French civic exam for the multi-year residence permit

Questions and answers · 187 questions

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Principles and values of the Republic

1. À quoi correspond la date du 14 juillet ?

What does the date of 14 July correspond to?

→ À la fête nationale — The national day (fête nationale)

14 July has been France's national day since 1880. The date recalls two events: the storming of the Bastille on 14 July 1789, which marks the start of the French Revolution, and the Fête de la Fédération on 14 July 1790.

2. Quel est l'un des symboles de la République française ?

What is one of the symbols of the French Republic?

→ Le drapeau tricolore — The tricolour flag (drapeau tricolore)

The tricolour flag is an official symbol of the French Republic. It has three vertical bands: blue, white and red. You can see it in front of public buildings such as town halls, schools and prefectures.

3. Le principe d'égalité signifie que :

The principle of equality (égalité) means that:

→ la loi est la même pour tous — the law is the same for everyone

Equality is a fundamental principle of the Republic, written in the 1958 Constitution. It means first of all equality before the law: the law is the same for all people. But people in different situations can be treated differently, for example with reduced prices for students.

4. "Liberté, égalité, fraternité", c'est :

"Liberté, égalité, fraternité" (Liberty, equality, fraternity) is:

→ la devise de la République — the motto (devise) of the Republic

"Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité" is the motto of the French Republic. It appeared during the French Revolution, in 1789, and has been official since 1848. It expresses the values the French people are attached to.

5. 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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6. Certains métiers peuvent-ils être réservés aux hommes ?

Can some jobs be reserved for men?

→ Non, les femmes et les hommes ont les mêmes droits — No, women and men have the same rights

In France, the law guarantees women rights equal to those of men in all areas, including work. Refusing someone access to a job because of their sex is sexism, a form of discrimination that the State fights.

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7. De quand date la Constitution de la Ve République ?

When does the Constitution of the Fifth Republic (Ve République) date from?

→ 1958 — 1958

The Constitution of the Fifth Republic dates from 4 October 1958. It was drafted by General de Gaulle's government and approved by referendum on 28 September 1958. It is the Constitution in force in France today.

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8. 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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9. Lequel de ces symboles représente officiellement la République française ?

Which of these symbols officially represents the French Republic?

→ Marianne — Marianne

Marianne is an official symbol of the French Republic, like the national anthem and the national day. The rooster is also a very well-known symbol of France, but it is not official. To remember: the bust of Marianne is in every town hall.

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10. Où peut-on voir la devise de la République ?

Where can you see the motto (devise) of the Republic?

→ Sur les bâtiments publics, comme les mairies — On public buildings, such as town halls

The motto "Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité" is written on public buildings: town halls (mairies), schools, courts. It can also be read on some coins and stamps, on official documents such as the identity card, and in the Constitution.

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11. 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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12. Qu'est-ce que l'égalité ?

What is equality (égalité)?

→ Les mêmes droits pour tous devant la loi — The same rights for everyone before the law

Equality is a value of the French Republic. The law is the same for all people. All citizens have the same civic rights, such as voting, and social rights are open to everyone: education, health, housing, employment.

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13. Que signifie la liberté ?

What does liberty (liberté) mean?

→ Vivre comme on le souhaite, en respectant la liberté des autres — Living as you wish, while respecting the freedom of others

In France, every 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 Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen of 1789.

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14. Que signifie le mot "fraternité" dans la devise française ?

What does the word "fraternité" (fraternity) mean in the French motto?

→ La solidarité entre les citoyens — Solidarity between citizens

In the motto, fraternity means solidarity between citizens. It is what allows people to live together and form a society. Examples: social security (Sécurité sociale), pensions paid for by people who work, or the help given by associations.

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15. Quel animal est un symbole de la France ?

Which animal is a symbol of France?

→ Le coq — The rooster (le coq)

The rooster is a symbol of France, even though it is not an official symbol of the Republic. The Romans called the Gauls "Gallus", a Latin word meaning both "Gaul" and "rooster". You can see it on the shirts of the national sports teams.

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16. Quel est l'un des rôles des associations ?

What is one of the roles of associations?

→ Aider des personnes en difficulté — Helping people in difficulty

In associations, people act together to help people in difficulty or to protect the environment. Examples: food aid, tutoring, help for refugees. In France, everyone is free to get involved thanks to freedom of association, set out in a law of 1901.

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17. Quel est le nom de l'hymne national ?

What is the name of the national anthem?

→ La Marseillaise — La Marseillaise

The national anthem of France is called La Marseillaise. This song was composed in 1792, during the French Revolution. It became the national anthem in 1879. It is played at official ceremonies and before matches in which a French team takes part.

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18. Quel symbole de la République française est tricolore ?

Which symbol of the French Republic is tricolour (tricolore)?

→ Le drapeau — The flag

"Tricolore" means "with three colours". The French flag has three vertical bands: blue, white and red. Blue and red were the colours of the city of Paris, and white was the colour of the king.

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19. Quelle est la date de la fête nationale française ?

What is the date of the French national day (fête nationale)?

→ Le 14 juillet — 14 July

The French national day has been held on 14 July since 1880. On that day, a military parade takes place in Paris, on the Champs-Élysées, in the presence of the President of the Republic. There are also fireworks and dances all over the country.

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20. Quelle est la devise de la République française ?

What is the motto (devise) of the French Republic?

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

The motto of the French Republic is "Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité". It was officially adopted in 1848, under the Second Republic, and it is written in the 1958 Constitution. You can read it on town halls, schools and courts.

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21. Quelle est la langue officielle de la République française ?

What is the official language of the French Republic?

→ Le français — French

French is the only official language in France. Since 1992, the Constitution has stated: "la langue de la République est le français" (the language of the Republic is French). Regional languages, such as Breton or Corsican, are part of the heritage, but they are not official.

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22. 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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23. Quelle liberté permet à chacun d'exprimer ses idées ?

Which freedom allows everyone to express their ideas?

→ La liberté d'expression — Freedom of expression (liberté d'expression)

Freedom of expression is the freedom to think and to say what you think. It is one of the freedoms that come from the principle of liberty, like freedom of religion. In France, everyone can speak, write and publish freely, within the law.

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24. Quelle proposition est correcte ? La liberté d'expression :

Which statement is correct? Freedom of expression (liberté d'expression):

→ a des limites fixées par la loi — has limits set by law

Freedom of expression is a fundamental right: everyone can speak, write and publish freely. But you cannot say absolutely anything. Some statements are punished by law, for example insults against people because of their religion, or incitement to hatred.

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25. Quelles sont les couleurs du drapeau français ?

What are the colours of the French flag?

→ Bleu, blanc, rouge — Blue, white, red

The French flag has three vertical bands: blue, white and red. Blue and red were the colours of the city of Paris, and white was the colour of the king. This flag became the official flag of France in 1794.

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26. 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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27. Qu'est ce qui est traditionnellement organisé sur les Champs Élysées le 14 juillet pour célébrer la fête nationale ?

What is traditionally organised on the Champs-Élysées on 14 July to celebrate the national day?

→ Un défilé militaire — A military parade (défilé militaire)

Every 14 July, a military parade takes place in Paris, on the Champs-Élysées, in the presence of the President of the Republic. It is a moment that recalls the foundations of the Republic. Across the country, there are also fireworks, concerts and dances.

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28. Qui est Marianne ?

Who is Marianne?

→ Un symbole de la République — A symbol of the Republic

Marianne is a female figure who represents the French Republic. She appeared during the French Revolution and wears the Phrygian cap, a sign of liberty. Her bust is in every town hall, and she can be seen on stamps and official documents.

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29. Une personne peut-elle changer librement de religion ?

Can a person freely change religion?

→ Oui, chacun est libre de changer de religion — Yes, everyone is free to change religion

In France, secularism (laïcité) guarantees freedom of conscience for everyone. Each person is free to have a religion or not, to change religion or to no longer have one. No one can be forced to follow the rules of a religion.

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30. "La France est une République indivisible, ..., démocratique et sociale". Complétez cette phrase extraite de l'article 1er de la Constitution :

"La France est une République indivisible, ..., démocratique et sociale" (France is an indivisible, ..., democratic and social Republic). Complete this sentence taken from Article 1 of the Constitution:

→ laïque — laïque (secular)

Article 1 of the 1958 Constitution says: "La France est une République indivisible, laïque, démocratique et sociale". Secularism (laïcité) is therefore a constitutional principle. It means that the State is separate from religions and neutral towards them.

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31. 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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32. Que permet le principe de laïcité ?

What does the principle of secularism (laïcité) allow?

→ À chacun de croire ou de ne pas croire — Everyone to believe or not to believe

Secularism (laïcité) guarantees freedom of conscience: each person is free to have a religion, to have none, to change religion or to give it up. The State stays neutral: it recognises and funds no religion. Tip: laïcité protects each person's choice.

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33. 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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34. 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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35. Qu'est-ce que la laïcité ?

What is secularism (laïcité)?

→ La liberté de conscience et un État séparé des religions — Freedom of conscience and a State separate from religions

Secularism (laïcité) guarantees freedom of conscience: everyone is free to have a religion or not. It also separates the State from religious organisations: the State recognises and funds no religion. It is a principle written in Article 1 of the 1958 Constitution.

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36. Un enfant peut-il refuser d'aller à l'école pour une raison religieuse ?

Can a child refuse to go to school for a religious reason?

→ Non, on ne peut pas refuser l'école pour sa religion — No, school cannot be refused because of religion

At school, it is not possible to refuse a rule or a lesson in the curriculum because of one's religion. In addition, all children aged 3 to 16 who live in France, French or foreign, must go to school: it is an obligation.

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37. 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.

Institutions and political system

38. 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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39. 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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40. Qu'est-ce que le pouvoir exécutif ? Le pouvoir :

What is executive power (pouvoir exécutif)? The power:

→ d'appliquer et de faire respecter les lois — to apply and enforce the laws

Executive power is exercised by the President of the Republic and the Government (Gouvernement). They apply and enforce the laws, which are created by the legislative power. They also run the administration and conduct national policy.

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41. Les dirigeants sont élus par les citoyens dans :

Leaders are elected by the citizens in:

→ une démocratie — a democracy (démocratie)

In a democracy, power belongs to the people: citizens vote to choose their representatives. France is a democracy and a Republic (République): its representatives are elected by the people. Democracy is the opposite of dictatorship, where power is held by one person or by a small group.

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42. A-t-on le droit de ne pas respecter une loi ?

Do we have the right not to obey a law?

→ Non, tout le monde doit respecter la loi — No, everyone must obey the law

Everyone must obey the laws. They guarantee public order and everyone's safety. A person who does not obey the law can receive a penalty, which is decided by the judge according to how serious the act is.

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43. Qui doit respecter la loi ?

Who must obey the law?

→ Tout le monde, y compris l'État — Everyone, including the State

France is a state governed by the rule of law (État de droit): the law is the same for everyone, including the State and its representatives. Everyone is subject to the same laws and has the same rights and duties, whether they are a politician or not.

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44. Quel est le rôle de l'autorité judiciaire ?

What is the role of the judicial authority (autorité judiciaire)?

→ Juger et rendre la justice — To judge and deliver justice

Judicial authority is exercised by judges and magistrates. They apply the laws, they judge and they deliver justice. Justice is independent: it gives an impartial and fair judgment.

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45. Quel pouvoir détient un juge ? Le pouvoir :

What power does a judge hold? The power known as:

→ judiciaire — judicial (judiciaire)

A judge holds judicial power. Judicial authority is exercised by judges and magistrates: they apply the laws, they judge and they deliver justice. Legislative power belongs to Parliament, and executive power to the President of the Republic and the Government.

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46. L'autorité judiciaire est exercée par :

Judicial authority (autorité judiciaire) is exercised by:

→ les juges et les magistrats — judges and magistrates (les juges et les magistrats)

Judicial authority is exercised by judges and magistrates. They are recruited through a competitive exam and are not chosen by those in power. They apply the laws, judge and deliver justice independently.

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47. 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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48. Qui est élu lors des élections législatives ?

Who is elected in the legislative elections (élections législatives)?

→ Les députés — The members of the National Assembly (députés)

The legislative elections are held to elect the députés to the National Assembly (Assemblée nationale). They take place every 5 years, unless there is a dissolution. French citizens vote by direct universal suffrage.

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49. 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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50. Qui est élu lors des élections municipales ?

Who is elected in the municipal elections (élections municipales)?

→ Les conseillers municipaux — The municipal councillors (conseillers municipaux)

In the municipal elections, citizens elect the municipal councillors for 6 years, by direct suffrage. The municipal council then elects the mayor. The municipal elected officials (the mayor and the municipal councillors) represent the citizens in the commune.

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51. Qui est élu lors des élections présidentielles ?

Who is elected in the presidential elections (élections présidentielles)?

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

The presidential elections are held to elect the President of the Republic. They take place every 5 years. French citizens vote themselves, directly: this is direct universal suffrage.

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52. À partir de quel âge a-t-on le droit de voter ?

From what age do people have the right to vote?

→ 18 ans — 18 years old

In France, you must be an adult to vote, which means being 18 years old. You must also have French nationality, have your civil and political rights, and be registered on the electoral rolls. One exception: citizens of another European Union country who live in France can vote in municipal and European elections.

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53. Pour combien de temps est élu le président de la République française ?

For how long is the President of the French Republic elected?

→ 5 ans — 5 years

The President of the Republic is elected for 5 years. The President is elected directly by French citizens, by universal suffrage. It is the President who appoints the Prime Minister, according to the majority.

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54. Pour combien de temps sont élus les députés ?

For how long are the members of the National Assembly (députés) elected?

→ 5 ans — 5 years

The 577 députés of the National Assembly are elected every 5 years, by direct suffrage, by the French. Tip: it is the same length as for the President of the Republic, who is also elected for 5 years.

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55. 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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56. Qui possède le pouvoir exécutif ?

Who holds executive power (pouvoir exécutif)?

→ Le président de la République et le Gouvernement — The President of the Republic and the Government (Gouvernement)

Executive power is exercised by the President of the Republic, who is head of State and of the armed forces, and by the Government, meaning the Prime Minister and the ministers. They apply and enforce the laws.

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57. 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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58. 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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59. Que signifie « suffrage universel » ?

What does “universal suffrage” (suffrage universel) mean?

→ Tous les citoyens majeurs peuvent voter — All adult citizens can vote

Universal suffrage means that all adult French citizens who are registered on the electoral rolls and have their civil and political rights can vote. They vote without distinction of sex, origin, religion or political ideas. Voting is not compulsory: it is a right. In municipal and European elections, citizens of another European Union country who live in France can also vote.

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60. Concernant les partis politiques, quelle proposition est correcte ?

Regarding political parties, which statement is correct?

→ Chaque citoyen peut librement rejoindre un parti politique — Every citizen is free to join a political party

In France, there are many different political parties: this is the plurality of parties, a fundamental principle of democracy. Every citizen is free to join a party that matches his or her convictions. This right is guaranteed by Article 4 of the Constitution.

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61. Quel est le rôle des députés ?

What is the role of the members of the National Assembly (députés)?

→ Proposer et voter les lois — To propose and vote on laws

The députés sit in the National Assembly (Assemblée nationale), one of the two chambers of Parliament. Together with the senators, they propose, negotiate and vote on the law. They also check that the Government acts in accordance with the law.

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62. 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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63. Qui possède le pouvoir législatif ?

Who holds legislative power (pouvoir législatif)?

→ Le Parlement — Parliament (Parlement)

Legislative power is exercised by Parliament. Parliament is made up of two chambers: the National Assembly (577 députés) and the Senate (348 senators). Tip: legislative power is the power to make the law.

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64. 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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65. Qui élit les députés ?

Who elects the members of the National Assembly (députés)?

→ Les citoyens français — French citizens

The 577 députés of the National Assembly are elected by the French, by direct suffrage, every 5 years. Senators, on the other hand, are elected by indirect suffrage by the electoral college (grands électeurs).

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66. Qui vote les lois ?

Who votes on the laws?

→ Le Parlement — Parliament (Parlement)

Parliament votes on the law. It is made up of the National Assembly, where the députés sit, and the Senate, where the senators sit. The two chambers propose, negotiate and vote on the law.

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67. Qui réside au palais de l'Élysée ?

Who resides at the Élysée Palace (palais de l'Élysée)?

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

The President of the Republic resides at the Élysée Palace. The President is head of State and of the armed forces. The Prime Minister resides at the Hôtel de Matignon: do not confuse these two places.

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68. Combien y a-t-il de départements en France ?

How many départements are there in France?

→ 101 — 101

France has 101 départements, 5 of which are overseas. Do not confuse them with the regions: there are 18 regions. In education, the départements manage the collèges (lower secondary schools) and the regions manage the lycées (upper secondary schools).

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69. Qui représente l'État dans un département ?

Who represents the State in a département?

→ Le préfet — The prefect (préfet)

The prefect is the representative of the State in the département. The prefect runs the State's services in that département. The prefect does not deal with justice or the army, but ensures the continuity of the State.

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70. 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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71. 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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72. 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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73. Quel est le rôle du Parlement ?

What is the role of Parliament (Parlement)?

→ Voter les lois et contrôler le Gouvernement — To vote on laws and oversee the Government

Parliament exercises legislative power: it votes on the law. Its two chambers, the National Assembly and the Senate, propose, negotiate and vote on the law. They also check that the Government acts in accordance with the law and evaluate public policies.

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74. 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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75. Combien d'États font partie de l'Union européenne au 1er janvier 2025 ?

How many States are part of the European Union (Union européenne) on 1 January 2025?

→ 27 — 27

The European Union has 27 member States. This is why the European Council brings together 27 heads of State or government and the European Commission has 27 commissioners, one for each country. Before the United Kingdom left in 2020, the Union had 28 members.

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76. 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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77. 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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78. 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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79. 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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80. Quelle est la monnaie utilisée en France ?

What currency (monnaie) is used in France?

→ L'euro — The euro

The currency used in France is the euro (€). Euro coins and banknotes have been in circulation since 1 January 2002. France shares this single currency with other member countries of the European Union.

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81. Qui élit les députés européens ?

Who elects the Members of the European Parliament (députés européens)?

→ Les citoyens de l'Union européenne — The citizens of the European Union

Members of the European Parliament are elected by the citizens of the European Union every five years. Voters choose lists of political parties, not individual candidates. The elected members make up the European Parliament.

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82. 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.

Rights and duties

83. Comment s’appelle la Constitution actuelle de la France ?

What is the name of France's current Constitution?

→ La Constitution de la Ve République — The Constitution of the Fifth Republic (Ve République)

The Constitution in force today is that of 4 October 1958. It is the founding text of the Fifth Republic (Ve République). It was approved by referendum on 28 September 1958. To remember: we live under the Fifth Republic, so under its Constitution.

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84. Concernant les droits individuels, quelle proposition est correcte ?

Regarding individual rights, which statement is correct?

→ Tous les êtres humains les possèdent — All human beings have them

Rights attached to the person are natural rights: every individual has them simply because he or she is a human being. They are equality before the law, liberty, security and resistance to oppression. These are fundamental freedoms that cannot be changed.

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85. De quelle année date la Déclaration des droits de l’homme et du citoyen ?

What year does the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (Déclaration des droits de l'homme et du citoyen) date from?

→ 1789 — 1789

The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen was adopted on 26 August 1789, during the French Revolution. It marks a break with the Ancien Régime. It has an introduction and 17 articles, which state for example that men are born and remain free and equal in rights.

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86. Lequel de ces droits est un droit fondamental ?

Which of these rights is a fundamental right?

→ L'égalité devant la loi — Equality before the law

Equality before the law is a fundamental right: every human being must be treated in the same way by the law. The fundamental rights attached to the person are equality, liberty, security and resistance to oppression. Each individual has them because he or she is a human being.

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87. Parmi ces textes, lequel garantit les droits et libertés en France ?

Among these texts, which one guarantees rights and freedoms in France?

→ La Constitution de 1958 — The 1958 Constitution (Constitution de 1958)

Fundamental rights and freedoms are guaranteed by the State. They are written in several texts, including the French Constitution of 1958 and the 1789 Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen. These fundamental rights are the basis of our democracy.

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88. Qu'est-ce que la liberté d'expression ?

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

→ Le droit de parler, d'écrire et de publier librement — The right to speak, write and publish freely

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

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89. Quel droit permet à une personne de se défendre devant la justice ?

Which right allows a person to defend themselves in court?

→ Le droit à un avocat — The right to a lawyer

The right to a lawyer is one of the rights of the defence, together with the right to a fair trial, the presumption of innocence and the right to remain silent. These rights stem from the right to security (sûreté). Remember: an accused person is considered innocent until proven guilty.

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90. Quel texte a été adopté pendant la Révolution française ?

Which text was adopted during the French Revolution?

→ La Déclaration des droits de l'homme et du citoyen — The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (Déclaration des droits de l'homme et du citoyen)

The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen was adopted on 26 August 1789. It marks a break with the Ancien Régime and sets the goals of the French Revolution: to build a democracy based on justice, equality and liberty, where power belongs to the people.

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91. Quelle liberté permet à une personne de ne pas avoir de religion ?

Which freedom allows a person not to have a religion?

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

Freedom of conscience allows everyone to have or not to have a religion, to change religion or to stop having one. It is guaranteed by secularism (laïcité). No one can be forced to follow the rules of a religion.

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92. Une femme peut avorter :

A woman can have an abortion:

→ librement, dans le cadre prévu par la loi — freely, within the framework set by law

Voluntary termination of pregnancy (IVG, interruption volontaire de grossesse) is available to 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. An appointment must be made with a doctor or a midwife.

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93. 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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94. 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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95. Concernant les limites aux libertés individuelles, quelle proposition est correcte ?

Regarding limits on individual freedoms, which statement is correct?

→ La liberté de chacun est limitée par celle des autres — Each person's freedom is limited by that of others

Our rights and freedoms have a limit in order to protect life in society. They are limited by the freedoms of others, the general interest, the protection of public order and respect for human dignity. The 1789 Declaration says: “Liberty consists in being able to do anything that does not harm others.”

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96. En France, est-ce légal d'être marié à plusieurs personnes en même temps ?

In France, is it legal to be married to several people at the same time?

→ Non, la polygamie est interdite par la loi — No, polygamy is prohibited by law

Polygamy means being married to several people at once. It is prohibited by law and is a criminal offence. In France, only a civil marriage celebrated at the town hall (mairie) is recognised by law.

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97. Faut-il réduire ses déchets ?

Should people reduce their waste?

→ Oui, pour protéger l'environnement — Yes, to protect the environment

Everyone living in France has a duty to protect the environment, for themselves and for others. Practical actions include sorting waste, reducing plastic waste and avoiding wasting food. The 2004 Environmental Charter (Charte de l'environnement) says that everyone has a duty to take part in preserving the environment.

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98. Jeter une bouteille dans la rue est :

Throwing a bottle in the street is:

→ interdit et peut être puni d'une amende — prohibited and can be punished by a fine

It is forbidden to throw waste anywhere other than in a bin. This act can be punished by a fine (amende). This rule of good citizenship helps keep public spaces in good condition. Throwing waste in the street or in nature is illegal dumping (dépôt sauvage), prohibited by law.

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99. Pourquoi les libertés individuelles peuvent-elles être limitées ?

Why can individual freedoms be limited?

→ Pour protéger la vie en société — To protect life in society

Rights and freedoms have a limit in order to protect life in society. They are limited by the general interest, the freedoms of others, the protection of public order and respect for human dignity. Example: in March 2020, the health state of emergency against Covid-19 limited freedom of movement.

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100. Que doit faire une personne en cas d'accident ?

What must a person do in the event of an accident?

→ Porter secours ou prévenir les secours — Give help or call the emergency services

Helping others is a duty based on fraternity. The law requires everyone to help a person in danger, as long as they can do so without putting their own life at risk. A witness to a serious accident must therefore call the emergency services. Failing to assist a person in danger is an offence (délit).

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101. Que permet la citoyenneté française ?

What does French citizenship allow?

→ De voter aux élections — To vote in elections

A French citizen has French nationality. Citizens have civic and political rights, such as the right to vote, and duties: obeying the law and paying taxes. Foreign nationals living in France do not have all of these rights and duties.

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102. Que risque une personne qui ne respecte pas la loi ?

What does a person who does not obey the law risk?

→ Une sanction décidée par un juge — A penalty decided by a judge

Everyone must obey the law. Breaking the law can lead to penalties, which are decided by the judge according to how serious the act is. For example, a minor offence (contravention) is punished by a fine, and a délit or a crime can be punished by a fine and a prison sentence.

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103. Quel est le rôle de la gendarmerie ?

What is the role of the gendarmerie?

→ Faire respecter la loi et protéger les personnes — To enforce the law and protect people

The gendarmerie is a law enforcement force, like the police. It operates in rural and suburban areas and on main roads. Its missions: preventing offences, maintaining public order, protecting people and property, and investigating. Gendarmes have military status.

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104. 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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105. Qu'est-ce qu'une infraction ?

What is an offence (infraction)?

→ Un acte ou un comportement interdit par la loi — An act or behaviour prohibited by law

Criminal offences (infractions pénales) are acts or behaviours prohibited by law. There are three types of offence, depending on how serious they are: the contravention, the délit and the crime. Breaking the law can lead to penalties, decided by the judge.

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106. Comment peut-on réduire ses déchets ?

How can you reduce your waste?

→ En évitant de gaspiller les aliments — By avoiding wasting food

Protecting the environment is a duty for everyone living in France. To produce less waste, you can avoid wasting food and reduce your plastic waste. You should also sort your waste and not throw any in shared spaces.

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107. Déposer une machine à laver cassée sur le trottoir est :

Leaving a broken washing machine on the pavement is:

→ interdit : c'est un dépôt sauvage de déchets — prohibited: it is illegal dumping of waste

Throwing waste in the street or in nature, outside the planned collection systems, is illegal dumping (dépôt sauvage). It is prohibited by law and can be punished by a fine. Household appliances and bulky items can be taken to a waste collection centre (déchèterie).

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108. En quoi consiste la traite des êtres humains ?

What does human trafficking (traite des êtres humains) consist of?

→ Recruter ou héberger une personne pour l'exploiter — Recruiting or housing a person in order to exploit them

Human trafficking means recruiting a person, transporting, housing or receiving them in order to exploit them. It can take several forms: pimping, slavery, forced labour or forced begging. It is prohibited in France.

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109. 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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110. 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.

History, geography and culture

111. En quelle année a débuté la Révolution française ?

In what year did the French Revolution (Révolution française) begin?

→ 1789 — 1789

The French Revolution began in 1789. That year, the Third Estate (tiers état) proclaimed the National Assembly (Assemblée nationale) and ended the absolute monarchy. The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (Déclaration des droits de l'homme et du citoyen) was adopted the same year.

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112. Qui était Napoléon Ier ?

Who was Napoleon I (Napoléon Ier)?

→ Un empereur français — A French emperor

Napoleon Bonaparte became emperor on 18 May 1804, under the name Napoleon I. He led the First Empire (1er Empire). He left the Civil Code (Code civil), which still guarantees equality before the law today.

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113. Lequel de ces personnages historiques est français ?

Which of these historical figures is French?

→ Louis XIV — Louis XIV

Louis XIV, known as the Sun King (Roi-Soleil), was a king of France during the Ancien Régime. He embodies the absolute monarchy. Winston Churchill and David Lloyd George were British, and Woodrow Wilson was American.

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114. Dans quelle République est-on aujourd'hui ?

Which Republic are we in today?

→ La Ve République — The Fifth Republic (Ve République)

The Fifth Republic (Ve République) is France's current political system. It was established on 4 October 1958, with a new Constitution proposed by Charles de Gaulle. Before it, France had four other republics.

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115. Qu'est-ce que la Shoah ?

What is the Shoah?

→ Le génocide des Juifs par l'Allemagne nazie — The genocide of the Jews by Nazi Germany

The Shoah is the genocide of the Jews organised by Nazi Germany during the Second World War. About 6 million Jews were murdered by the Nazi regime and its collaborators. It was recognised as a crime against humanity at the Nuremberg trials.

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116. Quel pays ou région du monde a été colonisé par la France ?

Which country or region of the world was colonised by France?

→ L'Algérie — Algeria

Algeria was conquered by the French army in 1830. France also colonised other territories, for example Tunisia, Indochina and Madagascar. Together, these territories are called the French colonial empire (Empire colonial français).

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117. Qui a rendu l'école gratuite, laïque et obligatoire ?

Who made school free, secular (laïque) and compulsory?

→ Jules Ferry — Jules Ferry

Jules Ferry's laws made public school free in 1881, then secular (laïque) and compulsory in 1882. These laws were adopted under the Third Republic (IIIe République, 1870-1940). To remember: the name Jules Ferry is linked to school.

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118. Quand a eu lieu la Seconde Guerre mondiale ?

When did the Second World War (Seconde Guerre mondiale) take place?

→ De 1939 à 1945 — From 1939 to 1945

The Second World War began on 1 September 1939, when the German army invaded Poland. Germany surrendered on 8 May 1945 and Japan on 2 September 1945. So the war lasted from 1939 to 1945.

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119. Quand a eu lieu la Première Guerre mondiale ?

When did the First World War (Première Guerre mondiale) take place?

→ De 1914 à 1918 — From 1914 to 1918

The First World War began in the summer of 1914. It stopped with the armistice signed on 11 November 1918. In France, 11 November is a public holiday (jour férié) that recalls this date.

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120. En quelle année a été créée la Communauté Économique Européenne (CEE) ?

In what year was the European Economic Community (Communauté Économique Européenne, CEE) created?

→ En 1957 — In 1957

The EEC (CEE) was founded in 1957 by the Treaty of Rome (traité de Rome), to form a common market. Six countries created it, including France. Before it came the ECSC (CECA) in 1951; later, in 1992, the Maastricht Treaty turned the EEC into the European Union.

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121. Le 11 novembre est un jour férié. À quoi correspond cette date ?

11 November is a public holiday (jour férié). What does this date correspond to?

→ L'armistice de 1918 — The armistice of 1918

On 11 November, France commemorates the armistice of 1918, which marks the end of the First World War (Première Guerre mondiale). Ceremonies take place all over France on that day. Do not confuse it with 8 May, which celebrates the victory of 1945.

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122. Qui a été le premier Président élu sous la Ve République ?

Who was the first President elected under the Fifth Republic (Ve République)?

→ Charles de Gaulle — Charles de Gaulle

Charles de Gaulle is the founder and first President of the Fifth Republic (Ve République), established in 1958. Other presidents came after him, such as Georges Pompidou, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and François Mitterrand.

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123. En quelle année l'esclavage a-t-il été aboli définitivement en France ?

In what year was slavery definitively abolished in France?

→ En 1848 — In 1848

Slavery (esclavage) was first abolished in 1794, then restored by Napoleon in 1802. The slave trade was abolished in 1815. Slavery was definitively abolished in 1848, under the Second Republic (IIe République).

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124. Depuis quelle année l'école publique est-elle gratuite ?

Since what year has public school been free of charge?

→ Depuis 1881 — Since 1881

The Third Republic (IIIe République) made free public school general in 1881, thanks to Jules Ferry's laws. The following year, in 1882, school also became secular (laïque) and compulsory. Do not confuse with 1905, the year of the law on the separation of the Churches and the State.

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125. Combien y a-t-il eu de républiques en France ?

How many republics have there been in France?

→ Cinq — Five

France has had five republics: the First (from 1792), the Second (1848), the Third (1870), the Fourth (1946) and the Fifth, since 1958. Between these republics there were other regimes, such as the two Empires.

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126. Qui était le roi de France au moment de la Révolution française ?

Who was the king of France at the time of the French Revolution (Révolution française)?

→ Louis XVI — Louis XVI

Louis XVI was the king of France when the Revolution began in 1789. His powers were limited in 1791, then he was overthrown on 10 August 1792. Do not confuse him with Louis XIV, the Sun King (Roi-Soleil), symbol of the absolute monarchy.

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127. Qui a fondé la Ve République ?

Who founded the Fifth Republic (Ve République)?

→ Charles de Gaulle — Charles de Gaulle

Charles de Gaulle returned to power in 1958. He proposed a new Constitution, adopted by referendum in September 1958: the Fifth Republic (Ve République) was born. He is its founder and its first President.

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128. Que célèbre-t-on le 14 juillet ?

What is celebrated on 14 July?

→ La fête nationale — The national day (fête nationale)

14 July has been France's national day (fête nationale) since 1880. The date recalls the storming of the Bastille (prise de la Bastille) on 14 July 1789 and the Fête de la Fédération on 14 July 1790. A military parade takes place in Paris and there are fireworks all over the country.

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129. Quelle guerre a eu lieu entre 1914 et 1918 ?

Which war took place between 1914 and 1918?

→ La Première Guerre mondiale — The First World War (Première Guerre mondiale)

The First World War lasted from 1914 to 1918. It began in the summer of 1914 and stopped with the armistice of 11 November 1918. The Second World War took place later, from 1939 to 1945.

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130. Pourquoi l'année 1958 est importante pour la France ?

Why is the year 1958 important for France?

→ La Ve République est instaurée — The Fifth Republic (Ve République) is established

The Fifth Republic (Ve République) was established on 4 October 1958. A new Constitution, proposed by Charles de Gaulle, was adopted by referendum in September 1958. It is still France's political system today.

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131. Quel fleuve coule en France ?

Which river flows in France?

→ La Loire — The Loire (la Loire)

The Loire is the longest river in France: 1,020 kilometres. It rises in the Massif Central and flows into the Atlantic Ocean. The four other rivers of metropolitan France are the Seine, the Garonne, the Rhône and the Rhine (le Rhin).

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132. Quelle ville est française ?

Which city is French?

→ Lyon — Lyon

Lyon is a large French city. The Lyon metropolitan area (Métropole du Grand Lyon) has 1.4 million inhabitants: it is one of the largest in France, after Paris and Aix-Marseille. Geneva, Brussels and Milan are in other European countries.

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133. Quel océan borde la côte ouest française ?

Which ocean borders the French west coast?

→ L'océan Atlantique — The Atlantic Ocean (océan Atlantique)

To the west, metropolitan France is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean. To the north-west are the English Channel (la Manche) and the North Sea, and to the south the Mediterranean Sea. These seas and this ocean form the maritime borders of metropolitan France.

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134. Qu'est-ce que Paris ?

What is Paris?

→ La capitale de la France — The capital of France

Paris is the capital of France. A river, the Seine, flows through the city. Do not confuse Paris with the Loire, the Garonne or the Rhône, which are rivers, or with the Alps or the Pyrenees, which are mountain ranges.

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135. Quelle est la capitale de la France ?

What is the capital of France?

→ Paris — Paris

Paris is the capital of France. A river, the Seine, flows through it. Lyon and Toulouse are also large French cities: they are regional capitals (chefs-lieux de région), but not the capital of the country.

---

136. Sur quel continent se situe la France métropolitaine ?

On which continent is metropolitan France (France métropolitaine) located?

→ L'Europe — Europe

Metropolitan France, also called 'France hexagonale', is located in Europe. France also has overseas territories (territoires d'outre-mer) in different parts of the world, such as Guadeloupe, French Guiana (la Guyane), Martinique, La Réunion and Mayotte.

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137. Quelle île est un département d'outre-mer français ?

Which island is a French overseas department (département d'outre-mer)?

→ La Réunion — La Réunion

La Réunion is an overseas department and region (département et région d'outre-mer, DROM), like Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guiana (la Guyane) and Mayotte. French laws apply there as in mainland France. Corsica is indeed a French island, but it is not overseas.

---

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

How many regions are there in metropolitan France (France métropolitaine)?

→ 13 — 13

France has 18 regions: 13 in metropolitan France and 5 overseas. The 5 overseas regions are Guadeloupe, French Guiana (la Guyane), Martinique, La Réunion and Mayotte. The number 101 is the number of departments (départements).

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139. Quelle ville est un grand port maritime ?

Which city is a major seaport (grand port maritime)?

→ Marseille — Marseille

Marseille is a major seaport (grand port maritime) on the Mediterranean Sea. The major seaports (grands ports maritimes) are managed by the State: they handle more than 80% of French maritime goods traffic. Dunkerque, Le Havre, Nantes Saint-Nazaire, La Rochelle and Bordeaux are also major French ports.

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140. Quelle est la mer au sud de la France métropolitaine ?

Which sea lies to the south of metropolitan France (France métropolitaine)?

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

To the south, metropolitan France is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea. The North Sea and the English Channel (la Manche) are to the north-west, and the Atlantic Ocean is to the west. Corsica (la Corse), a French island, is in the Mediterranean Sea.

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141. Quelle ville est située au bord de la mer Méditerranée ?

Which city is located on the Mediterranean Sea (mer Méditerranée)?

→ Nice — Nice

Nice is a French port on the Mediterranean Sea, like Marseille and Toulon. Bordeaux is a port on the Atlantic coast. Lille and Strasbourg are not among the French seaports: these two cities are not by the sea.

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142. Où se situe la Corse ?

Where is Corsica (la Corse) located?

→ Dans la mer Méditerranée — In the Mediterranean Sea (mer Méditerranée)

Corsica is an island located in the Mediterranean Sea, south-east of mainland France. It has two departments: Corse-du-Sud and Haute-Corse. Its prefecture (préfecture) is Ajaccio.

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143. Quelle chaîne de montagnes est située entre la France et l'Italie ?

Which mountain range lies between France and Italy?

→ Les Alpes — The Alps (les Alpes)

In the south-east, the Alps mark the border between France and Italy. The Pyrenees are in the south, between France and Spain. The Vosges and the Jura are in the east, towards Germany and Switzerland.

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144. Qui était Molière ?

Who was Molière?

→ Un auteur de théâtre du 17e siècle — A 17th-century playwright

Molière (1622-1673) was an actor, playwright and theatre director. His comedies criticise society and human faults through laughter. His most famous plays are Le Malade imaginaire, Tartuffe, L'Avare and L'École des femmes.

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145. Qui était Charles Baudelaire ?

Who was Charles Baudelaire?

→ Un poète français — A French poet

Charles Baudelaire (1821-1867) was a great French poet of the 19th century. He modernised poetry. His most famous collections are Les Fleurs du Mal and Le Spleen de Paris.

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146. Qui était George Sand ?

Who was George Sand?

→ Une écrivaine française — A French writer

George Sand (1804-1876) was a French writer (écrivaine) of the 19th century. She is known for her novels, such as La Mare au Diable, and for her defence of women's rights. She renewed the French novel.

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147. Qui était Simone de Beauvoir ?

Who was Simone de Beauvoir?

→ Une écrivaine et une figure du féminisme — A writer and a leading figure of feminism

Simone de Beauvoir (1908-1986) was a 20th-century French writer. She defended freedom, equality and the emancipation of women. In her book Le Deuxième Sexe (The Second Sex), she wrote: "One is not born a woman, one becomes one."

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148. Qui était Albert Camus ?

Who was Albert Camus?

→ Un écrivain et philosophe, prix Nobel de littérature — A writer and philosopher, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature

Albert Camus (1913-1960) was a French writer, philosopher and journalist. He received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1957. His best-known novels are L'Étranger (The Stranger) and La Peste (The Plague). In his books, he denounces injustice and defends freedom.

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149. Qui était Paul Cézanne ?

Who was Paul Cézanne?

→ Un peintre français — A French painter

Paul Cézanne (1839-1906) was a famous French painter. He was first inspired by Impressionism, then used geometric shapes. He is often called the "father of modern painting". He painted Les Joueurs de cartes (The Card Players) and the Montagne Sainte-Victoire.

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150. Qui était Marc Chagall ?

Who was Marc Chagall?

→ Un peintre d'origine russe devenu français — A painter of Russian origin who became French

Marc Chagall (1887-1985) was a painter of Russian origin. He settled in Paris in 1923 and obtained French nationality in 1937. He also painted the ceiling of the Opéra Garnier. His works are original and very colourful.

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151. Qui était Joséphine Baker ?

Who was Joséphine Baker?

→ Une artiste et résistante devenue française — An artist and Resistance member who became French

Born in the United States, Joséphine Baker (1906-1975) settled in Paris in 1925 and became a star of the stage. She obtained French nationality in 1937. During the Second World War, she joined the Resistance (la Résistance). She also fought against racism. She entered the Panthéon in 2021.

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152. Qui était une chanteuse française célèbre ?

Who was a famous French singer?

→ Édith Piaf — Édith Piaf

Édith Piaf (1915-1963) is one of the greatest French singers of the 20th century. She was nicknamed "La Môme Piaf". Her best-known songs are La Vie en rose, L'Hymne à l'amour and La Foule. The three other women are writers.

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153. Qu'est-ce que le Louvre ?

What is the Louvre?

→ Un grand musée français — A major French museum

The Louvre is a museum located in Paris, in a former royal palace. It is one of the largest art museums in the world. You can see the Mona Lisa (La Joconde) there, a painting by Leonardo da Vinci.

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154. Qui était Jean de la Fontaine ?

Who was Jean de la Fontaine?

→ Un poète connu pour ses fables — A poet known for his fables

Jean de La Fontaine (1621-1695) was a 17th-century poet. He is known for his fables: short stories, often with animals, that teach a moral. Examples: Le Corbeau et le Renard (The Crow and the Fox), La Cigale et la Fourmi (The Grasshopper and the Ant). His fables are taught at school.

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155. Quel écrivain est français ?

Which writer is French?

→ Victor Hugo — Victor Hugo

Victor Hugo (1802-1885) is a great French writer of the 19th century. He was a poet, novelist and playwright. His most famous books are Les Misérables and Notre-Dame de Paris. His works denounce social injustice and defend freedom.

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156. Dans quelle ville se trouve la tour Eiffel ?

In which city is the Eiffel Tower located?

→ À Paris — In Paris

The Eiffel Tower (la tour Eiffel) is in Paris. It was built by the engineer Gustave Eiffel for the 1889 World's Fair, which celebrated 100 years of the French Revolution. Today it is a symbol of Paris and of France.

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157. Quand célèbre-t-on Noël ?

When is Christmas celebrated?

→ Le 25 décembre — On 25 December

Christmas (Noël) is celebrated on 25 December. It is a public holiday in France. It was originally a Christian religious festival, but today it is celebrated by everyone: people decorate a tree and exchange gifts.

Living in French society

158. Quel numéro d'urgence permet d'appeler le SAMU ?

Which emergency number do you call to reach the SAMU (emergency medical service)?

→ Le 15 — 15

15 is the number of the SAMU, to call in a medical emergency. The call is free and possible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. To remember: 15 for the SAMU, 17 for the police, 18 for the fire brigade (pompiers).

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159. Quel numéro d'urgence permet d'appeler les pompiers ?

Which emergency number do you call to reach the fire brigade (pompiers)?

→ Le 18 — 18

18 is the number of the fire brigade (pompiers). You call it in case of danger or an accident, for example a fire. The call is free, day and night. 15 is the number of the SAMU (medical emergencies), 17 is the police, and 119 is for children in danger.

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160. Après avoir obtenu le permis de conduire, que faut-il faire pour pouvoir conduire sa voiture ?

After getting your driving licence, what must you do before you can drive your car?

→ Prendre une assurance automobile — Take out car insurance

Once you have your driving licence (permis de conduire), you must take out insurance before driving your car. Car insurance is compulsory in France. To drive your own car you need three things: a valid driving licence, an up-to-date registration certificate (carte grise) and insurance.

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161. À quelles conditions un mariage est-il reconnu juridiquement ?

Under what conditions is a marriage legally recognised?

→ Il doit s'agir d'un mariage civil — It must be a civil marriage

In France, civil marriage (mariage civil) is the only marriage that is recognised. It is celebrated in the municipality where one of the future spouses, or one of their parents, lives. A purely religious marriage therefore has no legal value. On the day of the civil ceremony, the couple receives a marriage certificate and a family record book (livret de famille).

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162. Quand faut-il déclarer son enfant au service d'état civil de la mairie ?

When must you register your child with the civil registry office (état civil) at the town hall (mairie)?

→ Dans les 5 jours qui suivent la naissance — Within 5 days after the birth

Registering a birth (déclaration de naissance) is compulsory. It must be done within 5 days after the birth, at the town hall of the place of birth. The civil registrar then draws up the birth certificate. This certificate is needed to obtain social rights, to apply for identity documents and to enrol the child at school.

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163. Le travail non déclaré est :

Undeclared work (travail non déclaré) is:

→ interdit par la loi — prohibited by law

Undeclared work, also called concealed work (travail dissimulé), is prohibited by law. The employer risks prison and a heavy fine. An undeclared employee is not protected: no social security in case of illness or a work accident, no paid leave, and no contributions for unemployment or retirement.

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164. Que doit faire un employeur pour fixer un salaire ?

What must an employer do when setting a salary?

→ Respecter le salaire minimum (SMIC) — Respect the minimum wage (SMIC)

An employer is not allowed to pay a salary below the SMIC (salaire minimum de croissance). It is the minimum hourly wage in France. When paying the salary, the employer must also give the employee a payslip (bulletin de paie), with compulsory information such as the number of hours worked.

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165. Qu'est-ce que le SMIC ?

What is the SMIC?

→ Le salaire horaire minimum en France — The minimum hourly wage in France

SMIC stands for “salaire minimum interprofessionnel de croissance”. It is the minimum hourly wage in France: it is forbidden to pay an employee a salary below the SMIC. To remember it: the “M” in SMIC stands for “minimum”.

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166. Quelle est la première démarche à réaliser pour chercher un emploi ?

What is the first step to take when looking for a job?

→ S’inscrire à France Travail — Register with France Travail

France Travail is the public body that supports people who are looking for a job. Registering allows you to get support to find work or to take a training course. The solutions offered are adapted to each person’s situation and needs.

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167. Quelle est la durée légale du temps de travail par semaine ?

What is the legal working time per week?

→ 35 heures — 35 hours

The legal working time is 35 hours per week for a full-time employee. It applies to all companies. Beyond 35 hours, the extra hours are overtime (heures supplémentaires): the employer must pay the employee for them or let the employee take time off instead.

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168. Qui est aidé par France Travail ?

Who does France Travail help?

→ Les personnes qui cherchent un emploi — 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 get help to find work or to take a training course. A foreign person with legal residence status who has no job must be registered there.

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169. Une personne étrangère en situation régulière peut créer son entreprise :

A foreign person with legal residence status can set up their own business:

→ même sans avoir la nationalité française — even without French nationality

In France, you can set up a business even if you do not have French nationality. No diploma is needed, except for certain activities such as hairdressing. However, the business must be registered: this step is called immatriculation. All over France, associations help people to define their project and to find funding.

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170. Une femme peut-elle créer son entreprise ?

Can a woman set up her own business?

→ Oui, librement, comme un homme — Yes, freely, just like a man

Setting up a business is possible for everyone in France. Women and men have the same rights in all areas of life, including work. A woman can therefore set up her business freely, without asking for the agreement of her husband or her family.

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171. À partir de quel âge un mineur peut-il travailler ?

From what age can a minor work?

→ 16 ans — 16 years old

In France, it is possible to work from the age of 16. A minor must be authorised by their legal representative, for example their father or mother, unless they are emancipated. A useful marker: 16 is also the age from which school is no longer compulsory.

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172. Auprès de quel organisme faut-il demander le remboursement des frais de santé ?

Which body must you ask for the reimbursement of healthcare costs?

→ La caisse primaire d'assurance maladie (CPAM) — The primary health insurance fund (CPAM)

Reimbursement of healthcare costs is requested from the primary health insurance fund (caisse primaire d'assurance maladie, CPAM). At the doctor's, the carte Vitale is used to send an electronic claim form to the national health insurance (Assurance maladie), which starts the reimbursement. The online Ameli account lets you follow your reimbursements.

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173. Qu’est-ce qu’un numéro d’urgence ?

What is an emergency number?

→ Un numéro gratuit pour appeler les secours — A free number to call the emergency services

An emergency number lets you quickly contact the emergency services when there is a serious problem: SAMU (medical emergencies), police, fire brigade. These calls are free and possible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The main numbers are 15, 17, 18 and 112, the European emergency number.

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174. 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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175. En cas de problème de santé non urgent, à qui faut-il s’adresser en premier ?

For a non-urgent health problem, who should you turn to first?

→ À son médecin traitant — Your primary doctor (médecin traitant)

For an ordinary health problem, you start by seeing your primary doctor (médecin traitant). This is the coordinated care pathway (parcours de soins coordonnés): the primary doctor then refers the patient, if necessary, to other health professionals, such as a specialist. Hospital emergency departments are only for the most serious situations.

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176. Quel est le rôle du médecin traitant ?

What is the role of the primary doctor (médecin traitant)?

→ Suivre le patient et coordonner ses soins — To follow the patient and coordinate their care

The primary doctor (médecin traitant) is the doctor whom the patient has officially declared. This doctor treats and follows the patient regularly, keeps their medical file up to date and refers them to other health professionals if needed. They also take care of prevention, for example following up vaccinations.

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177. Dans quelles situations doit-on se rendre aux urgences de l'hôpital ?

In which situations should you go to the hospital emergency department?

→ En cas d’urgence grave ou vitale — In a serious or life-threatening emergency

Hospital emergency departments are meant only for distress and the most serious emergencies: life-threatening emergencies and serious injuries that need immediate care. They are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If a life is in danger, you must call the SAMU on 15.

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178. Quel est l'objectif des vaccinations obligatoires ?

What is the purpose of compulsory vaccinations?

→ Protéger la santé de la population — To protect the health of the population

Some vaccines are compulsory in order to protect the health of the population. Vaccination is a simple, safe and effective way to protect yourself against dangerous diseases. Getting vaccinated is useful for you and for others. Children's admission to day nurseries or schools depends on certain vaccines having been done.

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179. À quoi sert la carte Vitale ?

What is the carte Vitale used for?

→ À prouver ses droits à l'Assurance maladie — To prove your health insurance rights

The carte Vitale is a personal card. It proves that you have rights with the national health insurance (Assurance maladie). At the doctor's, it is used to send information quickly to the Assurance maladie so that you are reimbursed faster. Be careful: it is not a payment card.

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180. À quoi sert une mutuelle santé ?

What is a complementary health insurance (mutuelle santé) for?

→ À compléter le remboursement des soins — To top up the reimbursement of care

A mutuelle is a complementary cover. It tops up the basic cover provided by the national health insurance (Assurance maladie), so that care and medicines are better covered. It is not compulsory, but it is recommended. In the private sector, the employer must offer one to its employees.

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181. Jusqu'à quel âge l'école est-elle obligatoire ?

Until what age is school compulsory?

→ 16 ans — 16 years old

In France, all children aged 3 to 16 must go to school. After 16, school is no longer compulsory, but young people can continue their studies: apprenticeship, university, specialised schools... A useful marker: the obligation starts at age 3, in nursery school (école maternelle), and ends at 16.

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182. L'autorité parentale prévoit l'obligation :

Parental authority (autorité parentale) includes the obligation:

→ de protéger et d'éduquer son enfant — to protect and educate one's child

Parental authority (autorité parentale) is the set of rights and duties that parents have towards their child under 18. Parents must protect the child, see to their education, look after their health and meet their needs (food, housing). They act in the child's interest, without physical or psychological violence.

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183. Pour qui l'école est-elle obligatoire ?

For whom is school compulsory?

→ Pour tous les enfants de 3 à 16 ans — For all children aged 3 to 16

All children aged 3 to 16 who live in France must go to school, whether they are French or foreign. It is an obligation. At nursery school (école maternelle), children learn the French language if they do not speak it yet, and they learn to live together.

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184. Quel diplôme obtient-on à la fin du lycée ?

Which diploma do you obtain at the end of upper secondary school (lycée)?

→ Le baccalauréat — The baccalauréat

At the end of lycée, after the final year (terminale), pupils take the baccalauréat, also called the “bac”. This diploma allows them to continue their studies in higher education. The brevet, on the other hand, is taken at the end of lower secondary school (collège).

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185. Dans quels établissements scolaires vont les élèves après l'école élémentaire ?

Which schools do pupils go to after primary school (école élémentaire)?

→ Au collège, puis au lycée — Collège, then lycée

After primary school (école élémentaire, ages 6 to 11), pupils go to collège (lower secondary school) from age 11 to 15, from the 6e class to the 3e class. Then they go to lycée (upper secondary school) from age 15 to 18. So the order is: école maternelle, école élémentaire, collège, lycée.

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186. Un enfant inscrit à l'école :

A child enrolled in school:

→ doit assister aux cours prévus dans son emploi du temps — must attend the classes on their timetable

A child enrolled in primary school, middle school (collège) or high school (lycée) must attend the classes on their timetable. An absence needs an accepted reason, such as illness or an important family event like a wedding or a funeral. Remember: enrolled at school means present in class.

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187. Les enfants qui ne parlent pas français :

Children who do not speak French:

→ vont à l'école et peuvent suivre des cours adaptés — go to school and can take adapted classes

In France, all children aged 3 to 16 must go to school, even if French is not their mother tongue. When entering school, the child takes a test to assess their level of French. They can take adapted classes, and later the same classes as the other children.

OK Civique is an independent website. It is not an official site and is not affiliated with the French State, the Ministry of the Interior or the bodies that run the exam. Information is checked against official sources, but only those sources are authoritative.