

Oxford Revise | AQA French Higher | Update

Since publication of the *Oxford Revise AQA GCSE French Higher* 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>163, 180, 183, 185, 189</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>The meaning 'o'clock' for the noun <i>heure(s)</i> has been added to AQA's set vocabulary list. (Spec ref: Appendix 2 Vocabulary)</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, 124</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, 161</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.</p> <p><i>(Spec ref: Appendix 2 Vocabulary)</i></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, papier</i> and <i>verre</i> can be used as adjectives or nouns.</p>
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