

TEF/TCF French Exam Syllabus

Levels Covered: A1 to B2 (CEFR)

1. Listening Comprehension (Compréhension Orale)

Focus: Understanding spoken French in daily life situations.

Skills Tested: Listening for gist, specific information, inference.

Duration: ~40 minutes

Format: Multiple-choice questions (MCQs) based on audio recordings.

- **A1:**
 - Recognize familiar words and basic phrases (e.g., greetings, numbers, personal details).
 - Understand very simple conversations if spoken slowly and clearly.
 - **A2:**
 - Understand simple, routine conversations (e.g., shopping, directions).
 - Follow short announcements and clear instructions.
 - **B1:**
 - Understand the main points of clear standard speech on familiar matters (e.g., work, school).
 - Grasp the essentials of TV programs or radio when topics are familiar.
 - **B2:**
 - Understand extended speech, lectures, or news broadcasts.
 - Follow arguments and complex instructions if the topic is familiar.
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2. Reading Comprehension (Compréhension Écrite)

Focus: Understanding written texts in French.

Skills Tested: Skimming, scanning, comprehension, inference.

Duration: ~60 minutes

Format: MCQs, matching, fill-in-the-blank tasks.

- **A1:**
 - Understand signs, posters, forms, and very simple sentences.
 - Read basic texts like birthday invitations, postcards, menus.
- **A2:**
 - Read short and simple letters, ads, directions, and everyday instructions.
 - Understand information in simple brochures or public notices.

- **B1:**
 - Understand general content of newspaper articles, emails, and blogs.
 - Identify opinions and key points in familiar contexts.
 - **B2:**
 - Read and analyze argumentative texts, official documents, and longer articles.
 - Recognize tone, implication, and purpose in moderately complex writing.
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3. Speaking Expression (Expression Orale)

Focus: Expressing oneself orally in social and professional contexts.

Skills Tested: Pronunciation, fluency, coherence, interaction.

Duration: 12–15 minutes

Format: Three tasks – guided interview, role-play, expressing opinions.

- **A1:**
 - Use simple phrases to introduce yourself, ask questions, and respond to personal details.
 - **A2:**
 - Handle short social exchanges, describe family, hobbies, and daily routines.
 - **B1:**
 - Express thoughts about familiar topics, explain experiences, give reasons and opinions.
 - **B2:**
 - Speak clearly on complex topics, develop arguments, and participate in discussions or debates.
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4. Writing Expression (Expression Écrite)

Focus: Producing written texts for communication and argumentation.

Skills Tested: Grammar, vocabulary, clarity, coherence.

Duration: 60 minutes

Format: Two to three writing tasks based on the level.

- **A1:**
 - Write basic information like names, addresses, or short phrases.
 - Create simple postcards or messages.
- **A2:**
 - Write short notes, informal letters, or describe events in simple sentences.

- Communicate basic needs in writing.
 - **B1:**
 - Write connected texts on familiar topics.
 - Create descriptive or narrative texts, personal letters, and short essays.
 - **B2:**
 - Compose structured arguments, formal letters, reports, and reviews.
 - Use correct syntax and varied vocabulary for persuasive writing.
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5. Grammar and Vocabulary (Structures de la Langue) (TEF only)

Focus: Mastery of grammar and vocabulary in real-life contexts.

Duration: ~15 minutes

Format: 40 MCQs

Skills Tested: Sentence construction, tenses, agreement, lexical range.

Grammar Topics (A1–B2):

- Nouns, articles (definite, indefinite, partitive)
- Adjectives and their agreement
- Present, passé composé, imparfait, futur proche & futur simple
- Pronouns (subject, direct/indirect object, reflexive)
- Prepositions of place, time, movement
- Interrogative and negative sentence formation
- Conjunctions, relative clauses

Vocabulary Themes (A1–B2):

- Family, home, health, travel, food, professions, education, hobbies, media, shopping
 - Idiomatic expressions and phrases
 - Synonyms, antonyms, homophones (at B1–B2)
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Important Notes

- **TEF** (Test d'Évaluation de Français) is administered by the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIP).
- **TCF** (Test de Connaissance du Français) is administered by France Éducation International.
- Both tests are recognized for immigration (Canada, Quebec), university admissions, and citizenship applications.
- Scoring is aligned with the **Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR)** levels.

- You can take individual modules (e.g., only speaking or writing) depending on your purpose.