reciprocal meanings.</p> <p><i>(Spec ref: 3.2.1.1 Grammar)</i></p>	<p>153, 26</p>	<p>For Foundation tier, you now need to know how to use all forms of reflexive verbs, including the plural reflexive forms for <i>nous</i>, <i>vous</i> and <i>ils / elles</i>. Here is an example of these forms in the present tense for the reflexive verb <i>se laver</i> (to wash yourself): <i>nous nous lavons</i> – we wash (ourselves) <i>vous vous lavez</i> – you wash (yourself / yourselves) <i>ils / elles se lavent</i> – they wash (themselves)</p> <p>You also need to understand how reflexive pronouns can be used with any verb to give a reciprocal meaning of doing the action ‘to each other’. For example: <i>Nous nous parlons de tout</i> (We talk to each other about everything).</p>
<p>You are expected to know that some adjectives may be followed by <i>à</i> or <i>de</i>.</p> <p><i>(Spec ref: 3.2.1.5 Grammar)</i></p>	<p>123</p>	<p>You need to know that some adjectives are followed by <i>à</i> or <i>de</i>, for example: <i>C'est facile / difficile à comprendre</i>. It's easy / hard to understand. <i>Je suis fier / fière de mon travail</i>. I am proud of my work.</p>
<p>As well as being able to use the emphatic pronouns <i>moi</i> (me) and <i>toi</i> (you) after prepositions, you also need to know that <i>elle</i>, <i>lui</i>, <i>nous</i> and <i>vous</i> can be used as emphatic pronouns.</p> <p><i>(Spec ref: 3.2.1.1 Grammar)</i></p>	<p>62, 130</p>	<p>You may see or need to use the pronouns <i>elle</i>, <i>lui</i>, <i>nous</i> and <i>vous</i> as emphatic pronouns to stress or contrast the subject of a clause. For example: <i>Lui, il aime le tennis mais nous, on préfère le foot</i>. He likes tennis but we prefer football.</p>
<p>The meaning ‘o’clock’ for the noun <i>heure(s)</i> has been added to AQA’s set vocabulary list.</p> <p><i>(Spec ref: Appendix 2 Vocabulary)</i></p>	<p>9</p>	<p>Make sure you know that the noun <i>heure(s)</i> can also mean ‘o’clock’, as well as ‘hour’ and ‘time’</p>

<p>The meaning 'dear' for the adjective <i>cher</i> has been added to AQA's set vocabulary list. (Spec ref: Appendix 2 Vocabulary)</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>Make sure you know that the adjective <i>cher</i> (feminine form: <i>chère</i>) can mean 'dear' as well as 'expensive'. For example: <i>un cher ami</i> (a dear friend).</p>
<p>The adjective <i>neuf</i> (brand-new) has been added to AQA's set vocabulary list. (Spec ref: Appendix 2 Vocabulary)</p>	<p>65, 67, 123</p>	<p>Make sure you know that the word <i>neuf</i> (feminine form: <i>neuve</i>) can be an adjective meaning '(brand) new' as well as being the number 'nine'. The adjective <i>neuf</i> follows the noun it describes: <i>un livre neuf</i> (a brand-new book). This is different to the number <i>neuf</i>, which goes before the noun: <i>neuf livres</i> (nine books).</p>
<p>The meaning 'ago' has been added to <i>il y a</i> (there is / are) on AQA's set vocabulary list. (Spec ref: Appendix 2 Vocabulary)</p>	<p>9, 16, 32, 108, 154</p>	<p>The phrase <i>il y a</i> + an amount of time means 'ago': <i>J'ai invité mes amis il y a deux jours</i> (I invited my friends two days ago).</p> <p>Make sure you know that <i>il y a</i> can mean 'ago' as well as being used to mean 'there is / there are' and with certain weather expressions.</p>
<p>The verbs <i>déjeuner</i> (to have lunch / having lunch) and <i>dîner</i> (to have dinner / having dinner) have been added to AQA's set vocabulary list. (Spec ref: Appendix 2 Vocabulary)</p>	<p>34</p>	<p>You now need to know the verbs <i>déjeuner</i> (to have lunch) and <i>dîner</i> (to have dinner) as well as the nouns <i>le déjeuner</i> (lunch) and <i>le dîner</i> (dinner).</p>
<p>AQA have stated that some words listed under one part of speech in the vocabulary list (for example as nouns) may now be used in other parts of speech as well (for example adjectives) when the meaning is obvious. (Spec ref: Appendix 2 Vocabulary)</p>	<p>98-99</p>	<p>Make sure you know that some words on the vocabulary list may be used flexibly when the meaning is still clear, for example <i>plastique</i> can be used as an adjective or a noun.</p>

<p>The part of speech for <i>quand</i> (when) has been amended to include the use of this word as a conjunction (when extending sentences) as well as an adverb (for forming questions) on AQA's set vocabulary list. <i>(Spec ref: Appendix 2 Vocabulary)</i></p>	<p>148</p>	<p>Make sure you know that <i>quand</i> (when) can be used to extend sentences as well as to ask questions. For example: <i>Nous mangions quand nos amis sont arrivés.</i> We were eating when our friends arrived.</p>
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