

French: Content Knowledge (0173)

Test at a Glance

Test Name	French: Content Knowledge			
Test Code	0173			
Time	2 hours (total test): four sections			
Pacing	Suggested time: Section II—35 minutes; Section III—35 minutes; Section IV—20 minutes			
Number of Questions	140			
Format	Multiple-choice questions based on tape-recorded and printed materials in French; some questions (on language analysis and cultural knowledge) in English			
	Content Categories (Knowledge and Skills Tested)	Approximate Number of Questions	Approximate Percentage of Examination	Time (in Minutes)
	I. Listening Comprehension (in French)	38	27%	30 (approximate)
	II. Structure of the Language (in French and in English)	39	28%	35 (suggested)
	III. Reading Comprehension (in French)	36	26%	35 (suggested)
	IV. Culture (in English)	27	19%	20 (suggested)

Advice to Test-Takers

Before taking the test, you should have acquired the knowledge and skills described under “Knowledge and Skills Tested”.

Below is additional advice specific to taking the **French: Content Knowledge (0173)** test.

Taped Portion: Section I and Section II, Part A

- The questions in Section I (Listening Comprehension) and Section II, Part A (Speech Analysis) are recorded on tape. The tape will be played **only** once. Some of the taped material is **not** printed in the test book; pay special attention to whether the test material is presented on tape, printed in the test book, or both.

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- The speech samples in Section I (Listening Comprehension) are recorded by native speakers of French at a normal rate of conversation. Therefore, before taking the test, you should practice by listening to recordings of native speakers.
- The questions in Section II, Part A (Speech Analysis) are based on speech samples recorded by students of French who are not native speakers; you will be asked to identify errors in the students' speech. Therefore, before taking the test, you should be familiar with the speech of non-native speakers who are learning French.
- At the beginning of the taped portion, the test supervisor will play an introductory statement to check the volume. Be sure to notify the supervisor if the volume needs to be adjusted or if there is any other problem with the tape.
- Take notes, where appropriate, to help you focus your listening and remember key details.
- Between questions, there will be a 12-second pause for you to choose and mark your answer. Be prepared to answer within the time provided.
- The questions in Section II, Part B (Writing Analysis), are based on writing samples produced by students of French who are not native speakers; you will be asked to identify errors in the students' writing. Therefore, before taking the test, you should be familiar with the writing of non-native speakers who are learning French.
- Pace your activities. Although there is a suggested time for each section, you will be able to work at your own pace. If you finish the test before time is called, use any extra time to check your answers to any questions in Section II, Part B, through Section V.

Section II, Part B, to Section V

- Be familiar with the following: the structure of the French language; terminology used to describe grammar, syntax, and phonology; a variety of sources for authentic reading material, such as periodicals, literature, and advertisements; the cultures of France and other French-speaking countries and regions.

Test Description

The **French: Content Knowledge** test is designed to assess the knowledge and skills necessary for a beginning teacher of French in grades K-12. The 140 multiple-choice questions measure the test-takers' competence in various language skills and their knowledge of the cultures of France and Francophone countries and regions.

In the first and third sections, all questions and answer choices are in French. The first three parts of the Structure of the Language section and all the questions in the Culture section are in English.

All the questions in the Listening Comprehension section, as well as the first part of the Structure of the Language section, are based on tape-recorded material.

Knowledge and Skills Tested

Representative descriptions of knowledge and skills tested in each category are provided below.

I. Listening Comprehension

- Test-takers listen to: taped recordings of native French speakers that consist of short conversations, each followed by one question; brief narrations, each followed by one or more questions; and longer narrations or dialogues, each followed by several questions.
- From the four choices in the test book, the test-taker selects the best response.
- Questions are designed to test phonemic discrimination, understanding of idiomatic expressions, familiarity with vocabulary and structures typical of conversational French, and comprehension of important facts or ideas contained in the spoken material.
- All spoken and written questions in this section are in French.

II. Structure of the Language

- Test-takers analyze errors in spoken and written French.
- Speech Analysis: Test-takers analyze errors in taped material spoken by non-native speakers of French; the errors include grammatical errors, pronunciation errors, and inappropriate word choice. Speech Analysis questions are in English.
- Writing Analysis: Test-takers analyze errors in writing samples from non-native speakers of French. The errors include errors in grammar, mechanics, and word choice. Writing Analysis questions are in English.
- Language Analysis: Test-takers demonstrate knowledge of the structure of the French language. The questions focus on morphology, phonology, syntax, and word choice. Language Analysis questions are in English.
- Grammar: Test-takers select the most appropriate completions for French sentences and paragraphs in which words or phrases have been omitted.

III. Reading Comprehension

- Reading selections are on a variety of topics at various levels of difficulty, from sources such as periodicals, printed announcements, and literary excerpts.
- Questions focus on content and organization, implied content, and use of language.
- Test-takers answer questions in French based on what has been stated or implied in the selections.

IV. Culture

- Test-takers demonstrate knowledge of the cultures of France and Francophone countries and regions.
- Questions focus on geography, history, lifestyles and societies, literature and fine arts, and sociolinguistic elements of French.
- Culture questions are in English.

Sample Test Questions **French: Content Knowledge (0173)**

The sample questions that follow illustrate the kinds of questions in the test. They are not representative of the entire scope of the test in either content or difficulty. Answers with explanations follow the questions.

I. Listening Comprehension

Approximate time – 30 minutes

Section I is designed to measure how well you understand spoken French.

Part A – Short Conversations

Directions: In Part A, you will hear short conversations between two people. After each conversation, you will hear one question. The conversations and questions are not printed in the test book.

During the pause after each question, read the four answer choices printed in your test book and choose the one most appropriate answer. Indicate your choice on your answer sheet.

(You will hear)

(Man) *Allô, Marie? C'est Robert. Tu sais, la météo prévoit une averse pour cet après-midi. Si nous faisons autre chose?*

(Woman) *Je veux bien. D'ailleurs, j'ai pas mal à faire à la maison.*

(Narrator) *De quoi s'agit-il?*

(In your test book you will read)

- 1. (A) De la construction d'un bâtiment.
- (B) D'une maladie subite.
- (C) D'une sortie remise.
- (D) D'une prédiction astrologique.

Part B – Short Narrations

Directions: In Part B, you will hear short narrations. The narrations are not printed in your test book. After each narration, you will hear one or two questions, which are printed in your test book.

During the pause after each question, read the four answer choices printed in your test book and choose the one most appropriate answer. Indicate your choice on your answer sheet.

You may take notes, but only in your test book.

(You will hear)

(Narrator) *Question Numéro 2 se rapporte à l'information suivante.*

(Woman) *Après plusieurs semaines de préparatifs, trois alpinistes allemands se sont lancés à l'assaut de la face nord du Pic au Diable, un mur rocheux de plus de 800 mètres, barré d'énormes surplombs, dans les Alpes. L'ascension de cette paroi n'a jamais été réalisée en hiver.*

(Narrator) *De quoi s'agit-il?*

(In your test book you will read)

Question 2 se rapporte à l'information suivante.

- 2. De quoi s'agit-il?
- (A) D'une semaine de camping.
- (B) D'une aventure hasardeuse.
- (C) D'une partie de ski.
- (D) D'une avalanche dans les Alpes.

Sample Test Questions

Part C – Long Conversation and Long Narrations

Directions: In Part C, you will hear one conversation and two narrations that are longer than those in Parts A and B. The conversation and narrations are not printed in your test book. After each conversation or narration, you will hear several questions, which are printed in your test book.

During the pause after each question, read the four answer choices printed in your test book and choose the one most appropriate answer. Indicate your choice on your answer sheet.

There is no sample question for this part.

You may take notes, but only in your test book.

II. Structure of the Language

Section II is designed to measure your knowledge of the structure of the French language.

Approximate Time – 35 minutes

Part A (taped portion) – 5 minutes

Parts B, C, and D (suggested time is 30 minutes)

Part A – Speech Analysis

Directions: In Part A, you will hear selections **spoken by students who are learning French** and who make errors in their speech. The selections are not printed in your test book. After hearing a selection, you will hear one or more excerpts from the selection. Each excerpt contains only one error. You will be asked to identify, correct, or describe the type of error in the excerpt. When answering each question, consider the error in the context of the entire selection. The questions are printed in your test book.

During the pause after each question, read the four answer choices printed in your test book and choose the one most appropriate answer. Indicate your choice on your answer sheet.

(You will hear)

(Narrator) Question 3 refers to the following selection about a student's school and vacation.

(Male Student) *Je suis étudiant. J'étudie à l'université. J'aime la musique et les sciences. Dans été, je voyage avec mes parents.*

(Narrator) Question Number 3: Correct the error in the following sentence.

(Then you will hear again)

(Male Student) *Dans été, je voyage avec mes parents.*

(In your test book you will read)

Question 3 refers to the following selection about a student's school and vacation.

3. Correct the error in the following excerpt.

- (A) Change *Dans* to *En*.
- (B) Change *je* to *nous*.
- (C) Change *voyage* to *voyagé*.
- (D) Change *mes* to *ma*.

Part B – Writing Analysis

Directions: In Part B, you will read paragraphs **written by students who are learning French**. Each paragraph contains errors. You will be asked to identify, correct, or describe the type of error in some of the sentences from each paragraph; each of these sentences contains only one error. When answering each question, consider the error in the context of the entire paragraph.

For each question, choose the one most appropriate answer from the four answer choices printed in your test book. Indicate your choice on your answer sheet.

You may take notes, but only in your test book.

Question 4 refers to the following selection about a birthday.

(1) *Mon anniversaire est samedi prochain; c'est le premier de juin.* (2) *J'espère recevoir beaucoup de cadeaux.*

4. Correct the error in sentence 1.

- (A) Change *Mon* to *Ma*.
- (B) Change *prochain* to *prochaine*.
- (C) Change *le premier* to *la première*.
- (D) Change *de juin* to *juin*.

Go on to the next page.

Answers

1. Choice C is the correct answer. The question asks, “What is it (the dialogue) about?” and C is the only choice that conveys the main subject of the dialogue (a postponed date/outing).
2. Choice B is the correct answer. The narration is a news story about a dangerous attempt to climb the rock face *Pic au Diable*. The question asks, “What is it (the news story) about?” and B is the only answer choice that conveys the main idea of the narration (a dangerous adventure).
3. Choice A is the correct answer. The question asks the examinee to correct the error in the sentence “Dans été, je voyage avec mes parents” (In the summer, I travel with my parents). *Dans* is the wrong preposition for the phrase “in the summer”; the correct phrase is “*en été*”.
4. Choice D is the correct answer. The question asks the examinee to correct the error in the sentence “*Mon anniversaire est samedi prochain; c’est le premier de juin*” (My birthday is next Saturday; it’s June first). The correct way of saying “June first” is “*le premier juin*”; therefore “*de juin*” must be changed to “*juin*”.
5. Choice A is the correct answer. A liaison is prohibited before an aspirate h; “*heures*” is the only choice that does not begin with an aspirate h.
6. Choice B is the correct answer; it is the only choice that fits grammatically in the sentence. The phrase “*tant de*”, when it is followed by a noun and “*que*”, means “so much . . . that . . .”.
7. Choice C is the correct answer. The question asks the examinee to make an inference about the woman whom the playwright is addressing. The playwright’s words in Lines 1-4 (Madame, one does not make any money attacking religion, and, if the goal of my life were to earn money, I’d have changed jobs . . .) imply that he has been accused of materialism. Choice C states that the woman has accused the playwright of materialism. The other statements about the woman (in A, B, and D) are not supported by the passage.
8. Choice C is the correct answer. “*Le dîner*” (dinner) generally takes place around “*20 heures*” (8 o’clock in the evening). The other choices (3:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 11:00 p.m.) are not likely times for French people to have dinner.