French civic exam for the resident card

Questions and answers · 204 questions

These documents are written by OK Civique from the official lists of the French Ministry of the Interior. They are not official documents. The real-life situation questions of the exam are not published by the Ministry and are not in these lists.

Principles and values of the Republic

1. A-t-on le droit d'insulter publiquement quelqu'un parce qu'il est différent (handicap, apparence physique, sexe...) ?

Is it allowed to publicly insult someone because they are different (disability, physical appearance, sex...)?

→ Non, c'est interdit et puni par la loi — No, it is forbidden and punished by law

Insulting someone in public is forbidden: the law calls this an "injure publique" (public insult) and punishes it with a fine. The penalty is heavier when the insult targets, for example, the person's sex or disability. Freedom of expression has limits: it does not allow you to insult others.

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2. Le régime de la France est :

The political system (régime) of France is:

→ une République — a Republic

France is a Republic: power is exercised by representatives elected by the people. It is no longer a monarchy: power no longer belongs to one single person. A Republic is the opposite of a monarchy, where power is hereditary.

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3. Quels sont des symboles officiels de la République française ?

Which of these are official symbols of the French Republic?

→ Le drapeau tricolore et la Marseillaise — The tricolour flag and La Marseillaise

The tricolour flag and the national anthem, La Marseillaise, are official symbols of the French Republic. So are Marianne and the national day of 14 July. The rooster is widely used, but it is not an official symbol.

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4. Quelle est la place de la langue française dans la République ?

What is the place of the French language in the Republic?

→ C'est la seule langue officielle — It is the only official language

French is the only official language of the Republic. It is used at school, in the administration, in the courts and more widely in public life. This shared language guarantees equal access to rights and information.

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5. Qu'est-ce que la Marseillaise ?

What is La Marseillaise?

→ L'hymne national de la France — The national anthem of France

La Marseillaise is the national anthem of France. It was originally a war song composed in 1792 by a French officer. It was taken up by a battalion of people from Marseille in Paris in August 1792, and then took the name La Marseillaise.

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6. En quelle année la loi de séparation des Églises et de l'État a-t-elle été votée ?

In which year was the law on the separation of the Churches and the State passed?

→ 1905 — 1905

The law separating the Churches and the State dates from 1905. Since this law, the State has been independent of religions and does not fund any religion. Religions organise themselves independently, while respecting the rules set by the State.

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7. Quel droit est garanti par la laïcité ?

Which right is guaranteed by secularism (laïcité)?

→ La liberté de conscience — Freedom of conscience

Secularism (laïcité) guarantees freedom of conscience for everyone. This means each person is free to have or not to have a religion, to change religion or to give it up. A person may also practise their religion, as long as public order is not disturbed.

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8. Pourquoi le principe de laïcité doit-il être respecté à l'école ?

Why must the principle of secularism (laïcité) be respected at school?

→ Pour que chaque élève puisse penser librement — So that every pupil can think freely

State schools are neutral towards religions. This neutrality lets each pupil think freely and form their own opinions. Laïcité also protects pupils from any pressure that would stop them from making their own choices.

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9. Une personne a-t-elle le droit de ne pas croire en une religion ?

Does a person have the right not to believe in a religion?

→ Oui, chacun est libre de croire ou de ne pas croire — Yes, everyone is free to believe or not to believe

Having no religion, or choosing to no longer have one, is also a right. Each person is free to practise the religion of their choice, or none at all. In France, many people say they have no religion.

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10. Parmi les propositions suivantes, laquelle constitue une participation citoyenne ?

Which of the following is a form of civic participation (participation citoyenne)?

→ S'engager dans une association — Getting involved in an association

Civic participation means acting for others and for the life of the community. Getting involved in a neighbourhood association or organising a collection for a humanitarian association are examples. These actions put the republican principle of solidarity and fraternity into practice.

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11. Que garantit la liberté d'expression ?

What does freedom of expression guarantee?

→ Le droit de dire et d'écrire librement ses opinions — The right to speak and write one's opinions freely

Freedom of expression is a fundamental right, guaranteed by the 1789 Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen: everyone may speak, write and publish freely. But not everything can be said: the law punishes insults and hate speech, for example.

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12. À quoi sert un titre de séjour ?

What is a residence permit (titre de séjour) for?

→ À vivre en France en situation régulière — Living in France with legal status

Foreign nationals who live in France must hold a valid residence permit (titre de séjour): this is what being in a regular situation means. It must be renewed when it expires. Holding this permit is one of the obligations of every foreign national living in France.

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13. La liberté de circulation permet à toute personne de :

Freedom of movement (liberté de circulation) allows every person to:

→ se déplacer librement sur le territoire — move freely within the territory

Freedom of movement is one of each person's freedoms: it allows people to move around the territory. A foreign national can do so thanks to their residence permit (titre de séjour). Like all freedoms, it has limits, set by the State to protect the freedom of others.

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14. Sur quel site internet peut-on retrouver le symbole de la République française ?

On which website can you find the symbol of the French Republic?

→ Sur les sites internet de l'administration — On the websites of the public administration

The symbols of the Republic, such as Marianne or the tricolour flag, appear on all the websites and documents of the administration. Tip: official State websites, for example those of ministries or prefectures (préfectures), carry these symbols.

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15. Complétez ces paroles de la Marseillaise : "Aux armes [...] ! Formez vos bataillons"

Complete these words of the Marseillaise: "Aux armes [...] ! Formez vos bataillons"

→ **citoyens** — citoyens (citizens)

The chorus of the Marseillaise begins: « Aux armes, citoyens, formez vos bataillons » (To arms, citizens, form your battalions). The Marseillaise is the national anthem of France. This song was composed in 1792 by Rouget de Lisle.

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16. Complétez les paroles de la Marseillaise : "Allons enfants de la patrie [...]"

Complete the words of the Marseillaise: "Allons enfants de la patrie [...]"

→ **Le jour de gloire est arrivé** — Le jour de gloire est arrivé (The day of glory has arrived)

The Marseillaise, the national anthem, begins with these words: « Allons enfants de la Patrie, le jour de gloire est arrivé ! » (Arise, children of the Fatherland, the day of glory has arrived!). These are the first two lines of the first verse. The other options are also words from the anthem, but they come later in the song.

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17. En application de la liberté individuelle, quelle proposition est correcte ? Une personne peut :

Under individual freedom, which statement is correct? A person may:

→ **vivre avec la personne de son choix** — live with the person of their choice

In France, each person can think, express themselves and live as they wish. Living with the person of one's choice is one of everyone's freedoms. The only limit is not to prevent another person from doing the same: the State therefore sets limits.

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18. Concernant la pratique de la religion, quelle proposition est correcte ?

Regarding the practice of religion, which statement is correct?

→ **Chacun est libre de pratiquer ou non une religion** — Everyone is free to practise a religion or not

Freedom of conscience gives everyone the freedom to practise a religion, provided public order is not disturbed. Secularism (laïcité) also guarantees the freedom not to practise: no one can be forced to follow the rules of a religion.

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19. En tant que parent, peut-on refuser que son enfant participe aux cours de sport à l'école car ils sont mixtes ?

As a parent, can you refuse to let your child take part in sports lessons at school because they are mixed (girls and boys together)?

→ Non, ces cours sont obligatoires pour tous — No, these lessons are compulsory for everyone

The State sets the school curriculum, which is the same for everyone. It is not possible to refuse a lesson in this curriculum, such as sport, for religious reasons. The charter of secularism at school (charte de la laïcité à l'école) also guarantees equality between girls and boys.

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20. Quelle est la devise de la France ?

What is the motto of France?

→ Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité — Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité (Liberty, Equality, Fraternity)

The motto of the French Republic is « Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité ». It appeared during the French Revolution and became official in 1848. It can be read on public buildings, such as town halls and schools, and in the Constitution.

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21. La répudiation de sa femme est :

Repudiating one's wife (répudiation) is:

→ interdite en France — forbidden in France

Repudiating one's wife means deciding alone to end the marriage, without the wife being able to oppose it. In France, this is contrary to equality between spouses. To separate, spouses must divorce, before a judge or by mutual consent: the wife and the husband have the same rights.

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22. Les impôts permettent de financer les dépenses publiques. Quelle proposition est correcte ?

Taxes make it possible to fund public spending. Which statement is correct?

→ Les impôts financent les services publics — Taxes fund public services

Taxes allow the State to run the country and to make public services free: police, justice, education, hospitals... Paying taxes is an obligation for everyone who lives in France, whatever their nationality. This contribution is adapted to each person's income.

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23. Peut-on brûler publiquement un drapeau français ?

Is it allowed to burn a French flag in public?

→ Non, c'est un outrage au drapeau, interdit par la loi — No, it is contempt of the flag, forbidden by law

The tricolour flag is an official symbol of the French Republic. It is forbidden to show contempt for it (outrage au drapeau), that is, to destroy it or use it in a degrading way in public. Burning a French flag in public is therefore forbidden.

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24. Que fait l'État pour lutter contre les discriminations ?

What does the State do to fight discrimination?

→ Il les interdit et les punit par la loi — It bans and punishes it by law

Discrimination is when a person is treated less well than another because of a criterion forbidden by law: origin, sex, disability, religion... Discrimination is punished by fines and other penalties. The State fights in particular against racism, antisemitism, sexism and anti-LGBT+ hatred.

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25. Que représente Marianne ?

What does Marianne represent?

→ La République française — The French Republic

The figure of Marianne appeared during the French Revolution to represent the Republic. With her popular first name, she is a reminder that the Republic is founded on the will of the people. Her bust is in every town hall (mairie), and she can be seen on stamps and official documents.

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26. Qu'est-ce que la liberté d'association ?

What is freedom of association (liberté d'association)?

→ Le droit de créer une association ou d'en rejoindre une — The right to create an association or to join one

In France, every person, French or foreign, can get involved freely: this is freedom of association, set out in a law of 1901. To create an association, you need at least two people and a non-profit purpose, meaning it does not aim to make money.

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27. Qu'est-ce que la liberté ?

What is liberty (liberté)?

→ Pouvoir faire tout ce qui ne nuit pas aux autres — Being able to do anything that does not harm others

In France, each person can think, express themselves and live as they wish. The only limit is not to prevent another person from doing the same. This freedom is guaranteed by the 1789 Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, and the State protects it.

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28. Sur quel document peut-on voir Marianne ?

On which document can you see Marianne?

→ Sur une déclaration d'impôts — On a tax return

Marianne is an official symbol of the Republic. She appears on official documents: the identity card and administrative documents such as the tax return (déclaration d'impôts). She can also be seen on stamps and coins, and her bust is in every town hall.

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29. Un employeur refuse d'embaucher des femmes dans son entreprise. Que dit la loi ?

An employer refuses to hire women in his company. What does the law say?

→ C'est une discrimination, interdite par la loi — It is discrimination, forbidden by law

Refusing a job to a person because of their sex is discrimination: sex is one of the criteria forbidden by law. Discrimination can occur in employment, for example through a refusal to hire. It is punished by fines and other penalties.

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30. Une des valeurs de la devise républicaine est l'égalité. Qu'est-ce que cela signifie ?

One of the values of the Republic's motto is equality. What does this mean?

→ La loi est la même pour toutes les personnes — The law is the same for everyone

Equality is written in the 1958 Constitution. It means that the law is the same for everyone and that social rights (education, health, housing, employment) are open to all. All French citizens also have the same civic rights, such as the right to vote.

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31. Selon le principe de laïcité, que signifie la neutralité de l'État ?

According to the principle of secularism (laïcité), what does the neutrality of the State mean?

→ L'État ne favorise et ne finance aucune religion — The State favours and funds no religion

Secularism (laïcité) separates the State from religious organisations. The State recognises no religion, pays and subsidises no form of worship, and takes no part in how they are run internally. Everyone is equal before the law, whatever their religion or beliefs.

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32. Que peut faire un usager du service public dans une mairie ?

What may a user of a public service do in a town hall (mairie)?

→ Porter un signe religieux — Wear a religious symbol

Neutrality does not apply to users of a public service: they may wear a symbol of religious affiliation. However, they must respect the rules of the service: no proselytising (trying to convert others), and no asking for the service to be adapted in the name of a religion. For example, a person wearing a veil must remove it for a moment for an identity check.

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33. Qui doit respecter le principe de neutralité religieuse dans une préfecture ?

Who must respect the principle of religious neutrality in a prefecture (préfecture)?

→ Les agents qui y travaillent — The staff who work there

People who work in public services, such as a prefecture, may not express or show their religious, political or philosophical beliefs. This allows all users to be treated fairly. Users themselves are not subject to this neutrality: they may wear a religious symbol.

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34. La laïcité impose-t-elle aux agents publics d'être neutres vis-à-vis des usagers ?

Does secularism (laïcité) require public employees (agents publics) to be neutral towards users (usagers)?

→ Oui, ils ne doivent pas montrer leurs convictions — Yes, they must not show their beliefs

People who work in public services (services publics) may not express or show their religious, political or philosophical beliefs. This neutrality makes it possible to treat all users fairly. Users are not covered by this rule: they may wear a religious symbol.

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35. Que garantit le principe de laïcité ?

What does the principle of secularism (laïcité) guarantee?

→ La liberté de conscience pour tous — Freedom of conscience for everyone

Secularism (laïcité) guarantees freedom of conscience for everyone: each person is free to have a religion, to have none, to change religion or to give it up. The State is neutral: it does not recognise or fund any religion. Tip: laïcité = freedom to believe or not to believe.

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36. A-t-on le droit de changer de religion ?

Do people have the right to change religion?

→ Oui, chacun est libre d'en changer — Yes, everyone is free to change religion

Secularism (laïcité) guarantees freedom of conscience for everyone. Each person is free to have or not to have a religion, to change religion or to give it up. No one can be forced to follow the rules of a religion.

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37. Que représente la laïcité ?

What does secularism (laïcité) represent?

→ Un principe constitutionnel de la République — A constitutional principle of the Republic

Secularism (laïcité) is not an opinion: it is a constitutional principle. Article 1 of the 1958 Constitution states that France is an indivisible, secular, democratic and social Republic. Laïcité does not ban religions: it guarantees freedom of conscience and separates the State from religious organisations.

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38. Qu'est ce qui est interdit par la Charte de la laïcité à l'école ?

What is forbidden by the School Secularism Charter (Charte de la laïcité à l'école)?

→ Porter un signe religieux de manière ostensible — Wearing a conspicuous religious symbol

The School Secularism Charter forbids pupils in state schools from wearing symbols or clothing that conspicuously (de manière ostensible) show their religion, that is, in a way meant to be seen. However, pupils may talk about religion among themselves, with respect for others. Some lessons also cover the history of religions.

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39. Que dit l'article 1er de la Constitution française ?

What does Article 1 of the French Constitution say?

→ La France est une République indivisible, laïque, démocratique et sociale — France is an indivisible, secular, democratic and social Republic

Article 1 of the 1958 Constitution states that “France is an indivisible, secular, democratic and social Republic” (indivisible, laïque, démocratique et sociale). Remember these four words. Secular (laïque) means that the State is neutral towards religions: it does not recognise any religion.

Institutions and political system

40. Qui nomme le Premier ministre ?

Who appoints the Prime Minister (Premier ministre)?

→ Le président de la République — The President of the Republic (président de la République)

The Prime Minister is appointed by the President of the Republic. The Prime Minister resides at the Hôtel de Matignon. Together with the ministers, the Prime Minister forms the Government (Gouvernement), which exercises executive power with the President of the Republic.

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41. Le Parlement est composé :

Parliament (Parlement) is made up of:

→ de l'Assemblée nationale et du Sénat — the National Assembly (Assemblée nationale) and the Senate (Sénat)

Parliament is made up of two chambers: the National Assembly (Assemblée nationale), where the 577 députés sit, and the Senate (Sénat), where the 348 senators sit. Parliament exercises legislative power: it votes on the law.

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42. Que se passe-t-il si un ministre ne respecte pas la loi ?

What happens if a minister does not obey the law?

→ Il peut être sanctionné comme tout citoyen — The minister can be punished like any citizen

Under the rule of law, the law is the same for everyone. Thanks to the separation of powers, the powers check one another. A minister who does not obey the law can therefore be punished like any citizen.

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43. Combien de députés composent l'Assemblée nationale ?

How many members (députés) make up the National Assembly (Assemblée nationale)?

→ 577 — 577

The National Assembly (Assemblée nationale) has 577 députés, elected by the citizens. The Senate (Sénat) has 348 senators: do not confuse these two figures. Together, the National Assembly and the Senate form Parliament, which votes on the law.

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44. Pour combien de temps sont élus les sénateurs ?

For how long are the senators (sénateurs) elected?

→ 6 ans — 6 years

Senators are elected for 6 years. They are not elected directly by the citizens: the electoral college (grands électeurs) votes, by indirect suffrage. Tip: 5 years for députés, 6 years for senators.

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45. Quelle condition est nécessaire pour voter aux élections ?

What condition is necessary to vote in elections?

→ Être inscrit sur les listes électorales — Being registered on the electoral rolls (listes électorales)

To vote, you must be registered on the electoral rolls, at the town hall (mairie) of the place where you live. You must also have French nationality, be an adult (18 years old) and have your civil and political rights. One exception: citizens of another European Union country who live in France can vote in municipal and European elections, if they are registered.

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46. Qui peut voter aux élections en France ?

Who can vote in elections in France?

→ Les citoyens français majeurs, inscrits sur les listes électorales — Adult French citizens registered on the electoral rolls

The right to vote is given to citizens who have French nationality, are adults (18 years old), have their civil and political rights and are registered on the electoral rolls. Citizens of another European Union country who live in France can vote in municipal and European elections.

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47. La séparation des pouvoirs est un principe fondamental. Quels sont les trois pouvoirs concernés ?

The separation of powers is a fundamental principle. What are the three powers concerned?

→ Législatif, exécutif et judiciaire — Legislative, executive and judicial

The three powers are legislative power (Parliament votes on the laws), executive power (the Government applies and enforces the law) and judicial power (the judicial authority checks that the laws are applied). They are not in the hands of the same people.

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48. Qui sanctionne l'auteur d'un vol ?

Who punishes the perpetrator of a theft?

→ Le juge — The judge (juge)

Theft is an offence forbidden by the law: it is classed as a “délit” (a middle-level offence). Penalties are decided by the judge, according to how serious the act is. A délit such as theft is tried by the criminal court called the tribunal correctionnel.

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49. Qui dirige la commune ?

Who runs the commune (municipality)?

→ Le maire — The mayor (maire)

The commune is run by elected people, including the mayor. It mainly deals with town planning, housing and social action. It also manages nursery and primary schools and local services.

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50. Est-ce que le président de la République a tous les pouvoirs ?

Does the President of the Republic have all the powers?

→ Non, car les pouvoirs sont séparés — No, because the powers are separated

No. In France, the legislative, executive and judicial powers are separated: they are not in the hands of the same people. Parliament votes on the laws and the judicial authority checks that they are applied. The powers check one another.

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51. Qui est le préfet ?

Who is the prefect (préfet)?

→ Le représentant de l'État dans le département — The representative of the State in the département

The prefect is the representative of the State in the département and runs the State's services there. With the prefecture, the prefect organises the safety of people and property and issues administrative documents and permits.

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52. Quel est le régime politique de la France aujourd'hui ?

What is the political system (régime politique) of France today?

→ Une république — A republic (république)

France is a republic (République): power is exercised by representatives elected by the people. France is no longer a monarchy, where power belongs to a single person. Tip: the word comes from the Latin “res publica”, the “public thing”: the Republic belongs to the people.

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53. Quel État n'est pas membre de l'Union européenne ?

Which State is not a member of the European Union (Union européenne)?

→ Le Royaume-Uni — The United Kingdom

The United Kingdom left the European Union in 2020. It was the first time a country had left the Union. Ireland, Portugal and the Czech Republic are still members: Ireland since 1973, Portugal since 1986 and the Czech Republic since 2004.

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54. Quelle condition est nécessaire pour voter aux élections européennes ?

Which condition is necessary to vote in the European elections (élections européennes)?

→ Avoir la nationalité d'un pays de l'Union européenne — Being a national of a European Union country

To vote in France in the European elections, you must be a national of a European Union member country, live in France, be at least 18 years old and be registered on the French electoral rolls (listes électorales). A citizen of another EU country can therefore vote in France in these elections.

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55. À quelle fréquence les élections européennes sont-elles organisées ?

How often are the European elections (élections européennes) held?

→ Tous les cinq ans — Every five years

European elections are held every five years. Citizens of the European Union then vote to choose the members of the European Parliament, called députés européens or eurodéputés (MEPs). Tip: European elections took place in 2024.

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56. Quel pays est un pays fondateur de l'Union européenne ?

Which country is a founding country (pays fondateur) of the European Union?

→ L'Italie — Italy

In 1957, six countries created the European Economic Community (CEE): West Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. They are the founding countries. Denmark joined in 1973, Greece in 1981 and Spain in 1986.

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57. Quand célèbre-t-on la journée de l'Europe ?

When is Europe Day (journée de l'Europe) celebrated?

→ Le 9 mai — On 9 May

Europe Day is celebrated every year on 9 May in all the member countries of the European Union. This date is the anniversary of the “Schuman Declaration” of 9 May 1950, a founding text of the construction of Europe.

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58. Qu'est-ce que l'État de droit ?

What is the rule of law (État de droit)?

→ Un système où la loi est la même pour tous, y compris l'État — A system where the law is the same for everyone, including the State

In a State governed by the rule of law (État de droit), the law is the same for everyone, including the State. The law is therefore above the political authorities. It is the opposite of an arbitrary State: public authorities must always respect the law, and independent judges check them.

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59. La loi est l'expression de :

The law (loi) is the expression of:

→ la volonté générale — the general will (la volonté générale)

The law is the expression of the general will (volonté générale). It can be proposed by the Government or by Parliament, and it is then voted on by the Assemblée nationale and the Sénat. So it does not express the will of a single person or a single group.

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60. Quelle est la durée du mandat du conseil municipal et du maire ?

How long is the term of office of the municipal council (conseil municipal) and the mayor (maire)?

→ 6 ans — 6 years

Municipal councillors are elected for 6 years in the municipal elections. The mayor's term of office lasts the same time. These elected officials represent citizens in the commune. Tip: departmental councillors and regional councillors are also elected for 6 years.

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61. Que garantit l'État de droit ?

What does the rule of law (État de droit) guarantee?

→ Le respect des droits fondamentaux et de la démocratie — Respect for fundamental rights and democracy

The rule of law (État de droit) guarantees respect for fundamental rights and democracy. For example, the right to security protects every person against arbitrary arrest or imprisonment. Under the rule of law, public authorities must always respect the law.

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62. Une personne peut-elle voter à la place d'une autre ?

Can a person vote in place of another person?

→ Oui, mais seulement avec une procuration — Yes, but only with a proxy

In France, voting is personal. You can vote for another person only if that person has given a proxy (procuration de vote). Without a proxy, you cannot vote in someone else's place, even for a member of your family.

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63. Est-ce que le vote est obligatoire ?

Is voting compulsory?

→ Non, voter est un droit, pas une obligation — No, voting is a right, not an obligation

In France, voting is not compulsory: it is a right and not a duty. The right to vote allows you to express your will in an election. It is by voting that citizens elect their representatives.

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64. À la fin de son mandat, le président de la République peut-il décider de rester au pouvoir ?

At the end of his term of office, can the President of the Republic (président de la République) decide to stay in power?

→ Non, le président est choisi par le vote des citoyens — No, the President is chosen by the citizens' vote

The President of the Republic is elected for 5 years by direct universal suffrage, that is, directly by French citizens. At the end of his term of office, he cannot decide by himself to stay: a new election takes place and the citizens choose.

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65. Qui dirige l'action du Gouvernement ?

Who directs the action of the Government (Gouvernement)?

→ Le Premier ministre — The Prime Minister (Premier ministre)

Article 21 of the Constitution says: "The Prime Minister directs the action of the Government". The Prime Minister is appointed by the President of the Republic. The Government determines and conducts the policy of the nation.

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66. Quelle est l'organisation administrative de la France ?

What is the administrative organisation of France?

→ Des communes, des départements et des régions — Municipalities (communes), departments (départements) and regions (régions)

France is organised into local authorities (collectivités territoriales): communes (municipalities), départements (101) and régions (18). The State has transferred some responsibilities to them: this is decentralisation. The ministries define and oversee policies at national level.

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67. Qu'est-ce que le pouvoir législatif ? Le pouvoir :

What is legislative power (pouvoir législatif)? The power:

→ de voter les lois — to vote on laws

Legislative power (pouvoir législatif) is exercised by Parliament, made up of the Assemblée nationale and the Sénat. Parliament proposes, negotiates and votes on the law. Applying and enforcing laws is the role of the executive power; delivering justice is the role of judges.

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68. Pourquoi séparer les trois pouvoirs dans une démocratie ?

Why separate the three powers in a democracy?

→ Pour garantir les droits et éviter l'arbitraire — To guarantee rights and prevent arbitrary power

The separation of powers (séparation des pouvoirs) means that legislative, executive and judicial powers are not in the hands of the same people. The powers check each other and cannot be exercised arbitrarily. This principle guarantees fundamental rights.

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69. Quel est le rôle du gouvernement ?

What is the role of the government (gouvernement)?

→ Appliquer et faire respecter les lois — To apply and enforce the laws

The Government is made up of the Prime Minister (Premier ministre) and the ministers. Together with the President of the Republic, it holds executive power: it applies and enforces the laws made by Parliament. It also runs the administration and conducts national policy.

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70. Qu'est-ce que l'Hôtel de Matignon ?

What is the Hôtel de Matignon?

→ La résidence du Premier ministre — The residence of the Prime Minister

The Hôtel de Matignon is the residence of the Prime Minister (Premier ministre). The Prime Minister is part of the Government and is appointed by the President of the Republic. The President lives at the Élysée Palace (palais de l'Élysée): do not confuse the two places.

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71. Quel est le rôle du président de la République ?

What is the role of the President of the Republic (président de la République)?

→ Il est le chef de l'État et des armées — He is the head of State and of the armed forces

The President of the Republic is the head of State and of the armed forces. He appoints the Prime Minister (Premier ministre). Together with the Government, he holds executive power: applying and enforcing laws, running the administration and conducting national policy.

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72. Quel est le rôle du Premier ministre ?

What is the role of the Prime Minister (Premier ministre)?

→ Il dirige l'action du Gouvernement — He directs the action of the Government

Under Article 21 of the Constitution, the Prime Minister directs the action of the Government and ensures that laws are carried out. He is appointed by the President of the Republic. He is also the one who proposes the names of the other ministers to the President.

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73. Qui est le chef du Gouvernement ?

Who is the head of the Government (chef du Gouvernement)?

→ Le Premier ministre — The Prime Minister (Premier ministre)

The head of the Government is the Prime Minister (Premier ministre): under Article 21 of the Constitution, he directs the action of the Government. The President of the Republic is the head of State. It is the President who appoints the Prime Minister.

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74. Combien y a-t-il de régions en France ?

How many regions (régions) are there in France?

→ 18 — 18

France has 18 regions (régions), 5 of which are overseas. In particular, the region manages the lycées (upper secondary schools), develops economic activity and is in charge of regional planning (aménagement du territoire). Do not confuse them with the départements: there are 101 of those.

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75. Quel est le rôle du Défenseur des droits ?

What is the role of the Defender of Rights (Défenseur des droits)?

→ Défendre les personnes dont les droits ne sont pas respectés — To defend people whose rights are not respected

The Defender of Rights (Défenseur des droits) is an independent administrative authority responsible for ensuring that rights are respected. It defends people whose rights are not respected, fights discrimination and steps in to settle conflicts between a public service and a user.

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76. Depuis quand l'euro est-elle la monnaie unique ?

Since when has the euro been the single currency (monnaie unique)?

→ Depuis 2002 — Since 2002

In 2002, the euro was put into circulation in several member countries of the European Union, including France: euro coins and banknotes have been in use since 1 January 2002. The single currency had been planned in 1992 by the Maastricht Treaty.

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77. Quel est le rôle principal du département ?

What is the main role of the département?

→ L'action sociale et la gestion des collèges — Social welfare and running lower secondary schools (collèges)

The département acts mainly in social welfare (action sociale): for example, help for people with disabilities and managing the RSA benefit. It also runs the collèges. School tip: the commune runs nursery and primary schools, the département the collèges, the région the lycées.

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78. Quel est le rôle principal des communes ?

What is the main role of the communes (municipalities)?

→ Gérer les écoles primaires et les services de proximité — Running primary schools (écoles primaires) and local services

The commune has many responsibilities, especially in town planning, housing and social welfare. It runs nursery and primary schools and local services (services de proximité). It is led by elected people, including the mayor (maire). Collèges depend on the département and lycées on the région.

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79. Combien de communes environ existe-t-il en France ?

Approximately how many communes (municipalities) are there in France?

→ Environ 35 000 — About 35,000

France has nearly 35,000 communes: 34,875 exactly. The commune is the most widespread local authority (collectivité territoriale) in the country. Each commune is led by elected people, including the mayor (maire).

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80. Quel traité concerne la construction de l'Union européenne ?

Which treaty (traité) concerns the construction of the European Union?

→ Le traité de Maastricht — The Maastricht Treaty

The Maastricht Treaty, in 1992, created the European Union (EU). Since then, goods, people and capital have moved freely within the EU. Other treaties also built Europe: Paris (1951), Rome (1957) and Lisbon (2007).

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81. Quel État a quitté l'Union européenne en 2020 ?

Which State left the European Union in 2020?

→ Le Royaume-Uni — The United Kingdom

In 2020, for the first time, a country left the European Union: the United Kingdom. This exit is called “Brexit”. The United Kingdom had joined the European Economic Community (CEE) in 1973, at the same time as Denmark and Ireland.

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82. Quelle est la devise de l’Union européenne ?

What is the motto (devise) of the European Union?

→ « Unie dans la diversité » — “United in diversity” (Unie dans la diversité)

The motto of the European Union has been “United in diversity” (Unie dans la diversité) since 2000. It shows that Europeans came together to share peace and prosperity, while respecting their cultures, traditions and languages. “Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité” is the motto of France.

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83. Quel est l'hymne de l'Union européenne ?

What is the anthem (hymne) of the European Union?

→ L'Ode à la joie — L'Ode à la joie

The European anthem is the “Ode to Joy” (Ode à la joie), a melody by the German composer Ludwig van Beethoven. This anthem symbolises freedom, peace and solidarity. It can be heard at official events, for example on Europe Day, 9 May.

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84. De quoi est composé le drapeau européen ?

What is the European flag (drapeau européen) made up of?

→ Douze étoiles jaunes en cercle sur un fond bleu — Twelve yellow stars in a circle on a blue background

On the European flag, twelve yellow stars form a circle on a blue background. This circle of stars symbolises unity, solidarity and harmony among the peoples of Europe. The flag can be seen on the buildings of European institutions and on some passports.

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85. De quelle couleur est le drapeau européen ?

What colour is the European flag?

→ Bleu avec douze étoiles jaunes — Blue with twelve yellow stars

The European flag has a blue background. Twelve yellow stars form a circle on it. This circle stands for unity, solidarity and harmony among the peoples of Europe. You can see this flag on the buildings of the European institutions.

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86. En quelle année le traité de Maastricht, qui marque la fondation de l'Union européenne, a-t-il été signé ?

In which year was the Maastricht Treaty, which marks the founding of the European Union, signed?

→ En 1992 — In 1992

The Maastricht Treaty was signed in 1992. It created the European Union (EU). Since this treaty, goods, people and capital can move freely within the EU. Tip: 1957 is the Treaty of Rome; 2007 is the Treaty of Lisbon.

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87. Où est le siège du Parlement européen ?

Where is the seat of the European Parliament?

→ À Strasbourg — In Strasbourg

The European Parliament (Parlement européen) is located in Strasbourg. The Members of the European Parliament vote on the laws and the budget of the European Union there. Do not confuse it with the European Commission, which is located in Brussels.

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88. Où est le siège de la Commission européenne ?

Where is the seat of the European Commission?

→ À Bruxelles — In Brussels

The European Commission (Commission européenne) is located in Brussels. It represents the common interests of the European Union and proposes the laws and the budget. It brings together one commissioner per member country. The European Parliament, on the other hand, is located in Strasbourg.

Rights and duties

89. Est-il toujours possible de divorcer ?

Is it always possible to divorce?

→ Oui, chaque époux peut mettre fin au mariage — Yes, each spouse can end the marriage

Marital freedom (liberté conjugale) allows each spouse to end their union. Divorce ends a marriage, without any need for a fault. In the same way, a PACS (civil partnership) can be ended at the town hall, and cohabitation (concubinage) can stop at any time.

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90. La peine de mort est :

The death penalty is:

→ abolie en France depuis 1981 — abolished in France since 1981

The death penalty has been completely abolished in France since the law of 9 October 1981, supported by Robert Badinter, Minister of Justice. Since 2007, the Constitution has stated that “no one may be sentenced to death”. It is a strong symbol of respect for human dignity.

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91. Quel est le rôle de la police ?

What is the role of the police?

→ Assurer la sécurité et le respect des lois — To ensure security and respect for the law

The police are a law enforcement force, like the gendarmerie. They make sure the law is obeyed in towns and cities. Their missions: preventing offences, maintaining public order, protecting people and property, and investigating. Police officers can also issue fines.

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92. Que doit faire une victime de violences ?

What must a victim of violence do?

→ En parler et demander de l'aide — Talk about it and ask for help

A victim of violence must not stay alone. They can talk to a trusted person or a professional, get support from an association, and file a complaint at any police station or gendarmerie. The victim of violence is never responsible.

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93. Quelle est l'infraction la plus grave ?

What is the most serious offence?

→ Le crime — A serious crime (crime)

The crime is the most serious category of offence: for example premeditated murder (assassinat), murder (meurtre) or rape. It is tried by the cour d'assises or the cour criminelle. The délit is an intermediate offence and the contravention is the least serious offence.

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94. À quelle liberté la PMA fait-elle référence ?

Which freedom does PMA (medically assisted reproduction) relate to?

→ La liberté d'avoir des enfants — The freedom to have children

PMA (procréation médicalement assistée, medically assisted reproduction) is part of the freedom to have children. Each person is free to choose whether or not to have a child. Since the bioethics law of 2 August 2021, PMA has been open to all women, whether in a couple or single.

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95. Au nom de quoi l'État justifie-t-il la restriction des droits ?

In the name of what does the State justify restricting rights?

→ L'intérêt général et l'ordre public — The general interest and public order

Rights and freedoms are not unlimited. The State can restrict them to protect life in society: the general interest (intérêt général), other people's freedoms, public order (ordre public: safety, peace and public health) and human dignity. The 1789 Declaration says it: freedom consists in doing anything that does not harm others.

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96. Concernant le droit de se marier, quelle proposition est correcte ?

Regarding the right to marry, which statement is correct?

→ Chaque personne choisit librement son conjoint — Each person freely chooses their spouse

In France, everyone is free to choose their spouse, whatever their sex, and to marry or not. The free consent of both people is an essential condition: without it, the marriage is not valid (Article 146 of the Civil Code). So nobody can be forced to marry.

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97. Laquelle de ces citations est inscrite dans la Déclaration des Droits de l'homme et du Citoyen de 1789 ?

Which of these quotations is written in the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen of 1789 (Déclaration des droits de l'homme et du citoyen)?

→ Les hommes naissent et demeurent libres et égaux en droits — Men are born and remain free and equal in rights

This sentence is the beginning of Article 1 of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, adopted on 26 August 1789. It affirms freedom and equality for all. The other quotations come from more recent texts: the 1958 Constitution and the Preamble to the 1946 Constitution.

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98. Le recours à l'avortement est-il autorisé ?

Is abortion (avortement) permitted?

→ Oui, c'est un droit pour toutes les femmes — Yes, it is a right for all women

Abortion is also called voluntary termination of pregnancy (interruption volontaire de grossesse, IVG). It has been permitted since the law of 17 January 1975, known as the Veil law (loi Veil). Any woman can have one, with no age condition and without her partner's consent, within a framework set by law.

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99. Que contient la Constitution ?

What does the Constitution contain?

→ L'organisation de l'État et les droits fondamentaux — The organisation of the State and fundamental rights

The Constitution sets the most important rules of the country. Its articles describe the organisation of the State (how power is shared and exercised), the political system, the main fundamental rights and freedoms and how they are guaranteed. The current Constitution dates from 4 October 1958.

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100. Que garantit la liberté de la presse ?

What does freedom of the press (liberté de la presse) guarantee?

→ Le droit d'informer librement le public — The right to inform the public freely

In France, the press is free. Journalists can inform the public and give their opinion, including about institutions, public figures or religious beliefs. This freedom has limits set by law: for example, it is forbidden to publish defamatory statements or to incite people to commit crimes.

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101. Que prévoit la Charte de l'environnement ?

What does the Environmental Charter (Charte de l'environnement) provide for?

→ Le droit de vivre dans un environnement sain — The right to live in a healthy environment

The Environmental Charter of 2004 was added to the Constitution in 2005. Its Article 1 says that everyone has the right to live in a balanced environment that respects health. Its Article 2 adds a duty: everyone must take part in preserving the environment.

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102. Que signifie la dignité humaine ?

What does human dignity (dignité humaine) mean?

→ Chaque personne a de la valeur et mérite le respect — Every person has value and deserves respect

Human dignity means that every person has value and deserves respect, simply because they are a human being. This respect does not depend on age, sex, health, religion or origin. A human being must never be treated as an object.

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103. Que signifie le droit de manifester ?

What does the right to demonstrate (droit de manifester) mean?

→ Exprimer une opinion à plusieurs, sur la voie publique — Expressing an opinion as a group, in the public space

Demonstrating is a means of collective expression: several people gather to express an opinion. It is a fundamental freedom in France. To avoid public disorder, a demonstration must be declared in advance to the authorities, with its route and the names of the organisers.

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104. Que signifie PMA ?

What does PMA stand for?

→ Procréation médicalement assistée — Medically assisted procreation (procréation médicalement assistée)

PMA stands for procréation médicalement assistée (medically assisted procreation). It is medical help to have a child. Since the bioethics law of 2 August 2021, PMA has been open to all women, whether in a couple or single.

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105. Quel texte est le plus difficile à modifier ?

Which text is the hardest to amend?

→ La Constitution — The Constitution (la Constitution)

The Constitution is the highest rule in French law: all laws must comply with it. It is a text that is very hard to amend. A few amendments have nevertheless been made, for example in 1962, so that the President of the Republic is elected directly by citizens.

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106. Quelle liberté permet à une personne de croire en la religion de son choix ?

Which freedom allows a person to believe in the religion of their choice?

→ La liberté de conscience — Freedom of conscience (liberté de conscience)

Freedom of conscience allows every person to have a religion, to have none or to change religion. It is guaranteed by secularism (laïcité). It leads to the freedom to practise one's religion (freedom of worship, liberté de culte), provided public order is not disturbed.

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107. Qu'est-ce que le droit de grève ?

What is the right to strike (droit de grève)?

→ Le droit de cesser le travail pour exprimer un désaccord — The right to stop work to express a disagreement

The right to strike is the right of an employed person to stop work in order to express a disagreement. It stems from the principle of liberty, like freedom of expression and freedom of worship. A tip: a strike is about work; a demonstration is a gathering to express an opinion.

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108. Qu'est-ce que la Constitution ?

What is the Constitution?

→ Le texte fondateur qui organise l'État — The founding text that organises the State

A Constitution is a founding act: it sets out the organisation of the State, the political system and the main rights and freedoms. In France, the Constitution of 4 October 1958 is the founding text of the Fifth Republic. It is the supreme rule: all laws must comply with it.

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109. Qui peut demander à avorter ?

Who can ask for an abortion?

→ Toute femme enceinte, majeure ou mineure — Any pregnant woman, adult or minor

Voluntary termination of pregnancy (interruption volontaire de grossesse, IVG) is possible for all women, with no age condition. A minor does not need her parents' permission, but she must be accompanied by an adult of her choice. The partner's consent is not required.

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110. Une femme majeure de nationalité française a-t-elle le droit de voter aux élections ?

Does an adult woman of French nationality have the right to vote in elections?

→ Oui, comme tout citoyen français majeur — Yes, like any adult French citizen

In France, suffrage is universal: all adult French citizens who have their civic rights and are registered on the electoral roll can vote, regardless of sex. Women obtained the right to vote in April 1944.

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111. Concernant l'utilisation des réseaux sociaux, quelle proposition est correcte ?

Regarding the use of social media (réseaux sociaux), which statement is correct?

→ Les contenus incitant à la haine y sont interdits — Content inciting hatred is forbidden there

Freedom of expression also exists on social media: it is protected by law. But it has limits. Content that incites hatred or violence is forbidden, as are insults and defamatory statements.

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112. Jeter un mégot par terre est :

Throwing a cigarette butt on the ground is:

→ Interdit et passible d'une amende — Forbidden and punishable by a fine

A cigarette butt is waste. It must be thrown in a bin. In France, it is forbidden to throw your waste anywhere other than in a bin, in the street or in nature: doing so can be punished by a fine (amende).

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113. L'État peut-il limiter les droits et libertés ?

Can the State limit rights and freedoms?

→ Oui, pour protéger l'intérêt général et l'ordre public — Yes, to protect the general interest and public order

Yes. Rights and freedoms are guaranteed, but they have limits in order to protect life in society: the general interest (intérêt général), other people's freedoms, public order and respect for human dignity. For example, during the Covid-19 health emergency in 2020, freedom of movement was limited.

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114. Parmi ces actions, laquelle permet d'adopter une attitude respectueuse de l'environnement ?

Among these actions, which one helps to adopt an environmentally respectful attitude?

→ Prendre les transports en commun ou le vélo — Taking public transport or cycling

Everyone who lives in France has a duty to protect the environment. Simple actions make this possible: choosing public transport and cycling, sorting and reducing your waste, avoiding wasting food and energy, and not dropping waste in shared spaces.

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115. Quelle proposition constitue une obligation ?

Which statement is an obligation?

→ Respecter les lois du pays — Obeying the country's laws

Obeying the law is an obligation for everyone: laws guarantee public order and everyone's safety, and breaking them can lead to penalties. By contrast, joining a trade union or a political party and practising a religion are freedoms: everyone is free to do so or not.

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116. Pour quel motif peut-on limiter la liberté d'expression ?

On what ground can freedom of expression be limited?

→ L'incitation à la haine ou à la violence — Incitement to hatred or violence

Freedom of expression is a fundamental right, but you cannot say just anything. For example, the law punishes incitement to hatred, violence or discrimination, as well as insults aimed at people because of their religion. However, criticising a religion or publishing a caricature remains allowed.

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117. Pourquoi doit-on trier ses déchets ?

Why must we sort our waste?

→ Pour recycler et protéger l'environnement — To recycle and protect the environment

Sorting your waste is a practical way to protect the environment: disposing of waste properly is the first step in recycling. The Environmental Charter of 2004 says that everyone has a duty to take part in preserving and improving the environment.

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118. Que doit-on faire face aux ordres des policiers ou gendarmes ?

What should you do when police officers or gendarmes give orders?

→ Les respecter et y obéir — Respect them and obey

Police officers and gendarmes maintain order and public safety. You must therefore obey their orders. Refusing to obey an order from a police officer or a gendarme is an offence (délit): the person risks a criminal penalty.

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119. Quel est un exemple d’assistance à personne en danger ?

What is an example of assisting a person in danger (assistance à personne en danger)?

→ Appeler les secours pour une personne blessée — Calling the emergency services for an injured person

Assisting a person in danger means coming to their aid: for example, calling the emergency services (15, 18 or 112) when someone is injured. It is an obligation for everyone. A person who does not help can be convicted of “non-assistance à personne en danger” (failure to assist a person in danger).

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120. Quel exemple illustre une limitation de liberté pour protéger l'intérêt général ?

Which example illustrates a limitation of freedom to protect the general interest?

→ La limitation des déplacements pendant le Covid-19 — Limits on travel during Covid-19

In March 2020, the health emergency against Covid-19 limited freedom of movement, freedom of enterprise and freedom of assembly. It is an example of a freedom restricted in the name of the general interest (intérêt général). The other statements do not limit any freedom: they grant rights.

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121. Quelle est l'attitude à avoir lorsque qu'on est témoin de violences ?

What is the right attitude when you witness violence?

→ Agir sans se mettre en danger et appeler la police — Act without putting yourself in danger and call the police

A witness to violence must act, without putting the victim or themselves in danger. They must first protect themselves, then help: call the police or gendarmerie (17), look for help nearby, listen to and support the victim. They can also give evidence or make a report.

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122. Quelle obligation concerne toutes les personnes résidant en France quelle que soit leur nationalité ?

Which obligation applies to all people living in France, whatever their nationality?

→ Payer ses impôts selon ses revenus — Paying taxes according to one's income

Everyone who lives in France, French or foreign, must pay taxes according to their income. Taxes fund public services: police, justice, education, hospitals... By contrast, the Defence and Citizenship Day and jury service concern French citizens only. Voting is reserved for citizens and is not compulsory.

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123. Quelle proposition représente un exemple de crime ?

Which of these is an example of a “crime” (the most serious category of offence)?

→ Un acte de terrorisme — An act of terrorism (terrorisme)

A “crime” is the most serious offence: terrorism, premeditated murder, murder, rape, armed robbery... It is tried by the assize court (cour d'assises) or the criminal court (cour criminelle). Tax fraud is a “délit”, a middle-ranking offence. Night-time noise is a “contravention”, the least serious offence. Speeding is a “contravention” or, from 50 km/h above the limit, a “délit”: it is never a “crime”.

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124. Quelle proposition représente un exemple de délit ?

Which of these is an example of a “délit” (a middle-ranking offence)?

→ Un vol — Theft (vol)

A “délit” is an offence of intermediate seriousness: theft, tax fraud, harassment, sexual assault... It is tried by the criminal court called the tribunal correctionnel. Murder and rape are “crimes”, the most serious offences. Night-time noise is a “contravention”, the least serious offence.

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125. Qui veille au maintien de l'ordre public ?

Who is responsible for maintaining public order (ordre public)?

→ La police et la gendarmerie — The police and the gendarmerie

The police and the gendarmerie are the law enforcement forces (forces de l'ordre). They maintain public order, prevent offences and protect people and property. The police work in towns; the gendarmerie works in the countryside and on the roads, and gendarmes have military status.

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126. S'agissant des déchets, quelle proposition est correcte ?

Regarding waste, which statement is correct?

→ Il faut trier ses déchets et en produire moins — You must sort your waste and produce less of it

Protecting the environment is a duty for everyone who lives in France. The official fact sheet lists simple actions: sorting your waste, reducing plastic waste and not dropping waste in shared spaces. This duty is written in the Environment Charter (Charte de l'environnement) of 2004.

History, geography and culture

127. Quel était le surnom de Louis XIV ?

What was Louis XIV's nickname?

→ Le Roi-Soleil — The Sun King (le Roi-Soleil)

Louis XIV was nicknamed the Sun King (le Roi-Soleil). He was an important king of the Ancien Régime, the period before the Revolution of 1789. He embodies absolute monarchy: the king holds all the powers, and his power is considered to come from God.

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128. Quel roi de France a été exécuté pendant la Révolution française ?

Which king of France was executed during the French Revolution?

→ Louis XVI — Louis XVI

Louis XVI was king of France at the start of the French Revolution. He was overthrown on 10 August 1792, and the First Republic was proclaimed on 22 September 1792. He was then put on trial and guillotined in Paris on 21 January 1793.

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129. En quelle année Napoléon Ier est-il devenu empereur ?

In what year did Napoleon I become emperor?

→ En 1804 — In 1804

Napoléon Bonaparte took power in 1799: this was the Consulate (le Consulat). On 18 May 1804, he became emperor under the name Napoléon Ier (Napoleon I). This was the start of the First Empire, which lasted until 1815. The Civil Code (Code civil) also dates from 1804.

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130. Lequel de ces personnages a un lien avec la République française ?

Which of these figures is linked to the French Republic?

→ Charles de Gaulle — Charles de Gaulle

Charles de Gaulle is the founder and first President of the Fifth Republic, France's current political system, created in 1958. The three other figures were kings: they ruled long before the Republic, which was first proclaimed in 1792.

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131. De quand date l'appel à la résistance du général de Gaulle ?

What is the date of General de Gaulle's call to resistance?

→ Du 18 juin 1940 — 18 June 1940

On 18 June 1940, from London, General de Gaulle made an appeal on the radio. France had just been defeated by Germany. He asked the French to keep fighting and to refuse to give up. This appeal is a key landmark of the Resistance (la Résistance).

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132. Pourquoi la Shoah est-elle étudiée à l'école ?

Why is the Shoah studied at school?

→ Pour comprendre les conséquences de la haine et du racisme — To understand the consequences of hatred and racism

The Shoah (the Holocaust) is the genocide of the Jews organised by Nazi Germany during the Second World War: about 6 million Jews were murdered. It is studied at school to understand the consequences of hatred, racism and antisemitism, and to recall the importance of the duty of remembrance (devoir de mémoire).

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133. Quel pays a été colonisé par la France ?

Which country was colonised by France?

→ L'Algérie — Algeria

Algeria was conquered by the French army in 1830. It became independent after the Algerian War (1954-1962). France also colonised other territories, for example in Africa and in South-East Asia (Indochina).

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134. Depuis quand les Français élisent-ils le président de la République au suffrage universel direct ?

Since when have the French elected the President of the Republic by direct universal suffrage?

→ Depuis 1962 — Since 1962

In 1962, a referendum amended the Constitution of the Fifth Republic. Before that, the President was elected by indirect suffrage, by an electoral college (grands électeurs). Since 1962, the President has been elected by direct universal suffrage (suffrage universel direct): citizens themselves vote to choose the President.

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135. Quelle est la première étape de la construction européenne en 1951 ?

What was the first step in European integration (construction européenne) in 1951?

→ La création de la CECA (charbon et acier) — The creation of the ECSC (CECA: coal and steel)

In 1951, six countries created the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC, in French CECA): France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. They shared their coal and steel. The next steps were the Treaty of Rome (1957) and the Maastricht Treaty (1992).

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136. Durant le mandat de quel président la peine de mort a-t-elle été abolie ?

During which President's term was the death penalty abolished?

→ François Mitterrand — François Mitterrand

The death penalty (peine de mort) was abolished in 1981, during the term of François Mitterrand, President from 1981 to 1995. The law of 9 October 1981 was championed by his Minister of Justice, Robert Badinter. Since 2007, this abolition has been written into the Constitution.

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137. Quel régime politique a été mis en place pendant la Révolution française en 1792 ?

Which political system was established during the French Revolution in 1792?

→ La Ire République — The First Republic (Ire République)

The First Republic was proclaimed on 22 September 1792, after King Louis XVI was overthrown on 10 August 1792. The citizen is no longer the subject of a king: power comes from the people. It lasted until 1804, when Napoleon became emperor.

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138. Qui était une figure de la Résistance française pendant la Seconde Guerre mondiale ?

Who was a figure of the French Resistance during the Second World War?

→ Jean Moulin — Jean Moulin

Jean Moulin was a major figure of the French Resistance. In 1943, he united the resistance movements by creating the National Council of the Resistance (Conseil national de la Résistance, CNR). Philippe Pétain, by contrast, led the Vichy regime, which collaborated with Nazi Germany.

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139. En 1944, qu'est-ce qui a changé pour les femmes ?

In 1944, what changed for women?

→ Elles ont obtenu le droit de vote — They obtained the right to vote

Women were granted the right to vote (droit de vote) on 21 April 1944. Before that date, only men could vote. Later, the Constitution of the Fourth Republic (1946) guaranteed equality between women and men for the first time.

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140. Quelle organisation internationale a été créée en 1945 après la Seconde Guerre mondiale ?

Which international organisation was created in 1945 after the Second World War?

→ L'Organisation des Nations unies (ONU) — The United Nations (ONU)

The United Nations (in French: Organisation des Nations unies, ONU) was created in 1945, at the end of the Second World War. Its aim is to maintain peace. France is one of the five permanent members of its Security Council, alongside the United States, China, Russia and the United Kingdom.

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141. Quelle peine a été supprimée en 1981 ?

Which penalty was abolished in 1981?

→ La peine de mort — The death penalty

The death penalty (peine de mort) was completely abolished in France by the law of 9 October 1981. Robert Badinter, Minister of Justice under President François Mitterrand, championed this law. Since 2007, the Constitution has stated: "No one may be sentenced to death."

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142. En quelle année l'euro est-elle devenue la monnaie utilisée en France ?

In what year did the euro become the currency used in France?

→ En 2002 — In 2002

In 1992, the Maastricht Treaty created the European Union and provided for a single currency. Since 1 January 2002, euro coins and banknotes have been in circulation in France. Remember: 1992 for the treaty, 2002 for the euro.

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143. En quelle année a commencé la Première Guerre mondiale ?

In what year did the First World War begin?

→ En 1914 — In 1914

The First World War began in 1914. On 28 June 1914, the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo triggered the conflict, and France entered the war in August 1914. The war ended with the armistice of 11 November 1918.

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144. Où a eu lieu le débarquement en 1944 ?

Where did the 1944 landing take place?

→ En Normandie — In Normandy (Normandie)

On 6 June 1944, the Allies landed in Normandy. This landing marked the beginning of the Liberation of France and Europe. On 15 August 1944, the Allies also landed in Provence. Paris was liberated in August 1944.

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145. Quel continent a été le plus concerné par la décolonisation française après la Seconde Guerre mondiale ?

Which continent was most affected by French decolonisation after the Second World War?

→ L'Afrique — Africa

After the Second World War, many French colonies became independent. Most of them were in Africa: the colonies of sub-Saharan Africa and Madagascar in 1960, then Algeria after the war of 1954-1962. In Asia, the Indochina War (1946-1954) put an end to French Indochina.

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146. Que fête-t-on le 8 mai ?

What is celebrated on 8 May?

→ La victoire de 1945 — The victory of 1945

8 May is a public holiday. It commemorates the victory of 8 May 1945: on that day Germany surrendered and the Second World War ended in Europe. Ceremonies take place all over France. Do not confuse it with 11 November, which marks the armistice of 1918.

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147. Quelle mer ou océan borde la France métropolitaine ?

Which sea or ocean borders metropolitan France?

→ La mer Méditerranée — The Mediterranean Sea (la mer Méditerranée)

Metropolitan France is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea to the south. It is also bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the west, and by the English Channel (la Manche) and the North Sea to the north-west. Its maritime borders are 5,500 km long.

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148. Quel pays a une frontière terrestre avec la France métropolitaine ?

Which country shares a land border with metropolitan France?

→ La Belgique — Belgium

In Europe, France shares a land border with 8 countries: Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Andorra and Monaco. Portugal, Austria and Denmark are not on this list: they do not touch France.

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149. Quelle ville française est un port maritime ?

Which French city is a seaport?

→ Marseille — Marseille

Marseille is a major seaport on the Mediterranean Sea. Dunkerque, Le Havre, Nantes Saint-Nazaire, La Rochelle and Bordeaux are also major French ports. These ports are very important for trade: more than 90% of international trade in goods travels by ship.

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150. Quelle mer se situe entre la France et l'Angleterre ?

Which sea lies between France and England?

→ La Manche — The English Channel (la Manche)

The English Channel (la Manche) is the sea that borders north-western France, for example Normandy and Hauts-de-France. On the other side is the United Kingdom, which includes England. The Channel Tunnel (tunnel sous la Manche) links France to the United Kingdom.

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151. Qu'est ce que la France d'outre-mer ?

What is overseas France (la France d'outre-mer)?

→ Les territoires français situés hors d'Europe — French territories located outside Europe

French territory includes mainland France (la France hexagonale), in Europe, and overseas territories located in different parts of the world. Examples: Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guiana (Guyane), La Réunion and Mayotte (the DROM), as well as French Polynesia and New Caledonia. They are French territories.

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152. Quelle chaîne de montagnes est située entre la France et l'Espagne ?

Which mountain range lies between France and Spain?

→ Les Pyrénées — The Pyrenees (les Pyrénées)

The Pyrenees form a mountain barrier in the south of France, between France and Spain. They are a natural border. The Alps mark the border with Italy. The Jura and the Vosges are in the east, towards Switzerland and Germany.

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153. Quelle île française se trouve dans l'océan Indien ?

Which French island is in the Indian Ocean?

→ La Réunion — Réunion (La Réunion)

La Réunion is a volcanic island in the Indian Ocean, east of Madagascar. It is both an overseas department and an overseas region. Mayotte is also in the Indian Ocean. Martinique and Guadeloupe are in the Caribbean, and Corsica is in the Mediterranean Sea.

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154. Quelle est la population approximative de la France en 2025 ?

What is the approximate population of France in 2025?

→ Environ 68 millions d'habitants — About 68 million inhabitants

The official exam syllabus gives about 68 million inhabitants in 2025. More precisely, 68.6 million people live in France on 1 January 2025: 66.4 million in mainland France (France hexagonale) and 2.3 million in the overseas departments and regions. France is the second most populated country in the European Union, after Germany.

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155. Quel fleuve traverse Paris ?

Which river flows through Paris?

→ La Seine — The Seine (la Seine)

The Seine flows through Paris. This 776-kilometre river rises in Burgundy (Bourgogne) and flows into the English Channel. It also passes through Troyes, Rouen and Le Havre. The Loire flows through Orléans and Nantes, the Rhône through Lyon, and the Garonne through Toulouse and Bordeaux.

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156. Lequel de ces pays partage des frontières terrestres avec la France ?

Which of these countries shares land borders with France?

→ L'Italie — Italy

In Europe, France has land borders with 8 countries: Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Andorra and Monaco. The Alps mark the border between France and Italy. Thanks to French Guiana (la Guyane), France also has a border with Brazil and Suriname.

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157. Où se trouvent les principales activités économiques en France ?

Where are the main economic activities located in France?

→ Dans les métropoles — In the big cities (métropoles)

In France, the population, the main economic activities, jobs, wealth and services are concentrated in the métropoles, that is, the big cities. This is called metropolisation (métropolisation). The largest métropoles are those of Paris, Aix-Marseille, Lyon and Lille.

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158. Parmi ces pays, lequel attire le plus de visiteurs chaque année ?

Among these countries, which one attracts the most visitors each year?

→ La France — France

France is the world's leading tourist destination. It welcomed more than 100 million travellers in 2024. Visitors come for its cultural heritage, its varied landscapes and its major events, such as the Cannes Film Festival or the Tour de France.

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159. Où habite la majorité des Français ?

Where do the majority of French people live?

→ En ville — In towns and cities

Most French people live in towns and cities: about 81% of the population. The most populated areas are the big urban areas such as Paris, Lyon, Marseille, Toulouse, Lille and Bordeaux. The mountains, such as the Massif Central, the Alps and the Pyrenees, and several rural areas have few inhabitants.

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160. Quelle région est la plus peuplée ?

Which region is the most populated?

→ L'Île-de-France — Île-de-France

Île-de-France is the most populated region of France, with about 12.4 million inhabitants. It is located around Paris and is densely populated. Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes is the second most populated region, with about 8.1 million inhabitants.

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161. Quelle ville française fait partie des 10 plus grandes métropoles du pays ?

Which French city is one of the country's 10 largest métropoles (metropolitan areas)?

→ Toulouse — Toulouse

Toulouse Métropole has 842,000 inhabitants and is one of the 10 largest French métropoles. The others are Greater Paris, Aix-Marseille-Provence, Greater Lyon, Lille, Bordeaux, Nantes, Nice, Montpellier and Strasbourg. Clermont-Ferrand, Orléans and Limoges are not on this list.

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162. Quand peut-on visiter gratuitement des lieux culturels en France ?

When can you visit cultural sites in France for free?

→ Lors des Journées européennes du patrimoine — During the European Heritage Days (Journées européennes du patrimoine)

Every year in September, the European Heritage Days (Journées européennes du patrimoine) allow people to visit, very often for free, cultural sites that are usually closed to the public. Most national museums are also free on the first Sunday of each month. Many places also offer free entry to young people, students or jobseekers.

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163. Combien de personnes parlent français dans le monde ?

How many people speak French in the world?

→ Plus de 300 millions — More than 300 million

More than 300 million people speak French in the world, on all 5 continents. The official exam syllabus gives the figure of 321 million French speakers. A more recent figure, used in the official fact sheet, is above 396 million. French is the official language of more than 30 countries.

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164. Qui était Marguerite Yourcenar ?

Who was Marguerite Yourcenar?

→ Une écrivaine française — A French writer

Marguerite Yourcenar (1903-1987) was a 20th-century writer, known for her historical novels such as 'Mémoires d'Hadrien'. In 1980 she became the first woman elected to the Académie française. She is a symbol of the place of women in culture.

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165. Quel peintre est français ?

Which painter is French?

→ Claude Monet — Claude Monet

Claude Monet (1840-1926) was a French painter. The 'Impressionist' movement is named after his painting 'Impression, soleil levant'. He is also known for 'Les Nymphéas' (the Water Lilies). Eugène Delacroix, Paul Cézanne and Auguste Renoir are other great French painters.

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166. Quel musée est situé à Paris ?

Which museum is located in Paris?

→ Le musée du Louvre — The Louvre Museum (musée du Louvre)

The Louvre is one of the most famous museums in Paris and one of the largest art museums in the world. It is housed in a former royal palace. You can see the 'Mona Lisa' (La Joconde), painted by Leonardo da Vinci, there. The Musée d'Orsay is also in Paris, on the banks of the Seine.

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167. Qui était Auguste Rodin ?

Who was Auguste Rodin?

→ Un sculpteur français — A French sculptor

Auguste Rodin (1840-1917) was a great French sculptor. His works show emotions and the movements of the body. The best known are 'Le Penseur' (The Thinker), 'Le Baiser' (The Kiss) and 'La Porte de l'Enfer' (The Gates of Hell). In Paris, the Musée Rodin is dedicated to him.

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168. Quelle cathédrale célèbre a été en partie détruite par un incendie en 2019 ?

Which famous cathedral was partly destroyed by a fire in 2019?

→ Notre-Dame de Paris — Notre-Dame de Paris

Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral was hit by a major fire in 2019. To rebuild it, more than 840 million euros were raised through private donations. This shows how attached the French are to this monument.

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169. Qui était une écrivaine française célèbre ?

Who was a famous French woman writer?

→ Simone de Beauvoir — Simone de Beauvoir

Simone de Beauvoir (1908-1986) was a French writer and a major figure of feminism. She wrote 'Le Deuxième Sexe' (The Second Sex), which contains the famous sentence: 'One is not born a woman, one becomes one.' George Sand and Marguerite Yourcenar are also famous French women writers.

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170. Qui était un célèbre musicien français ?

Who was a famous French musician?

→ Claude Debussy — Claude Debussy

Claude Debussy (1862-1918) was a French composer. He is considered the father of modern music. His best-known pieces are 'Clair de Lune' and 'La Mer'. Eugène Delacroix was a painter, Auguste Rodin a sculptor and Victor Hugo a writer.

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171. Qui était Auguste Renoir ?

Who was Auguste Renoir?

→ Un peintre français — A French painter

Auguste Renoir (1841-1919) was a French Impressionist painter. He painted joyful scenes of everyday life, portraits and celebrations, often outdoors. His best-known paintings are 'Le Déjeuner des canotiers' and 'Bal du moulin de la Galette'.

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172. Quelle fête est française ?

Which celebration is French?

→ Le 14 Juillet — 14 July (le 14 Juillet)

14 July is the French national day (fête nationale). This public holiday celebrates the Republic. There are fireworks, public dances and a military parade. The Fête de la Musique (music festival), launched by the Ministry of Culture in 1982, is another celebration born in France.

Living in French society

173. Concernant l'accès aux soins, quelle proposition est correcte ?

Regarding access to healthcare, which statement is correct?

→ Les urgences de l'hôpital accueillent toute personne en situation d'urgence — Hospital emergency departments take in anyone in an emergency situation

Hospital emergency departments take in and treat anyone in an emergency situation. They are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for the most serious emergencies. The other statements are false: calling the SAMU is free, the carte Vitale is not a payment card, and patients freely choose their doctor.

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174. Quel mariage est reconnu par l'État ?

Which marriage is recognised by the State?

→ Le mariage civil — Civil marriage (mariage civil)

Civil marriage is the only marriage recognised in France. It is celebrated in the municipality (commune) where at least one of the two future spouses, or one of their parents, lives. On the day of the ceremony, the couple receives a marriage certificate and a family record book (livret de famille).

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175. Auprès de quelle institution les parents peuvent-ils inscrire leur enfant à l'école publique ?

With which institution can parents enrol their child in a state school (école publique)?

→ La mairie — The town hall (mairie)

To enrol a child in a state school, parents simply contact the town hall (mairie), or the school near their home. Parents are free to choose a state school or a private school. Remember: state school is free and secular (laïque).

---

176. En cas de divorce, qui exerce l'autorité parentale ?

In the event of divorce, who exercises parental authority (autorité parentale)?

→ Les deux parents — Both parents

Both parents have parental authority: they have the same rights and the same duties towards their child under 18. Their situation makes no difference: married, in a civil partnership (PACS), living together or separated. After a divorce, both parents therefore continue to exercise parental authority, unless a judge decides otherwise.

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177. Quelle aide permet aux personnes qui ont des difficultés financières d'avoir un avocat ?

Which aid allows people with financial difficulties to have a lawyer?

→ L'aide juridictionnelle — Legal aid (aide juridictionnelle)

Legal aid (aide juridictionnelle) is financial help from the State. It is for people with limited financial means who need to be assisted by a lawyer during a trial before a French court. It makes access to justice easier for everyone.

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178. Où faut-il déclarer la naissance d'un enfant ?

Where must the birth of a child be registered?

→ À la mairie du lieu de naissance — At the town hall (mairie) of the place of birth

Registering a birth is compulsory. It must be done at the town hall (mairie) of the place of birth, within 5 days of the birth. It allows the child's birth certificate (acte de naissance) to be drawn up, which is needed to obtain social rights and identity documents and to enrol the child in school.

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179. Quelle est l'une des conditions pour passer l'examen du permis de conduire ?

What is one of the conditions for taking the driving licence test?

→ Avoir au moins 17 ans — Being at least 17 years old

To take the driving licence test (permis de conduire), you must be at least 17 years old and live in France. The candidate follows theory training (the highway code, code de la route) and practical training of at least 20 hours of driving. The test has two parts: the highway code and driving.

---

180. Un bail locatif est valide s'il est :

A rental lease (bail) is valid if it is:

→ signé par le locataire et le propriétaire — signed by the tenant and the landlord

The lease (bail) is a written contract between the lessor (most often the landlord) and the tenant. It is the only document that authorises someone to live in a dwelling. It is valid only if it is signed by both: the tenant and the landlord.

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181. Où peut-on déposer un lave-vaisselle cassé ?

Where can you drop off a broken dishwasher?

→ À la déchèterie — At the waste collection centre (déchèterie)

Waste collection centres (déchèteries) exist in every area. Everyone can drop off household appliances there, such as a dishwasher, as well as bulky items and garden waste. Dumping waste in the street or in the countryside is forbidden by law and can be punished with a fine.

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182. Quel numéro d'urgence permet d'appeler la police ?

Which emergency number is used to call the police?

→ Le 17 — 17

17 is the number for the police: you call it to report an offence, for example violence, an assault, a theft or a burglary. 15 is the number for the SAMU (emergency medical service) and 18 is for the fire brigade (pompiers). These calls are free, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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183. À qui est accessible la contraception ?

Who has access to contraception?

→ À toute personne, majeure ou mineure — Everyone, adults and minors alike

Contraception covers all the methods used to avoid a pregnancy. It is part of the right to control one's own body, which is guaranteed to people both over and under 18. For minors, contraception consultations and prescriptions can be anonymous and free of charge.

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184. Qu'est-ce que le principe de confidentialité dans le domaine de la santé ?

What is the principle of confidentiality in the field of health?

→ Le médecin doit garder secrètes les informations médicales du patient — The doctor must keep the patient's medical information secret

The principle of confidentiality requires the doctor to keep a patient's medical information secret. This is medical confidentiality (secret médical): it protects the patient's state of health, identity and everything seen or heard during the consultation. Breaching medical confidentiality is punished by law.

---

185. L'inscription à l'Assurance maladie est :

Registration with the national health insurance (Assurance maladie) is:

→ obligatoire — compulsory

Registration with the national health insurance (Assurance maladie) is compulsory. Once it is validated, the person receives a unique, personal 15-digit social security number and a health insurance card (carte Vitale). The carte Vitale proves that you have health insurance rights; you show it to the health professional.

---

186. Qui peut demander un congé parental d'éducation ?

Who can request parental leave (congé parental d'éducation)?

→ Le père ou la mère, s'ils sont salariés — The father or the mother, if they are employees

After the birth or adoption of a child, any employee, woman or man, can take parental leave (congé parental d'éducation) if they have worked for at least one year in their company. This leave allows the parent to stop or reduce their professional activity in order to raise their child. Remember: this right is the same for the father and for the mother.

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187. Quelles sont les affaires traitées par le conseil de prud'hommes ?

Which cases are dealt with by the employment tribunal (conseil de prud'hommes)?

→ Les conflits entre un salarié et son employeur — Disputes between an employee and their employer

The employment tribunal (conseil de prud'hommes) is a court. It decides when an employee and their employer disagree about the employment contract, for example over a dismissal or pay. It can order the employer to pay compensation to the employee or to take them back into the company.

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188. Travailler sans être déclaré est :

Working without being declared is:

→ interdit par la loi — forbidden by law

Undeclared work (travail non déclaré), also called concealed work (travail dissimulé), is forbidden by law. The employer risks a prison sentence and a fine. An undeclared employee does not contribute to unemployment insurance or to a pension, and is not entitled to social security in case of illness or an accident at work.

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189. Lorsqu'un employeur veut qu'un salarié travaille plus longtemps que la durée prévue dans le contrat de travail :

When an employer wants an employee to work longer than the hours set out in the employment contract:

→ il doit payer ces heures en plus ou permettre de les rattraper — the employer must pay for these extra hours or allow them to be taken back as time off

The reference working time for a full-time job is 35 hours per week. Beyond that, the hours are called overtime (heures supplémentaires). The employer must pay the employee for this overtime or allow them to take it back as time off. There is also a maximum working time that must not be exceeded.

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190. Quelle est la mission de France Travail ?

What is the mission of France Travail?

→ Accompagner les personnes qui cherchent un emploi — Supporting people who are looking for a job

France Travail is a public body that supports people who are looking for a job. Registering allows you to be supported in finding work or taking a training course, with solutions adapted to your situation and your needs.

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191. Dans une entreprise, le droit syndical permet :

In a company, trade union rights (droit syndical) allow:

→ de créer un syndicat ou d'y adhérer — creating a trade union or joining one

In France, every employee has the right to unionise: they can create a trade union (syndicat), join one or take part in one. A trade union is an organisation that defends workers' rights, for example pay, working conditions and safety. No one can force an employee to join a union, or punish them for being a member.

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192. Dans une entreprise, le droit de grève autorise :

In a company, the right to strike (droit de grève) authorises:

→ les salariés à cesser le travail pour exprimer un désaccord — employees to stop work in order to express a disagreement

The right to strike (droit de grève) is the right of an employed person to stop work in order to express a disagreement. It is one of the fundamental rights that stem from the principle of liberty, like freedom of expression and freedom of worship or religion.

---

193. Quelles sont les conditions pour toucher les allocations chômage ?

What are the conditions for receiving unemployment benefits?

→ Avoir assez travaillé et avoir perdu son emploi sans le vouloir — Having worked long enough and having lost one's job involuntarily

To receive unemployment benefit (ARE), you must have lost your job involuntarily, for example after a dismissal or the end of a fixed-term contract (CDD). You must also have worked long enough: in general at least 6 months during the last 24 months, or 5 months if you have never received unemployment benefit. Finally, you must register with France Travail, look for a job and live in France.

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194. Qu'est-ce que l'école maternelle ?

What is nursery school (école maternelle)?

→ L'école des enfants de 3 à 6 ans — The school for children aged 3 to 6

Nursery school (école maternelle) takes children aged 3 to 6. It has three levels: petite section, moyenne section and grande section. Children learn to live together, to draw, to write and to count there. They also learn French if they do not speak it yet.

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195. Comment s'appelle le diplôme passé par les élèves à la fin du collège ?

What is the name of the diploma pupils take at the end of middle school (collège)?

→ Le diplôme national du brevet (DNB) — The diplôme national du brevet (DNB)

Middle school (collège) takes pupils aged 11 to 15, from the 6e class to the 3e class. At the end of collège, the pupil takes a diploma called the brevet des collèges, or diplôme national du brevet (DNB). The baccalauréat is taken later, at the end of high school (lycée).

---

196. Les parents d'élève ont le droit de :

Pupils' parents have the right to:

→ rejoindre une association de parents d'élèves — join a parents' association

Parents can take part in school life. They can join the parents' association (association de parents d'élèves), which defends the children's interests. They can also stand in the elections for parent representatives, who take part in important decisions about how the school is organised.

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197. Qui peut manger à la cantine scolaire ?

Who can eat in the school canteen (cantine scolaire)?

→ Tous les élèves qui le souhaitent — All pupils who wish to

A canteen is available to all children who wish to use it, in all schools. This covers nursery school, primary school, middle school (collège) and high school (lycée). Remember: the canteen is offered to all pupils, and families choose whether or not to use it.

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198. À quel âge commence l'instruction obligatoire des enfants ?

At what age does compulsory education for children begin?

→ À 3 ans — At age 3

In France, all children aged 3 to 16, French or foreign, must go to school: it is an obligation. Education therefore starts at age 3, with nursery school (école maternelle). After 16, school is no longer compulsory, but young people can continue their studies.

---

199. Quel est l'âge de la majorité ?

What is the age of majority?

→ 18 ans — 18 years old

In France, you become an adult, that is to say you reach the age of majority (majeur), at 18. Parental authority ends when the child turns 18. A young person can become an adult before 18 only if they are emancipated (émancipé), for example in the event of a conflict with their parents.

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200. À l'école, il est interdit aux parents de :

At school, parents are forbidden to:

→ refuser un cours du programme pour un motif religieux — refuse a lesson in the curriculum for religious reasons

At school, nobody can refuse a school rule or a lesson in the curriculum because of their religion. This rule of secularism (laïcité) is written in the charter of secularism at school (charte de la laïcité à l'école), which is also addressed to parents. However, parents can meet the teachers and take part in school life.

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201. Quel motif d'absence est accepté par l'école ?

Which reason for absence is accepted by the school?

→ La maladie de l'enfant — The child's illness

The school accepts absences for health reasons, such as the child's illness. It also accepts important family events, for example a wedding or a funeral. In every case, parents must inform the school and justify the absence.

---

202. Des parents ne respectent pas l'obligation d'instruction pour leurs enfants. Quelle sanction maximale risquent-ils ?

Parents do not respect the obligation to educate their children (obligation d'instruction). What is the maximum penalty they risk?

→ Une amende et une peine de prison — A fine and a prison sentence

Education is compulsory for all children from 3 to 16 years old. Making sure their child is educated is a duty of parents. Parents who do not respect this obligation can receive a fine and also a prison sentence.

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203. Quand ont lieu les vacances scolaires de Noël ?

When do the Christmas school holidays (vacances de Noël) take place?

→ Fin décembre et début janvier — Late December and early January

The Christmas holidays last about two weeks, at the end of December and the beginning of January. In mainland France, for the 2026-2027 school year, they start on Saturday 19 December 2026 after lessons, and lessons start again on Monday 4 January 2027. The dates change a little every year.

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204. À l'école, un enfant en situation de handicap :

At school, a child with a disability:

→ peut bénéficier d'un emploi du temps aménagé — can have an adapted timetable

A child with a disability has the right to live with others and like others. It is one of the rights of the child. At school, the child can have an adapted timetable (emploi du temps aménagé).

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