

CERTIFICATE COURSE IN FRENCH

Proposed assessment:

Paper I – 80 marks (comprising reading comprehension, listening comprehension, grammar and written expression)

Paper II – 20 marks (viva)

Course Duration: Six Months

Teaching Hours: 60

L: 02, T: 01, P: 02 Credit: 04

COURSE CONTENTS

1. Communicative and task-based approach: These two approaches to teaching French as a foreign language shall be followed in class. At their core, they consist of speech-acts for example, introducing oneself and others, buying something from a seller, asking for/giving directions, invitations, describing people and one's daily activities, booking plane/train tickets etc. which entail the use of a multitude of individual as well as group-based activities in class. In performing or executing these specific tasks, students will need to rely on their newly acquired linguistic skills, highlighting the use of language as a communication tool. These approaches also incorporate exploiting authentic multimedia documents such as songs, videos, advertisements, etc. to underline the existence of the language beyond the classroom setting.
2. Reading and listening comprehension: Classes will consist of reading and listening to various kinds of documents and dialogues and answering questions based on the same to better develop the comprehension skills of the students. Class interaction shall also be encouraged in French to promote familiarity with the language. Students will learn to understand frequently used words and sentences and to identify important information from a written document like a poster or a catalogue or by listening to an announcement.

3. Written expression: Right from the first class, students will be encouraged to express themselves in the language. They will start by learning to fill forms in French and then move on to the structure of basic sentences. Students will also learn to write short messages of immediate concern to themselves and people around them like postcards or emails with the objective of accomplishing simple acts of communication such as an invitation or giving information about oneself.
4. Spoken expression and interaction: Active participation is expected and encouraged in order to familiarise the students with speaking French. This will be done through lots of dialogues and role-playing activities in class wherein students will be given a situation and they have to interact with each other in French. Each topic covered like greetings, making plans to go out with friends and family, going to a restaurant will include an oral activity like an interview, a survey, a quiz or a dialogue to link it to a speech act. There will also be regular sessions during class dedicated to working on pronunciation of different sounds in French.
5. Grammar and vocabulary: The basic fundamentals of French grammar and vocabulary will be covered. Students will be introduced to different French verbs (-er, -re, -ir and pronominal verbs) and their conjugation in the present indicative, a few forms of the past tense (*passé composé*, *passé récent*, *imparfait*) and the future tense (*futur simple*, *futur proche*). They will also learn the imperative and conditional moods. Similarly, students will learn negation, interrogative words and the 3 ways to ask questions, different types of articles (*définis*, *indéfinis*, *partitifs*, *contractés*), prepositions, adjectives (of quality-quantity, possession etc.) and different pronouns.

Books Recommended:

1. Capelle, Guy & Menand Robert, *Le Nouveau Taxi 1: Méthode de Français*, Paris: Hachette, 2009.
2. Berthet, Anne et al., *Alter Ego+ A1: Méthode de Français*, Paris: Hachette, 2012.
3. Grand-Clément, Odile, *Civilisation en dialogues – niveau débutant*, Paris: Clé International, 2007.
4. Grégoire, Maïa, *Grammaire progressive du français – niveau débutant*, Paris: Clé International, 2010.

5. Miquel, Claire, *Vocabulaire progressif du français – niveau débutant*, Paris: Clé International, 2014.
6. Weiss, François, *Jeux et activités communicatives dans la classe de langue*, Paris: Hachette, 1989.
7. Debyser, Francis and Jean-Marc Caré, *Jeu, langage et créativité : les jeux dans la classe de français*, Paris: Hachette, 1992.
8. Dictionary: *Collins French Dictionary & Grammar 4th edition*, Glasgow: HarperCollins Publishers, 2006.
9. Internet resource: www.tv5monde.fr (International French TV channel)