French civic exam for naturalisation

Questions and answers · 254 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. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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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6. 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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7. 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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8. 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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9. 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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10. 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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11. 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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12. 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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13. 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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14. 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.

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15. Dans le cadre d'un entretien d'embauche, que peut-on demander au candidat ?

In a job interview, what can the candidate be asked for?

→ Ses diplômes — Their diplomas

An employer must base decisions, such as hiring, on professional reasons and not personal ones. If the job requires a qualification, the employer may ask the candidate to show their diplomas (diplômes). Choosing someone because of religion, political opinions or sexual orientation is discrimination, which is punished by law.

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16. Déclarer ses revenus aux services fiscaux est :

Declaring your income to the tax authorities is:

→ Obligatoire, même sans revenus — Compulsory, even with no income

In France, you must declare your income every year, even if you do not work or if your income is zero: you then write “0 euro”. This obligation applies to everyone over 18 who lives in France, French or not. Failing to file your declaration can lead to financial penalties.

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17. En France, les impôts permettent de financer les dépenses publiques. Quelle proposition est correcte ?

In France, taxes are used to fund public spending. Which statement is correct?

→ Les impôts financent des services publics comme l'école — Taxes fund public services such as schools

Taxes (impôts) allow the State to run the country: they fund free public services such as the police, the courts, education and hospitals. Paying taxes is an obligation for everyone who lives in France, whatever their nationality. Each person contributes according to their income.

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18. La liberté d'association est :

Freedom of association (liberté d'association) is:

→ Un droit reconnu par une loi de 1901 — A right recognised by a law of 1901

Freedom of association is set out in a law dating from 1901. Every person, French or foreign, can freely get involved in an association, for example for culture, sport or humanitarian aid. To create an association, you need at least two people and a non-profit purpose.

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19. La liberté d'expression sur les réseaux sociaux en France est :

Freedom of expression on social media in France is:

→ Protégée par la loi, mais avec des limites — Protected by law, but with limits

Freedom of expression (liberté d'expression) on social media is protected by law, as it is elsewhere. But it has limits: content that incites hatred or violence is forbidden. Calls for violence, insults and threats are not allowed.

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20. Lequel de ces prénoms évoque un symbole de la République ?

Which of these first names evokes a symbol of the Republic?

→ Marianne — Marianne

Marianne is an official symbol of the French Republic. This female figure appeared during the French Revolution to represent the Republic. She wears the Phrygian cap (bonnet phrygien), and her bust is found in every town hall (mairie).

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21. Lequel de ces symboles représente la République française ?

Which of these symbols represents the French Republic?

→ Le drapeau tricolore — The tricolour flag

The tricolour flag (drapeau tricolore: blue, white, red) is an official symbol of the French Republic. It was born during the French Revolution and became the official flag of France in 1794. It can be seen in front of public buildings such as town halls and schools.

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22. Lesquels sont des symboles officiels de la République française ?

Which of these are official symbols of the French Republic?

→ Le drapeau tricolore et Marianne — The tricolour flag and Marianne

The tricolour flag and Marianne are official symbols of the Republic, like the national motto. The rooster (le coq) is widely used, but it is not officially recognised as a symbol of the Republic. Tip: the rooster is a national symbol, but an unofficial one.

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23. Quand la sécurité sociale a-t-elle été établie en France ?

When was social security (Sécurité sociale) established in France?

→ En 1945 — In 1945

The Sécurité sociale was created in 1945, at the Liberation, out of a desire for national solidarity. It is funded by contributions and by taxes. This system represents the principle of solidarity, and therefore of fraternity.

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24. Que commémore la fête nationale ?

What does the national holiday (fête nationale) commemorate?

→ La prise de la Bastille et la Fête de la Fédération — The storming of the Bastille and the Fête de la Fédération

The national holiday has been held on 14 July since 1880. It commemorates two events: the storming of the Bastille (prise de la Bastille) on 14 July 1789, which marks the start of the French Revolution, and the Fête de la Fédération on 14 July 1790. Tip: 14 July = Bastille.

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25. Que porte Marianne sur la tête ?

What does Marianne wear on her head?

→ Un bonnet phrygien — A Phrygian cap (bonnet phrygien)

Marianne wears the Phrygian cap (bonnet phrygien). In Antiquity, slaves who had regained their freedom wore this cap: it is therefore a symbol of liberty. The figure of Marianne has represented the Republic since the French Revolution.

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26. Quel symbole de la République peut-on voir sur les maillots de l'équipe de France de football ?

Which symbol of the Republic can be seen on the French national football team's shirts?

→ Le coq — The rooster (le coq)

The rooster (le coq) appears on the shirts of France's national sports teams, such as the national football team. It is not an official symbol of the Republic, but it is a widely used national symbol. It stands for pride and courage.

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27. Qu'est-ce qu'une liberté ?

What is a freedom (une liberté)?

→ Le droit de faire ce qui ne nuit pas aux autres — The right to do what does not harm others

Article 4 of the 1789 Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen says that “liberty consists in being able to do anything that does not harm others”. So people can do whatever does not disturb others, within the law. Liberty is a fundamental value of the Republic.

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28. Selon la Constitution, la France est une République...

According to the Constitution, France is a Republic that is...

→ indivisible, laïque, démocratique et sociale — indivisible, secular, democratic and social

Article 1 of the 1958 Constitution states that “France is an indivisible, secular, democratic and social Republic” (indivisible, laïque, démocratique et sociale). Indivisible: all French people are subject to the same laws everywhere in the country. Secular: the State is neutral towards religions. Learn these four words by heart.

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

Can a person freely change religion in France?

→ Oui, la laïcité lui garantit cette liberté — Yes, secularism guarantees them this freedom

Secularism (laïcité) guarantees freedom of conscience for everyone. Each person is free to have a religion, to change it (this is the right to convert), to have none or to give it up. Laïcité also requires the State to be neutral.

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30. En France, il est possible pour l'État de financer :

In France, the State is allowed to fund:

→ La restauration d'un monument religieux classé au patrimoine — The restoration of a religious monument listed as heritage

The State is separate from religions: as a general rule, it may not fund the construction of a religious building or pay religious staff. There are a few exceptions to this rule, for example in Alsace and Moselle. In addition, the State may fund the restoration of a religious monument listed as heritage (monument religieux classé au patrimoine).

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31. Que dit la loi de 1905 ?

What does the law of 1905 say?

→ L'État et les Églises sont séparés — The State and the Churches are separated

The 1905 law separates the Churches and the State (séparation des Églises et de l'État). 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. Quel jour célèbre-t-on officiellement la laïcité en France ?

On which day is secularism (laïcité) officially celebrated in France?

→ Le 9 décembre — 9 December

Secularism (laïcité) is officially celebrated in France on 9 December. This is the date of the law of 9 December 1905 on the separation of the Churches and the State, also called the law on laïcité. Tip: 9 December 1905 = the law on laïcité.

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33. Quel symbole religieux peut être porté dans une école publique dans le respect de la laïcité ?

Which religious symbol may be worn in a state school in keeping with secularism (laïcité)?

→ Un signe discret, porté par un élève — A discreet symbol, worn by a pupil

In state schools, the law of 15 March 2004 forbids pupils from wearing a symbol or clothing that shows their religion conspicuously (de manière ostensible), meaning it can be seen immediately. Discreet symbols (signes discrets) are allowed. School staff, for their part, are neutral: they may not wear religious symbols at work.

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34. Quel terme désigne précisément la haine ou les préjugés contre les Juifs ?

Which term refers specifically to hatred of or prejudice against Jews?

→ L'antisémitisme — Antisemitism (antisémitisme)

Antisemitism (antisémitisme) is a specific form of racism and hatred directed against Jews, based on prejudice and stereotypes. The State actively fights antisemitism, as it does racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination. Discrimination is punished by law.

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35. Quelle institution française doit rester neutre en matière de religion ?

Which French institution must remain neutral in matters of religion?

→ L'État — The State

Secularism (laïcité) requires the State to be neutral. The State, local authorities and public services are neutral towards religions: all citizens are treated in the same way, whatever their religion or beliefs. This is called the neutrality of the State (neutralité de l'État).

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36. À l'école, la charte de la laïcité permet de :

At school, the secularism charter (charte de la laïcité) makes it possible to:

→ Faire connaître les règles de la laïcité à tous — Make the rules of secularism known to everyone

The School Secularism Charter (Charte de la laïcité à l'École) lists all the rules that ensure secularism is applied in schools. It is addressed to staff, pupils and pupils' parents. For example, it is not possible to refuse a lesson in the curriculum because of one's religion.

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37. Qui doit respecter et veiller à la neutralité religieuse dans les services publics ?

Who must respect and uphold religious neutrality in public services?

→ Les agents publics — Public employees (agents publics)

People who work in public services (services publics), such as hospitals, schools or town halls, must remain neutral: they do not show their opinions or beliefs during their work. This neutrality does not apply to users, who may wear a symbol of their religion.

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38. Une personne déclare ne croire en aucun dieu. On peut dire :

A person says they do not believe in any god. We can say:

→ Qu'elle est athée — That they are an atheist (athée)

A person is called an “atheist” (athée) when they do not believe in any religion. An “agnostic” (agnostique) person, by contrast, is sceptical about religion. In France, secularism (laïcité) guarantees everyone the freedom to have or not to have a religion.

Institutions and political system

39. 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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40. 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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41. 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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42. 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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43. 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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44. 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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45. 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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46. 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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47. 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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48. 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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49. 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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50. 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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51. 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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52. 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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53. 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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54. 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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55. 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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56. 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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57. 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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58. 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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59. 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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60. 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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61. 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.

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62. Comment est désigné le Premier ministre ?

How is the Prime Minister chosen?

→ Il est nommé par le président de la République — He or she is appointed by the President of the Republic

The Prime Minister (Premier ministre) is not elected: he or she is appointed by the President of the Republic, according to the majority. Together with the ministers, the Prime Minister forms the Government. Tip: the President lives at the Élysée Palace, the Prime Minister at the Hôtel de Matignon.

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63. Qui peut se présenter aux élections présidentielles ?

Who can stand in presidential elections?

→ Un citoyen français ayant obtenu 500 parrainages d'élus — A French citizen who has obtained 500 sponsorships from elected officials

To stand in the presidential election, you must be a French citizen, be at least 18 years old and have your civil and political rights. You must also obtain 500 sponsorships (parrainages) from elected officials. Without these 500 sponsorships, it is impossible to be a candidate.

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64. À qui appartient la souveraineté nationale ?

To whom does national sovereignty belong?

→ Au peuple français — To the French people

Article 3 of the 1958 Constitution says: “National sovereignty (souveraineté nationale) belongs to the people, who exercise it through their representatives and by means of referendum.” Power therefore comes from the people: citizens elect their representatives or decide directly by referendum.

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65. L'inscription sur les listes électorales est :

Registration on the electoral rolls is:

→ nécessaire pour pouvoir voter — necessary in order to vote

To vote, you must be registered on the electoral rolls (listes électorales). The Electoral Code (Article L9) says that this registration is compulsory (obligatoire). You must also have French nationality (or, for municipal and European elections, that of another European Union country), be at least 18 and have your civil and political rights. You apply for registration at the town hall (mairie) of the place where you live.

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66. Quelle condition est nécessaire pour voter aux élections présidentielles ?

Which condition is necessary to vote in presidential elections?

→ Avoir la nationalité française — Having French nationality

Only French citizens can vote in the presidential election. You must also be at least 18, have your civil and political rights and be registered on the electoral rolls (listes électorales). Citizens of other European Union countries who live in France vote only in municipal and European elections.

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67. Quelle condition faut-il remplir pour être candidat aux élections municipales ?

Which condition must be met to be a candidate in municipal elections?

→ Avoir au moins 18 ans — Being at least 18 years old

The Electoral Code says that nobody can be elected as a municipal councillor (conseiller municipal) before the age of 18. You must also have a link with the commune: for example, being a voter in that commune. You do not need to have been born there or to belong to a political party.

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68. Parmi ces autorités, laquelle est élue ?

Which of these authorities is elected?

→ Le maire — The mayor

The mayor (maire) is one of the elected municipal officials, together with the municipal councillors: their term of office lasts 6 years. The Prime Minister, on the other hand, is appointed by the President of the Republic, and the ministers are proposed by the Prime Minister. The prefect (préfet) represents the State in the département: he or she is appointed, not elected.

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69. Quelles sont les fonctions du maire ?

What are the functions of the mayor?

→ Il administre la commune et tient l'état civil — He or she runs the commune and keeps the civil register

The mayor (maire) has two roles. He or she is the executive of the commune: the mayor prepares and carries out the budget and the decisions of the municipal council, and runs the municipal administration. The mayor is also an agent of the State: he or she is in charge of civil registration (état civil: births, marriages, deaths). The mayor also has police powers.

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70. Une personne, n'ayant pas d'accès à internet, veut s'inscrire sur les listes électorales pour pouvoir voter aux prochaines élections politiques. Où peut-elle s'inscrire ?

A person who has no internet access wants to register on the electoral rolls in order to vote in the next political elections. Where can this person register?

→ À la mairie de sa commune — At the town hall of their commune

Registration on the electoral rolls (listes électorales) is done at the person's request, at the town hall (mairie) of the place where they live. Without the internet, it is therefore enough to go to the town hall. This registration is necessary in order to vote.

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71. À quel âge peut-on devenir électeur ?

At what age can you become a voter?

→ À 18 ans — At 18

You can vote from the age of 18: this is the age of majority. You must also have French nationality (or, for municipal and European elections, that of another European Union country), have your civil and political rights and be registered on the electoral rolls (listes électorales). These four conditions are necessary to have the right to vote.

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72. En France, est-ce obligatoire de voter ?

In France, 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. Every citizen registered on the electoral rolls freely decides whether to go and vote. Voting is also personal, free and secret.

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73. Comment sont désignés les députés ?

How are the MPs (députés) chosen?

→ Ils sont élus au suffrage universel direct — They are elected by direct universal suffrage

The 577 MPs (députés) are elected directly by French citizens, every 5 years, in the legislative elections. They sit in the National Assembly (Assemblée nationale). Senators, on the other hand, are elected by indirect suffrage, by the “grands électeurs”.

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74. Quelles sont les durées du mandat du conseil municipal et du maire ?

How long are the terms of office of the municipal council and of the mayor?

→ 6 ans pour les deux — 6 years for both

The mayor (maire) and the municipal councillors are elected for 6 years, in the municipal elections. They represent the citizens in the commune. Tip: local terms of office (commune, département, région) last 6 years; the President of the Republic and the MPs are elected for 5 years.

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75. Quelle est la durée du mandat du Président de la République française ?

How long is the term of office of the President of the French Republic?

→ 5 ans — 5 years

The President of the Republic is elected for 5 years by direct universal suffrage: it is the French citizens who vote. Tip: this is the same length as the term of the MPs (députés). Senators and local elected officials, on the other hand, are elected for 6 years.

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76. Quelle est la durée du mandat des députés ?

How long is the term of office of the MPs (députés)?

→ 5 ans — 5 years

MPs (députés) are elected for 5 years, by direct universal suffrage, in the legislative elections. This term can be shorter if the National Assembly (Assemblée nationale) is dissolved. Tip: senators, on the other hand, are elected for 6 years.

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77. Quelle est la durée du mandat des sénateurs ?

How long is the term of office of the senators?

→ 6 ans — 6 years

Senators (sénateurs) are elected for 6 years by indirect universal suffrage: it is the “grands électeurs”, for example mayors and municipal councillors, who vote. Half of the Senate (Sénat) is renewed every 3 years. Tip: MPs (députés), on the other hand, are elected for 5 years.

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78. En France, est-ce possible d'adhérer à un parti politique ?

In France, is it possible to join a political party?

→ Oui, chaque citoyen le peut librement — Yes, every citizen is free to do so

Every citizen is free to join a political party that matches their convictions. This right is guaranteed by Article 4 of the Constitution. The plurality of parties, meaning the existence of many different parties, is a fundamental principle of French democracy.

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79. Qui gère les collèges publics ?

Who manages public lower secondary schools (collèges)?

→ Le département — The département

The départements manage public lower secondary schools (collèges): construction and upkeep of the buildings, equipment, canteen. Tip: the commune manages nursery and primary schools, the département manages the collèges, the région manages the upper secondary schools (lycées). The State defines the school curricula and recruits the teachers.

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80. Qui gère les écoles primaires et maternelles publiques ?

Who manages public primary and nursery schools?

→ La commune — The commune

The communes manage public nursery and primary schools (écoles maternelles et primaires): construction and upkeep of the buildings, equipment, canteen. Tip: the commune manages the schools, the département manages the lower secondary schools (collèges) and the région manages the upper secondary schools (lycées).

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81. Comment sont désignés les maires ?

How are mayors chosen?

→ Ils sont élus par le conseil municipal — They are elected by the municipal council

Residents first elect the municipal councillors, in the municipal elections. Then the municipal council (conseil municipal) elects the mayor (maire), by secret ballot, at its first meeting. Municipal elections take place every 6 years.

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82. Quelle collectivité territoriale est responsable des transports régionaux ?

Which local authority is responsible for regional transport?

→ La région — The région

The région organises transport of regional interest: regional trains, coaches between towns and school transport. It is responsible for regional mobility across its whole territory. Tip: regional transport, so the région.

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83. Quelle est l'une des voies possibles pour modifier la Constitution ?

What is one of the possible ways to amend the Constitution?

→ Un vote des citoyens par référendum — A vote by citizens in a referendum

The Constitution can be amended in two ways: by referendum (référendum), meaning a direct vote by citizens, or by a vote of Parliament meeting in Congress (Congrès: MPs and senators together). In the second case, a majority of three fifths of the votes cast is required.

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84. Qui assure l'intérim du président de la République en cas de décès ?

Who acts as interim President of the Republic if the President dies?

→ Le président du Sénat — The President of the Senate

If the President of the Republic dies during his or her term, the President of the Senate (président du Sénat) temporarily carries out the President's duties. This is laid down in Article 7 of the Constitution. This interim period lasts until a new President of the Republic is elected.

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85. Quel est le rôle du Conseil constitutionnel ?

What is the role of the Constitutional Council?

→ Vérifier que les lois respectent la Constitution — Checking that laws comply with the Constitution

The Constitutional Council (Conseil constitutionnel) checks that laws are in line with the Constitution. Before a law is promulgated, 60 MPs or 60 senators can refer it to the Council. The law is then promulgated by the President of the Republic and published in the Journal officiel.

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86. Quelle condition est obligatoire pour se présenter à l'élection présidentielle ?

Which condition is compulsory to stand in the presidential election?

→ Obtenir 500 parrainages d'élus — Obtaining 500 sponsorships from elected officials

Only candidates who have obtained 500 sponsorships (parrainages) from elected officials can stand in the presidential election. A sponsorship is the signature of an elected official who puts forward a candidate. It is not compulsory to belong to a political party or to have been elected before.

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87. Comment est organisé le découpage administratif de la France ?

How is France divided administratively?

→ En communes, départements et régions — Into communes, départements and régions

France is organised into local authorities (collectivités territoriales): the communes, the 101 départements and the 18 régions. The State has transferred powers to them: this is decentralisation. The ministries define policies for the whole country.

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88. En quelle année la citoyenneté européenne a-t-elle été créée ?

In which year was European citizenship created?

→ En 1992 — In 1992

European citizenship was created in 1992 by the Maastricht Treaty. This treaty turned the European Economic Community (EEC) into the European Union and provided for a single currency. Tip: Maastricht, 1992, is the birth of the European Union and of European citizenship.

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89. Quel est le dernier État à avoir intégré l'Union Européenne en 2013 ?

Which is the last State to have joined the European Union, in 2013?

→ La Croatie — Croatia

Croatia joined the European Union in 2013. Before it, Bulgaria and Romania joined in 2007, and ten countries, including Slovenia, in 2004. In 2020, for the first time, a country left the European Union: the United Kingdom.

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90. Qui a composé l'hymne de l'Union européenne ?

Who composed the anthem of the European Union?

→ Ludwig van Beethoven — Ludwig van Beethoven

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

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91. Quand est célébrée la journée de l'Europe ?

When is Europe Day celebrated?

→ Le 9 mai — On 9 May

Every year, on 9 May, the member countries of the European Union celebrate Europe Day (Journée de l'Europe). This date marks the anniversary of the "Schuman Declaration" of 9 May 1950, a founding text of European integration. This day recalls the values of the European Union.

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92. Où est le siège de la Banque centrale européenne ?

Where is the seat of the European Central Bank?

→ À Francfort, en Allemagne — In Frankfurt, Germany

The seat of the European Central Bank (Banque centrale européenne, BCE) is in Frankfurt, Germany. The ECB was created in 1998, when the euro was created as the single currency. Tip: Brussels for the European Commission, Strasbourg for the European Parliament, Luxembourg for the Court of Justice.

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93. Qui siège au Parlement européen ?

Who sits in the European Parliament?

→ Les députés européens — The Members of the European Parliament

The European Parliament brings together the Members of the European Parliament (députés européens), also called MEPs (eurodéputés). They are elected every 5 years by the citizens of the European Union, in the European elections. They vote on the laws and the budget of the Union.

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94. Les citoyens de l'Union européenne peuvent-ils voter aux élections locales dans un autre État de l'Union ?

Can citizens of the European Union vote in local elections in another State of the Union?

→ Oui, aux élections municipales — Yes, in municipal elections

A citizen of a European Union country who lives in France can vote in municipal elections (élections municipales). He or she must be registered on the electoral roll of their commune. He or she can also vote in European elections, but not in the presidential election or the legislative elections.

Rights and duties

95. 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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96. 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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97. 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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98. 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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99. 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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100. 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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101. À quoi sert le droit de grève ?

What is the right to strike for?

→ À cesser le travail pour exprimer un désaccord — To stop working in order to express a disagreement

The right to strike (droit de grève) is the right of an employed person to stop working in order to express a disagreement. It comes from the principle of liberty, like freedom of expression and freedom of religion. It is a fundamental right in France.

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102. L'article 4 de la Déclaration des droits de l'homme et du citoyen affirme que "la liberté consiste à pouvoir faire tout ce qui ne nuit pas à autrui". Qu'est-ce que cela signifie ?

Article 4 of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (Déclaration des droits de l'homme et du citoyen) states that "liberty consists in being able to do anything that does not harm others". What does this mean?

→ Notre liberté est limitée par les droits des autres — Our freedom is limited by the rights of others

According to Article 4 of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, we are free as long as we do not harm others. Our individual rights and freedoms are therefore limited by the rights of others, in order to protect life in society. These limits are set by law.

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103. Que permet la liberté de circulation ?

What does freedom of movement allow?

→ Se déplacer librement en France et dans l'Union européenne — Moving freely within France and the European Union

Freedom of movement (liberté de circulation) is also called the freedom to come and go (liberté d'aller et venir). Every citizen is free to move within French territory and the European Union, and to enter and leave the territory. There are exceptions: for example, prisoners lose this freedom during their sentence.

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104. Que signifie être citoyen d'un État ?

What does it mean to be a citizen of a State?

→ Avoir la nationalité de cet État, avec des droits et des devoirs — Having the nationality of that State, with rights and duties

A French citizen has French nationality. He or she has civic and political rights, such as the right to vote, and duties, such as obeying the law and paying taxes. Foreign people who live in a country without having its nationality do not have all of these rights and duties.

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105. Que sont les droits fondamentaux ?

What are fundamental rights?

→ Des droits et libertés élémentaires, les mêmes pour tous — Basic rights and freedoms, the same for everyone

Fundamental rights (droits fondamentaux) are the basic rights and freedoms that everyone must respect. They are the same for everyone, whatever their sex, age, beliefs or way of life. They guarantee dignity, respect, equality and justice for each person.

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106. Quel droit protège une personne contre une arrestation arbitraire ?

Which right protects a person against arbitrary arrest?

→ Le droit à la sûreté — The right to security (droit à la sûreté)

The right to security (droit à la sûreté) protects individuals against arbitrary arrest and imprisonment by public authorities. Under the rule of law (État de droit), the authorities always act in accordance with the law. Independent judges oversee them.

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107. Quel texte affirme que tous les hommes naissent libres et égaux en droits ?

Which text states that all men are born free and equal in rights?

→ La Déclaration des droits de l'homme et du citoyen de 1789 — The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (Déclaration des droits de l'homme et du citoyen) of 1789

Article 1 of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen says: "Men are born and remain free and equal in rights." This text was adopted on 26 August 1789, during the French Revolution. It is made up of an introduction and 17 articles.

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108. Quelle situation est une atteinte à la dignité humaine ?

Which situation is a violation of human dignity?

→ Être employé par une entreprise sans être payé — Being employed by a company without being paid

The right to dignity means that a person must never be treated as an object or as a means. A person who is employed by a company and not paid is in a situation that violates dignity. Slavery and forced labour are forbidden.

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109. Suite à une interpellation par la police, il est possible de :

After being arrested by the police, it is possible to:

→ Garder le silence et être assisté par un avocat — Remain silent and be assisted by a lawyer

In the event of arrest or police custody (garde à vue), the person is told the reasons for the arrest and his or her rights. These include the right to remain silent, to be assisted by a lawyer and to inform a relative. These guarantees are part of the right to security (droit à la sûreté).

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110. Tous les citoyens français ont-ils une religion ?

Do all French citizens have a religion?

→ Non, chacun est libre de croire ou de ne pas croire — No, everyone is free to believe or not to believe

In France, having no religion, or choosing to no longer have one, is a right. Many people say they have no religion. Everyone is also free to practise the religion of their choice, while respecting others.

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111. À quel âge est la majorité numérique en France ?

At what age is the digital age of majority (majorité numérique) in France?

→ 15 ans — 15 years old

The law of 7 July 2023 set the digital age of majority (majorité numérique) at 15. It provides that, before that age, a child cannot sign up alone on social networks. This rule is meant to fight online offences such as cyberbullying.

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112. Dans lequel de ces endroits est-on autorisé à fumer ?

In which of these places is smoking allowed?

→ Dans la rue, à distance des écoles — In the street, away from schools

Smoking in public space, for example in the street, is allowed. It is forbidden in enclosed or covered places open to the public (stations, restaurants, bars) and on work premises. Since 1 July 2025, it has also been forbidden in parks, on beaches and around schools.

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113. En France, la conduite sans permis d'une moto est :

In France, riding a motorcycle without a licence is:

→ Un délit — A délit (intermediate offence)

To drive a motor vehicle on public roads, you need a valid driving licence. Driving without a licence is one of the most dangerous behaviours: it is a délit, an intermediate offence. It can be punished by one year in prison and a fine of 15,000 euros.

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114. En quoi consiste le devoir de solidarité ?

What does the duty of solidarity consist of?

→ Aider les autres et contribuer aux dépenses communes — Helping others and contributing to common expenses

Solidarity comes from the republican value of fraternity. It means helping others, for example by coming to the aid of a person in danger. Meeting your tax obligations is also an act of solidarity: it funds public services for the benefit of all.

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115. Est-ce légal d'être marié à plusieurs personnes en même temps ?

Is it legal to be married to several people at the same time?

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

Polygamy, that is, being married to several people at the same time, is forbidden by law in France. It is a criminal offence. In France, only civil marriage, celebrated at the town hall (mairie), is recognised by law.

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116. Est-ce obligatoire de déclarer ses impôts chaque année en France ?

Is it compulsory to file a tax return every year in France?

→ Oui, même si les revenus sont faibles ou nuls — Yes, even if your income is low or zero

Every person over 18 who lives in France must declare their income every year, even if it is low or zero. The return is filed between April and May and covers the income of the previous year. Not filing it can lead to financial penalties.

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117. Est-il obligatoire de porter secours à une personne en danger ?

Is it compulsory to help a person in danger?

→ Oui, sans se mettre soi-même en danger — Yes, without putting yourself in danger

Assistance to a person in danger requires everyone to help others, if they can do so without putting their own life at risk. Failing to do so is an offence (délit) punished by law: failure to assist a person in danger (non-assistance à personne en danger). A witness to a serious accident must therefore call the emergency services.

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118. Être juré d'assises est :

Being a juror at the cour d'assises (criminal court) is:

→ Une obligation pour le citoyen tiré au sort — An obligation for the citizen drawn by lot

Jurors at the cour d'assises are French citizens drawn by lot from the electoral rolls. Once a citizen is drawn by lot for a case, he or she is obliged to sit. Taking part in these juries is a duty of the French citizen.

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119. La vente d'alcool en France est interdite aux personnes de moins de :

In France, the sale of alcohol is forbidden to people under:

→ 18 ans — 18 years old

In France, it is forbidden to sell alcohol to minors, that is, to people under 18. Drinking alcohol in public space is also subject to rules. These measures are meant to protect people and to prevent public disorder.

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120. Le non-respect du code de la route est :

Failure to comply with the highway code (code de la route) is:

→ Puni par des sanctions prévues par la loi — Punished by penalties laid down by law

The highway code (code de la route) applies everywhere, to everyone who uses the road. Not respecting it puts other people's lives in danger: that is why penalties exist. They depend on how serious the offence is and range from a fine to prison.

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121. Lequel de ces crimes ou délits peut entrainer la privation des droits civils et politiques par un juge ?

Which of these crimes or offences can lead a judge to take away a person's civil and political rights?

→ Un viol — A rape

Some serious convictions, for example for rape or sexual assault, can lead to the loss of civic and political rights. The convicted person can then no longer vote or stand for election for several years. The least serious offences, called contraventions, are punished by a fine.

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122. Pour obtenir une carte d'identité, il faut :

To obtain an identity card, you must:

→ Avoir la nationalité française — Have French nationality

The national identity card (carte nationale d'identité) is issued to any French person who applies for it, with no age condition. You must therefore have French nationality to obtain it. However, there is no minimum age: a French child can also have an identity card.

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123. Que doit faire un citoyen s'il est appelé à être juré dans un procès d'assises ?

What must a citizen do if called to be a juror in a trial at the cour d'assises (criminal court)?

→ Se présenter à la cour d'assises et siéger — Come to the cour d'assises and sit as a juror

Jurors are drawn by lot from the electoral rolls. Once a citizen is drawn by lot for a case, he or she is obliged to sit. If there is a difficulty in coming to the hearing, the citizen must inform the registry (greffe) of the cour d'assises.

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124. Quel est l'âge de la majorité civile en France ?

What is the age of civil majority (majorité civile) in France?

→ 18 ans — 18 years old

In France, the age of civil majority (majorité civile) is 18. From that age, citizens who have their civil and political rights can vote and stand for election. The age of majority was lowered to 18 in 1974, under President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing.

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125. Quel est l'un des devoirs principaux d'un citoyen français ?

What is one of the main duties of a French citizen?

→ Respecter les lois de la République — Obeying the laws of the Republic

A French citizen must obey the law, both French and European. Because citizens elect the representatives who pass the laws, they are indirectly their authors. Citizens also have other duties: taking part in political life, in the defence of the country and in the working of justice.

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126. Qu'est-ce que la citoyenneté numérique ?

What is digital citizenship (citoyenneté numérique)?

→ Un usage responsable, éthique et sûr des outils numériques — A responsible, ethical and safe use of digital tools

Digital citizenship (citoyenneté numérique) is taught at school in particular. It is about learning to use digital technologies in an effective, responsible, ethical and safe way. Parents must also make sure that their child uses screens properly.

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127. Qu'est-ce que le devoir de mémoire ?

What is the duty of remembrance (devoir de mémoire)?

→ Se souvenir des événements tragiques du passé et de leurs victimes — Remembering the tragic events of the past and their victims

The duty of remembrance (devoir de mémoire) is the moral obligation to remember a tragic historical event and its victims, so that it does not happen again. For example, the Shoah is studied at school to understand the consequences of hatred, racism and antisemitism.

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128. Qui peut être appelé à faire partie d'un jury d'assises en France ?

Who can be called to sit on a jury at the cour d'assises (criminal court) in France?

→ Un citoyen français de plus de 23 ans, inscrit sur les listes électorales — A French citizen over 23 who is registered on the electoral rolls

Any French citizen over 23, who has all his or her civic rights and is registered on the electoral rolls (listes électorales), can be drawn by lot to be a juror in a trial at a cour d'assises. This role guarantees the direct participation of citizens in justice.

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129. Une personne est privée de ses droits civils et politiques pendant 5 ans suite à une condamnation. Parmi ces propositions laquelle est correcte ? Pendant 5 ans,...

A person is deprived of civil and political rights for 5 years following a conviction. Which of these statements is correct? For 5 years,...

→ Elle ne peut ni voter ni se présenter à une élection — The person can neither vote nor stand for election

The loss of civic rights (privation des droits civiques) is a penalty for serious offences. It takes away certain rights from a person, such as the right to vote or to stand for election. During the period set, here 5 years, the convicted person can therefore neither vote nor be a candidate.

History, geography and culture

130. 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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131. 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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132. 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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133. 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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134. 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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135. 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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136. 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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137. 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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138. 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.

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139. 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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140. 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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141. 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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142. 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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143. 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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144. 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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145. 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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146. 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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147. 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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148. 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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149. 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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150. 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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151. 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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152. 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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153. 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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154. 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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155. 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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156. 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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157. 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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158. 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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159. 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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160. 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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161. 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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162. 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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163. 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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164. 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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165. 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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166. Parmi ces textes, lequel a été adopté sous Napoléon Ier ?

Among these texts, which one was adopted under Napoleon I?

→ Le Code civil — The Civil Code (Code civil)

The Civil Code dates from 1804, the year Napoleon I became emperor. It sets rules common to everyone, in particular on family, property and contracts. It still guarantees equality before the law today. Napoleon also created the lycée and the baccalauréat.

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167. Qui a été président de la Ve République ?

Who has been a president of the Fifth Republic?

→ Jacques Chirac — Jacques Chirac

Jacques Chirac was President of the Republic from 1995 to 2007, for two terms. The presidents of the Fifth Republic are Charles de Gaulle, Georges Pompidou, Valéry Giscard d’Estaing, François Mitterrand, Jacques Chirac, Nicolas Sarkozy, François Hollande and Emmanuel Macron.

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168. Quel est l’objectif des lois scolaires de la IIIe République ?

What is the aim of the school laws of the Third Republic?

→ Rendre l’école gratuite, laïque et obligatoire — To make school free, secular (laïque) and compulsory

Under the Third Republic, the Jules Ferry laws made free state schooling general in 1881, then secular (laïque) and compulsory schooling in 1882. A way to remember: Jules Ferry means free, secular and compulsory school. The lycée and the baccalauréat were created under Napoleon.

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169. Que signifie la date du 14 juillet pour les Français ?

What does the date of 14 July mean for the French?

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

14 July has been the national day since 1880. The date recalls two events: the storming of the Bastille on 14 July 1789, which marks the beginning of the French Revolution, and the Fête de la Fédération on 14 July 1790. A military parade takes place in Paris.

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170. Lequel de ces pays est un pays fondateur de l'Union Européenne ?

Which of these countries is a founding country of the European Union?

→ L'Italie — Italy

Six countries launched the building of Europe: France, Germany, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg. They created the ECSC (CECA) in 1951, then the European Economic Community in 1957 with the Treaty of Rome. Sweden joined in 1995, Poland in 2004 and Croatia in 2013.

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171. Simone Veil est une figure importante de l'histoire française. Elle a notamment :

Simone Veil is an important figure in French history. In particular, she:

→ défendu la loi sur l'avortement — defended the law on abortion

Simone Veil was Minister of Health. She presented and supported the law of 17 January 1975, known as the 'Veil' law. Since this law, abortion (IVG) is no longer punished in France. It is a major step forward for women's rights.

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172. Dans quelle région est située une partie des plages du débarquement ayant permis d'engager la libération de la France ?

In which region are some of the landing beaches that made it possible to begin the liberation of France located?

→ La Normandie — Normandy (la Normandie)

On 6 June 1944, the Allies landed in Normandy. This landing marks the beginning of the Liberation of France and of Europe. Paris was liberated in August 1944. Normandy is a region in the north-west of France, on the English Channel.

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173. Dans quelle ville les rois de France étaient-ils couronnés ?

In which city were the kings of France crowned?

→ Reims — Reims

Under the Ancien Régime, the kings of France were crowned at Reims Cathedral. At that time, the king held all the powers: this is absolute monarchy. Today Reims is one of the main cities of the Grand Est region.

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174. Quel roi de France a été guillotiné pendant la Révolution française ?

Which king of France was guillotined during the French Revolution?

→ Louis XVI — Louis XVI

During the French Revolution, the powers of King Louis XVI were first limited. On 10 August 1792 he was overthrown, then put on trial. He was guillotined in Paris, on the Place de la Concorde, in 1793. The First Republic began in 1792.

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175. Quel pays a été une colonie française ?

Which country was a French colony?

→ L'Algérie — Algeria

Algeria was colonised by France. It gained its independence in 1962, at the end of the Algerian War (1954-1962). The French colonies in sub-Saharan Africa and Madagascar became independent in 1960. The Indochina War (1946-1954) put an end to French Indochina.

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176. En quelle année l'Union européenne a-t-elle été fondée?

In which year was the European Union founded?

→ 1992 — 1992

The European Union (EU) was created in 1992 by the Maastricht Treaty. Before it, six countries including France had founded the ECSC (CECA) in 1951, then the European Economic Community (CEE) in 1957 with the Treaty of Rome. In 2002, the euro, the single currency, came into circulation in several member countries.

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177. Sous quel président a été abolie la peine de mort en France ?

Under which president was the death penalty abolished in France?

→ François Mitterrand — François Mitterrand

The death penalty was abolished in 1981, when François Mitterrand was President of the Republic. His Minister of Justice, Robert Badinter, supported this abolition. Since 2007, the Constitution has stated that 'no one may be sentenced to death'.

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178. Que célèbre-t-on le 8 mai ?

What is celebrated on 8 May?

→ La victoire de 1945 — The victory of 1945

On 8 May 1945, Germany surrendered: this was the end of the Second World War in Europe. Every year, 8 May is a public holiday (jour férié) in France. Ceremonies take place all over the country to commemorate this victory.

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179. Depuis quand l'esclavage a-t-il été aboli en France ?

Since when has slavery been abolished in France?

→ Depuis 1848 — Since 1848

Slavery was abolished for good in 1848, at the start of the Second Republic. The decree of 27 April 1848 ended slavery in the French colonies. It had first been abolished in 1794, then restored by Napoleon in 1802.

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180. Qui a aboli l'esclavage en France ?

Who abolished slavery in France?

→ Victor Schœlcher — Victor Schœlcher

Victor Schœlcher was under-secretary of state for the colonies. He drafted the decree of 27 April 1848, which abolished slavery for good in the French colonies. To remember it: Schœlcher, 1848, Second Republic.

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

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

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

The United Nations (ONU) was created in 1945, right after the Second World War, to keep peace in the world. France is a permanent member of its Security Council. The League of Nations is older, and the European Union dates from 1992.

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182. En quelle année l'euro est-il devenu la monnaie officielle de la France ?

In what year did the euro become the official currency of France?

→ En 2002 — In 2002

The euro came into circulation in 2002: euro coins and banknotes arrived on 1 January 2002 in several European Union countries, including France. The Maastricht Treaty had planned this single currency in 1992. For the exam, the date to remember is 2002.

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183. Lors de la seconde guerre mondiale, à quelle date la ville de Paris a-t-elle été libérée ?

During the Second World War, on what date was the city of Paris liberated?

→ Le 25 août 1944 — On 25 August 1944

Paris was liberated on 25 August 1944. The liberation of France began with the Allied landing in Normandy on 6 June 1944. Germany then surrendered on 8 May 1945: that was the end of the war in Europe.

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184. Quel était le principal port français impliqué dans la traite négrière au XVIIIe siècle ?

Which was the main French port involved in the slave trade in the 18th century?

→ Nantes — Nantes

Nantes was the main French port in the transatlantic slave trade. Africans were forcibly deported to the colonies, where they worked as slaves on plantations. Today France recognises the slave trade and slavery as a crime against humanity (Taubira law of 2001).

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185. Quel célèbre philosophe des Lumières a dénoncé l'esclavage ?

Which famous Enlightenment philosopher (philosophe des Lumières) denounced slavery?

→ Montesquieu — Montesquieu

The Enlightenment philosophers (philosophes des Lumières) defended tolerance, freedom of thought and the rejection of arbitrary power. Among them, Montesquieu denounced slavery in his works. The ideas of the Enlightenment influenced the French Revolution.

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186. Quelle œuvre a été écrite par Victor Hugo ?

Which work was written by Victor Hugo?

→ Les Misérables — Les Misérables

Victor Hugo (1802-1885) is a major writer of French Romanticism. He wrote “Les Misérables” and “Notre-Dame de Paris”. “Les Fleurs du Mal” is by Baudelaire, “Le Malade imaginaire” by Molière and “La Mare au Diable” by George Sand.

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187. Quel plat est une spécialité de la cuisine française ?

Which dish is a speciality of French cuisine?

→ Le pot-au-feu — Pot-au-feu

Pot-au-feu is a traditional and popular dish of French gastronomy, like blanquette de veau or bœuf bourguignon. The French gastronomic meal is listed by UNESCO as part of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity.

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188. Qui était Marie Curie ?

Who was Marie Curie?

→ Une physicienne, deux fois prix Nobel — A physicist who won two Nobel Prizes

Marie Curie (1867-1934) was a physicist born in Poland who became French. We owe her the discovery of radioactivity. She received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1903, then the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1911. She is buried in the Panthéon.

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189. Qui a peint "La liberté guidant le peuple" ?

Who painted “La Liberté guidant le peuple” (Liberty Leading the People)?

→ Eugène Delacroix — Eugène Delacroix

Eugène Delacroix (1798-1863) is a major painter of French Romanticism. “La Liberté guidant le peuple” (Liberty Leading the People) is one of his essential paintings. His painting highlights movement, freedom and passion, with bright colours.

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190. Dans quel grand musée parisien est exposée la Joconde ?

In which major Paris museum is the Mona Lisa (la Joconde) displayed?

→ Au musée du Louvre — At the Louvre Museum (musée du Louvre)

The Mona Lisa (la Joconde), painted by Leonardo da Vinci, is displayed at the Louvre Museum in Paris. The Louvre is housed in a former royal palace. It is one of the largest art museums in the world.

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191. Quel château célèbre se trouve près de Paris et symbolise le pouvoir royal de Louis XIV ?

Which famous château is located near Paris and symbolises the royal power of Louis XIV?

→ Le château de Versailles — The Château de Versailles

Louis XIV, known as the "Sun King" (Roi-Soleil), reigned from 1643 to 1715. He had the Château de Versailles built near Paris. This palace is a jewel of classical architecture. Louis XIV embodies absolute monarchy.

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192. Où peut-on voir des peintures préhistoriques en France ?

Where can prehistoric paintings be seen in France?

→ Dans la grotte de Lascaux — In the Lascaux cave

The Lascaux cave (grotte de Lascaux) is the most famous prehistoric cave in France. It is in the Dordogne, in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region. It contains paintings made between 18,000 and 15,000 years before Christ.

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193. Quel peintre célèbre a peint les Nymphéas ?

Which famous painter painted the Water Lilies (les Nymphéas)?

→ Claude Monet — Claude Monet

Claude Monet (1840-1926) is a French Impressionist painter. "Les Nymphéas" (Water Lilies) is among his essential paintings. The Impressionist movement is named after another of his paintings, "Impression, Soleil levant" (Impression, Sunrise).

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194. Pendant quelles journées peut-on visiter gratuitement des lieux culturels en France ?

During which days can cultural sites in France be visited free of charge?

→ Les Journées européennes du patrimoine — The European Heritage Days (Journées européennes du patrimoine)

The European Heritage Days (Journées européennes du patrimoine) take place every year in September, all over France. They let people visit, very often for free, cultural sites that are usually closed to the public: historic buildings, public institutions, backstage areas of opera houses.

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195. Que symbolise le 1er mai ?

What does 1 May symbolise?

→ La fête du Travail — Labour Day (fête du Travail)

1 May is Labour Day (fête du Travail), also called workers' day. It is a public holiday. On that day, demonstrations are organised. Its symbol is lily of the valley (muguet), a flower that brings good luck.

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196. Qui était Monsieur Rouget de Lisle ?

Who was Mr Rouget de Lisle?

→ L'auteur de La Marseillaise — The author of La Marseillaise

Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle (1760-1836) was a French officer and writer. He composed La Marseillaise in 1792. This song became the national anthem of France. Children study it at primary school.

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197. À quelle occasion a été construite la Tour Eiffel ?

For what occasion was the Eiffel Tower built?

→ Pour l'Exposition universelle de 1889 — For the 1889 World's Fair (Exposition universelle)

The Eiffel Tower was built in 2 years by the engineer Gustave Eiffel for the 1889 World's Fair (Exposition universelle). This fair celebrated 100 years since the French Revolution. Criticised at first, the tower is now a symbol of Paris and of France.

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198. Qui était un célèbre compositeur français ?

Who was a famous French composer?

→ Claude Debussy — Claude Debussy

Claude Debussy (1862-1918) is a French composer, regarded as the father of modern music. His best-known pieces include “Clair de Lune” and “La Mer”. Monet is a painter, Rodin a sculptor and Baudelaire a poet.

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199. Quel monument historique se trouve sur une île en Normandie ?

Which historic monument stands on an island in Normandy?

→ L'abbaye du Mont-Saint-Michel — The abbey of Mont-Saint-Michel

Mont-Saint-Michel is a rocky island on the Normandy coast. An abbey was built at its top in the Middle Ages. At high tide, the island is surrounded by water. The site is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

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200. Quelle île fait partie des Antilles françaises ?

Which island is part of the French West Indies (Antilles françaises)?

→ La Martinique — Martinique

Martinique is a Caribbean island. Together with Guadeloupe, Saint-Martin and Saint-Barthélemy, it forms the French West Indies (Antilles françaises). Réunion is in the Indian Ocean, Corsica in the Mediterranean Sea and New Caledonia in the Pacific Ocean.

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201. Quelle île est française ?

Which island is French?

→ **La Corse** — Corsica (La Corse)

Corsica is a French island in the Mediterranean Sea, south-east of mainland France. It has 2 departments: Corse-du-Sud and Haute-Corse. Its prefecture is Ajaccio. The other three islands are not part of French territory.

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202. Quelle est la plus haute montagne de France ?

What is the highest mountain in France?

→ **Le mont Blanc** — Mont Blanc

Mont Blanc is in the Alps, a mountain range that notably separates France from Italy. At about 4,800 metres, it is the highest mountain in France. The Alps are also famous for their ski resorts.

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203. Quelle île française est située dans l'océan indien ?

Which French island is located in the Indian Ocean?

→ **Mayotte** — Mayotte

Mayotte is a French island in the Indian Ocean, between Madagascar and the African continent. It is an overseas department and region. Réunion (La Réunion) is another French island in the Indian Ocean. Martinique and Guadeloupe are in the Caribbean.

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204. Quel département français a une frontière avec le Brésil ?

Which French department shares a border with Brazil?

→ **La Guyane** — French Guiana

French Guiana (La Guyane) is a French department in South America, on the Atlantic coast. Thanks to French Guiana, France has a land border with Brazil and with Suriname. Its prefecture is Cayenne.

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205. De quelle ville française décolle la fusée Ariane ?

From which French city does the Ariane rocket take off?

→ **Kourou** — Kourou

Ariane rockets take off from the Kourou space centre in French Guiana (Guyane). This centre is on the Atlantic coast. It is used by the European Space Agency to launch satellites. Cayenne is the prefecture of French Guiana, but not the launch base.

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206. Quel est le chef-lieu de la région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes ?

What is the capital (chef-lieu) of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region?

→ Lyon — Lyon

Lyon is the capital (chef-lieu) of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region: the regional prefecture is located there. Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes is the 2nd most populated region in France, after Île-de-France. Grenoble, Clermont-Ferrand and Saint-Étienne are other major cities in this region.

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207. Quel est le chef-lieu de la région Bretagne ?

What is the capital (chef-lieu) of the Brittany (Bretagne) region?

→ Rennes — Rennes

Rennes is the capital (chef-lieu) of the Brittany region: the regional prefecture is located there. Brittany is in the far west of France and has 4 departments. Brest and Quimper are other Breton cities; Nantes is the prefecture of the Pays de la Loire region.

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208. Quel est le chef-lieu de la région Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur ?

What is the capital (chef-lieu) of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region?

→ Marseille — Marseille

Marseille is the capital (chef-lieu) of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region: the regional prefecture is located there. This region in the south-east of France borders Italy and the Mediterranean Sea. Nice, Avignon and Aix-en-Provence are other major cities in the region.

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209. Quel est le 101ème département français depuis 2011 ?

Which has been the 101st French department since 2011?

→ Mayotte — Mayotte

France has 101 departments: 96 in mainland France and 5 overseas. The most recent is Mayotte, which became a department in 2011. Mayotte is an island in the Indian Ocean, between Madagascar and the African continent.

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210. Quelle région française est réputée pour ses stations de ski ?

Which French region is famous for its ski resorts?

→ L'Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes — Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes

The Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region stretches from the Alps to the Massif Central. Tourism in ski resorts is one of its key economic sectors. The Alps are particularly famous for their ski resorts in winter.

Living in French society

211. 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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212. 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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213. 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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214. 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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215. 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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216. 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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217. 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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218. 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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219. 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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220. 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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221. 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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222. 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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223. 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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224. 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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225. 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.

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226. 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.

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227. 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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228. 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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229. 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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230. 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.

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231. 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.

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232. 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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233. Quelle action peut réaliser le locataire d'un logement sans l'autorisation du propriétaire ?

Which action can the tenant of a home carry out without the owner's permission?

→ Peindre les murs — Painting the walls

A tenant can do decorative work in the home, such as painting walls, without asking the owner. For all other work, the tenant must ask the owner for permission. This is set out in the law of 6 July 1989.

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234. Quel mariage est reconnu légalement ?

Which marriage is legally recognised?

→ Le mariage civil, célébré à la mairie — Civil marriage (mariage civil), celebrated at the town hall

In France, only civil marriage is recognised by law. It is celebrated at the town hall (mairie) by the mayor or a deputy mayor. Polygamy, which means being married to several people at the same time, is forbidden by law.

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235. Le stationnement sur une place réservée aux personnes handicapées :

Parking in a space reserved for people with disabilities:

→ est réservé aux titulaires d'une carte « mobilité inclusion » — is reserved for holders of a "mobility inclusion" card (carte mobilité inclusion)

These spaces are reserved for people with disabilities who hold a "mobility inclusion" card (carte mobilité inclusion). A person who has no disability is not allowed to park a vehicle there.

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236. Si une machine à laver est cassée, il est possible de :

If a washing machine is broken, it is possible to:

→ la déposer dans une déchèterie — take it to a waste collection centre (déchèterie)

There are waste collection centres (déchèteries) in every area. Everyone can bring household appliances there, such as a washing machine, as well as bulky items. Throwing waste in the street or in nature is illegal dumping (dépôt sauvage): it is forbidden by law and can be punished with a fine.

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237. Dans quel cas faut-il déclarer son enfant au service d'état civil ?

In which case must you declare your child to the civil registry office (service d'état civil)?

→ À sa naissance — At the child's birth

Declaring a birth is compulsory. It is done at the town hall (mairie) of the place of birth. It allows the child's birth certificate to be drawn up, which is then used to obtain social rights, apply for identity documents and enrol the child at school.

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238. Quand faut-il déclarer son enfant au service d'état civil ?

When must you declare your child to the civil registry office (service d'état civil)?

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

Declaring a birth is compulsory. It must be done within 5 days after the birth, at the town hall (mairie) of the place of birth. It can be done by the father, the mother or a person who was present at the delivery.

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239. Auprès de quelle institution les parents peuvent inscrire leurs enfants à l'école publique ?

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

→ La mairie — The town hall (mairie)

To enrol a child in a state school, you simply contact the town hall (mairie) or the school near your home. State school is free and secular. Parents can also choose to enrol their child in a private school.

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240. Qui peut demander le divorce de personnes mariées ?

Who can ask for the divorce of married people?

→ Chacun des deux époux — Either of the two spouses

In France, each spouse is free to end the marriage. Divorce can be requested by either spouse, and no fault is needed. This is marital freedom (liberté conjugale): everyone is free to marry and to divorce.

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241. La contraception :

Contraception:

→ est un droit, y compris pour les mineurs — is a right, including for minors

Contraception is all the methods used to avoid a pregnancy. It is part of the right to control one's own body (droit de disposer de son corps), guaranteed to people over and under 18. For minors, consultations and prescriptions can be anonymous and free.

---

242. Qu'est-ce que le tiers payant ?

What is third-party payment (tiers payant)?

→ Un système qui évite d'avancer les frais remboursés — A system that avoids paying in advance the costs that are reimbursed

With third-party payment (tiers payant), the patient does not pay in advance the amount that the national health insurance (Assurance Maladie) reimburses: the health professional is paid directly by the Assurance Maladie. It is not automatic. To benefit from it when possible, you must show your health card (carte Vitale).

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243. L'avortement est-il possible en France ?

Is abortion possible in France?

→ Oui, ce droit est inscrit dans la Constitution — Yes, this right is written in the Constitution

Every woman, whatever her age, can have a voluntary termination of pregnancy (IVG, interruption volontaire de grossesse). Abortion has no longer been punished by law since the Veil law of 17 January 1975. In March 2024, women's right to have an abortion was written into the Constitution.

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244. Quels sont les textes qui définissent les règles au travail ?

Which texts define the rules at work?

→ Le Code du travail, les conventions collectives et le règlement intérieur — The Labour Code (Code du travail), collective agreements and the internal rules

Three types of documents set the rules at work. The Labour Code (Code du travail) sets rights and obligations for everyone. Collective agreements (conventions collectives) adapt these rules to one activity. The internal rules (règlement intérieur) are written by the employer in companies with at least 50 employees.

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245. Qui a le droit de se syndiquer ?

Who has the right to join a trade union (se syndiquer)?

→ Chaque travailleur, sans condition — Every worker, without any condition

In France, every worker has the right to join a trade union (syndicat), without any condition: an employee can create one, join one or take part in one. A union is an organisation that defends workers' rights. Nobody can force an employee to join a union, and nobody can punish an employee for being a member.

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246. Est-il possible de licencier une femme enceinte ou en congé maternité, en raison de sa grossesse ?

Is it possible to dismiss a woman who is pregnant or on maternity leave because of her pregnancy?

→ Non, la loi garantit à la femme de conserver son emploi — No, the law guarantees that the woman keeps her job

During pregnancy and maternity leave (congé maternité), the law guarantees that a woman keeps her job. So the employer cannot dismiss an employee because she is pregnant or on maternity leave.

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247. L'instruction des enfants est obligatoire de :

Education of children (instruction) is compulsory from:

→ 3 à 16 ans — 3 to 16 years old

In France, all children from 3 to 16 years old must go to school, whether they are French or foreign. Education starts at nursery school (école maternelle), at age 3. After 16, school is no longer compulsory, but young people can continue their studies.

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248. Quelle est la définition de l'autorité parentale ?

What is the definition of parental authority (autorité parentale)?

→ L'ensemble des droits et devoirs des parents envers leur enfant mineur — All the rights and duties of parents towards their minor child

Parental authority (autorité parentale) is all the rights and duties of parents towards their child under 18. Both parents have the same rights and the same duties, whether they are married, in a civil partnership (PACS), living together or separated. They exercise them in the child's interest, without violence.

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249. Comment s'appellent les établissements scolaires que les élèves intègrent après l'école élémentaire ?

What are the schools called that pupils attend after primary school (école élémentaire)?

→ Les collèges — Collèges (lower secondary schools)

After primary school (école élémentaire), which goes from CP to CM2 (ages 6 to 11), pupils go to collège. Collège has four year groups: 6e, 5e, 4e and 3e. After that, pupils can go to lycée.

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250. En tant que parent d'élève, il est possible de :

As the parent of a pupil, it is possible to:

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

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

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251. Quelle instruction est prévue pour les enfants qui ne parlent pas français ?

What schooling is provided for children who do not speak French?

→ Ils vont à l'école et y apprennent le français — They go to school and learn French there

School welcomes all children from 3 to 16, including those whose mother tongue is not French (enfants allophones). Depending on their level, they can follow adapted lessons to learn French. After that, they follow the same lessons as the other children.

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252. S'agissant de l'accueil des enfants en situation de handicap à l'école, laquelle des propositions est vraie ?

Regarding the schooling of children with disabilities, which of these statements is true?

→ Ils peuvent avoir un emploi du temps aménagé — They can have an adapted timetable

Children with disabilities have the right to the same life as other children. At school, they can have an adapted timetable (emploi du temps aménagé) so that they can receive their care.

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253. Depuis le 1er juillet 2021, quelle est la durée du congé paternité ?

Since 1 July 2021, how long is paternity leave (congé paternité)?

→ 28 jours — 28 days

Since 1 July 2021, paternity leave (congé paternité) lasts 28 days. This total includes 3 days of birth leave and 25 days of paternity and childcare leave. The leave is longer when several children are born at the same time.

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254. Est-ce possible de punir physiquement ses enfants ?

Is it possible to punish your children physically?

→ Non, les violences physiques sont interdites par la loi — No, physical violence is forbidden by law

Violence cannot be used to bring up a child: this is written in the law. Slaps, spanking, humiliation and other physical or psychological violence are forbidden. If a child is in danger, you can call 119.

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