

ALL FRENCH EXAM PREPARATION

DELF / DALF

TCF / TEF

TCF DAP

TAGE MAGE

CATTI

TFU-4



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CLASSES
— SINCE 2015 —

E-36, G.F., Thokar No. 6, Shaheen Bagh
Near Rehan Tea Stall, New Delhi-110025

 **7982379338/9910774977**
 info@iblanguages.com  www.iblanguages.com

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Similar to the IELTS structure I provided earlier, preparing for French proficiency exams also requires first understanding the "Why" (your goal) and "Where" (your target country). While the core language skills (listening, reading, writing, speaking) are universal, the specific exam you choose depends entirely on your needs—whether for French university admissions, Canadian immigration, or a professional career.

Here is a comprehensive, step-by-step syllabus covering the major French exams, their specific structures, and a phased preparation plan.

COMPREHENSIVE FRENCH EXAM SYLLABUS & STEP-BY-STEP PREPARATION GUIDE

PART 1: UNDERSTANDING THE 6 MAJOR TYPES OF FRENCH EXAMS

Before studying content, you must select the correct test type based on your destination and goal.

Test Type	Acronym	Purpose & Target Countries	Key Feature
DELF / DALF	DELF (A1-B2) / DALF (C1-C2)	University admissions in France, Swiss, Belgian, Canadian unis; Canadian PR (Quebec); Global career asset.	Lifetime validity. The "gold standard." Recognized globally by employers and universities.
TCF / TEF	TCF / TEF	French visa applications (Campus France), university applications (France).	Validity: 1-2 years. You cannot choose which one; the system randomly assigns TCF or TEF on exam day.
TCF DAP	TCF DAP	Direct entry into French university Licence 1 (first year of undergraduate).	Specifically for students applying to first year of architecture school or undergraduate.
TAGE MAGE	TAGE MAGE	Top French Business Schools (HEC, ESSEC) for French-taught programs.	Tests logic, math, and reasoning (like the French "GMAT").
CATTI	CATTI	Professional Translation/ Interpretation career (China & International).	Official translation certification. Highly difficult.
TFU-4	TFU-4 (大学法语四级)	Chinese university students (non-French major) fulfilling degree requirements.	Domestic Chinese exam. Very low cost (approx. ¥30).

PART 2: SECTION-WISE DETAILED SYLLABUS

This is the "Step 1" of your syllabus. All exams are based on the CEFR (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) levels A1 to C2.

A. LISTENING (Compréhension Orale)

DELFF / DALF (General French)

- ◆ **Format:** Audio recordings (conversations, interviews, radio broadcasts, public announcements). Questions vary by level.
- ◆ **A1-A2:** Short, everyday conversations (shopping, weather, directions). Identifying key information (numbers, prices, times).
- ◆ **B1-B2:** Longer extracts (radio news, conferences, guided tours). Understanding points of view, attitudes, and specific details.
- ◆ **C1-C2:** Complex, lengthy recordings (debates, lectures, philosophical discussions). Grasping implicit meaning, irony, and multiple registers of language.

TCF / TEF (Academic & Immigration Focus)

- ◆ **TCF Format:** 29 multiple-choice questions. Short dialogues and public announcements. Focuses on understanding main ideas and specific details.
- ◆ **TEF Format:** 60 questions. Includes identifying situations, understanding news bulletins, and recognizing attitudes/opinions.

COMMON QUESTION TYPES (BOTH):

- ◆ Multiple Choice
- ◆ Identifying Information (True/False/Not Given)
- ◆ Identifying Writer's Views (Yes/No/Not Given)
- ◆ Matching Information / Headings / Features / Sentence Endings
- ◆ Sentence Completion
- ◆ Summary/Note/Table/Flow-chart Completion

B. READING (Compréhension Écrite)

DELFF / DALF

- ◆ **A1-A2:** Short messages, postcards, simple advertisements, menus, small ads.
- ◆ **B1-B2:** Informational texts (brochures, guides), press articles expressing opinions or facts, literary extracts.
- ◆ **C1-C2:** Complex, dense texts (specialized articles, long literary works, scientific papers). Requires understanding implicit meaning and nuanced arguments.

TCF / TEF

- ◆ **TCF Reading:** 29 MCQs. Texts include administrative documents, press articles, and literary excerpts. Questions test comprehension of explicit and implicit information.
- ◆ **TEF Reading:** 50 MCQs. Includes texts on identification of information (from documents), analysis of press articles, and comprehension of short texts.

C. WRITING (Production Écrite)

The biggest difference between DELFF/DALF (subjective) and TCF/TEF (objective multiple-choice) is here.

DELFF / DALF (Subjective & Creative)

- ◆ **SA1:** Fill out a form, write a simple postcard (40-50 words).

- ◆ **A2:** Write two short texts (describe an event, thank someone, invite).
- ◆ **B1:** Express personal opinions on a general topic (essay, letter, article) – about 160-180 words.
- ◆ **B2:** Argue a case (formal letter, article, report). Structured argumentation with introduction, thesis/antithesis, conclusion – about 250 words.
- ◆ **C1:** Write a structured text (500+ words) based on a set of documents (synthesizing information and arguing a point).
- ◆ **C2:** Integrated task. Write a long, well-structured text (article, speech, report) based on a complex file.

TCF (Optional)

TCF (Optional Writing): 1h45m. Two tasks

1. Describe a situation using facts (letter to a friend, administration).
2. Write an essay or article arguing a position.

D. SPEAKING (Production Orale)

DELFL / DALFL (Interactive Interview)

- ◆ **A1-A2:** Guided conversation (introduce yourself), interactive exercise (asking for information), exchange of information (monologue on a familiar topic).
- ◆ **B1:** Debate. Individual presentation based on a document, followed by discussion with the examiner.
- ◆ **B2:** Persuasive Monologue. Present and defend a point of view on a document, followed by a debate.
- ◆ **C1-C2:** Highly Complex. Summary of documents + personal argumentation. Deep discussion on specialized topics.

TEFL (Optional)

TEFL Speaking: 15 minutes. Two sections:

1. Section A: Information search (ask questions to obtain specific information).
2. Section B: Phone conversation (role-play a professional/personal situation to convince/negotiate).

PART 3: COUNTRY-SPECIFIC TARGET SCORES & EXAMS

While the syllabus is based on CEFR levels, your target score/exam depends on your destination.

Country	Typical Requirement	Exam Accepted	Equivalent CEFR Level
France	Undergraduate (1st year): TCF DAP or DELF B2. Postgraduate: DALF C1 (for humanities/law) / DELF B2 (for sciences).	DELFL/DALFL, TCFL, TEF	B2 (Minimum for most unis), C1 (Top programs)
Canada (Quebec)	Immigration (PEQ/QSWP): Advanced intermediate.	DELFL/DALFL, TCFL, TEF	B2 (in speaking and listening)
Canada (other provinces)	University: Proof of French proficiency for French- language institutions.	DELFL/DALFL	B2 / C1

Switzerland/ Belgium	University: Proof of French proficiency for French-language institutions.	DELFD/DALF, TCF	B2 / C1
China	国内考研/求职/学位: University students fulfilling requirements.	TFU-4 (大学法语四级)	A2 - B1
Global Career	Translation: Professional translator/ interpreter.	CATTI	Professional Level

PART 4: STEP-BY-STEP 3-MONTH PREPARATION PLAN

This is the "Step 2" of your syllabus. A chronological timeline to master the content above.

MONTH 1: FOUNDATION & DIAGNOSIS (Weeks 1-4)

DELFD / DALF (General French)

Goal: Understand the format and identify your current CEFR level.

Week 1: Diagnostic Test. Take a full mock test (e.g., TV5Monde's TCF simulator or a DELFD past paper). Score it to determine your level (A1, A2, B1, etc.).

Week 2: Grammar & Vocabulary Refresher.

- ◆ **Focus:** Present tense, past tenses (passé composé, imparfait), future tense.
- ◆ **Core Vocabulary:** Daily life, family, food, travel. Use Anki or Memrise for thematic vocabulary.

Week 3: Listening & Reading Basics.

- ◆ **Listen:** 20 mins/day of "Journal en français facile" (RFI). Practice understanding the gist.
- ◆ **Read:** Simple news articles or children's stories ("Le Petit Nicolas").

Week 4: Writing & Speaking Intro.

- ◆ **Write:** Short descriptive paragraphs about your day or hobbies.
- ◆ **Speak:** Record yourself answering simple Part 1 style questions (name, where you live, hobbies).

MONTH 2: SKILL BUILDING & STRATEGIES (Weeks 5-8)

Goal: Master test-taking strategies for your specific exam type.

Week 5: Listening & Reading Speed (TCF/TEF Focus).

- ◆ **Practice:** Speed-reading techniques. Focus on skimming and scanning for TCF/TEF multiple-choice questions. Identify "distractors."
- ◆ **Listen:** Focus on identifying keywords (dates, numbers, names) in dialogues.

Week 6: Writing Task 2 Mastery (DELFD/DALF Focus).

- ◆ **Structure:** Learn how to write a formal letter, an article, or a lettre formelle for DELFD B2.
- ◆ **Plan:** Practice structuring arguments (Introduction, Thesis/Antithesis/Conclusion).

Week 7: Oral Production Deep Dive.

- ◆ **Monologue Prep:** Practice the DELFD monologue (exposé). Pick a topic (environment, technology, education), prepare notes in 10 mins, and speak for 5 mins. Record and analyze fluency.

Week 8: Full Mock Test Week: Simulate exam conditions. Analyze every wrong answer. Use official resources like Réussir le DELFD/DALF or TCF 250.

MONTH 3: PERFECTION & WEAKNESS ATTACK (Weeks 9-12)

Goal: Fix persistent errors and build stamina.

Week 9: Intensive Weakness Focus.

- ◆ **If listening is weak:** Do "dictation" exercises. Listen and write exactly what you hear.
- ◆ **If grammar is weak:** Focus on subjunctive mood, pronouns (COD/COI), and complex sentence structures.

Week 10: Advanced Vocabulary & Idioms.

- ◆ Learn thematic vocabulary for B2/C1 topics: "La transition écologique," "L'intelligence artificielle," "Les inégalités sociales."

Week 11: High-Difficulty Practice.

- ◆ Use latest textbooks (e.g., ABC DELF B2, Réussir le TCF). Practice under strict timing.

Week 12: Revision & Light Practice.

- ◆ Review error log. No new topics. Listen to French music, watch a French film to stay in the "French zone." Relax.

PART 5: OFFICIAL RESOURCES (The "Gold Standard")

1. **CIEP / France Éducation International:** Official site for past papers and sample tests.
2. **TV5Monde (Apprendre le français):** Excellent free simulator for TCF and exercises for DELF levels.
3. **RFI (Radio France Internationale):** "Journal en français facile" for listening practice.
4. **Éditions Hachette / Didier:** Publishers of the official prep books (Réussir le DELF/DALF).
5. **BonPatron:** Online tool to check grammar and spelling errors in your writing.

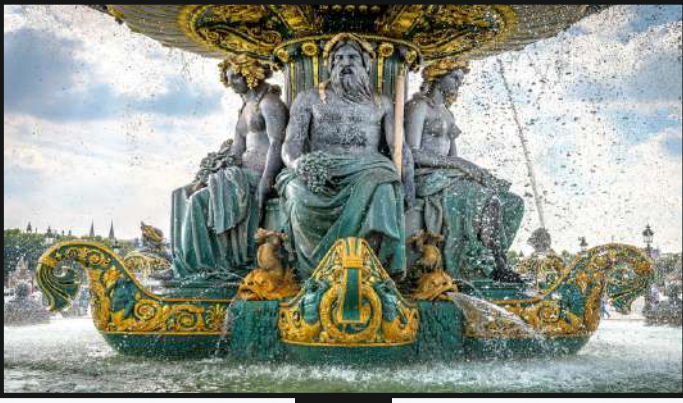
FINAL SUMMARY

- ◆ Is the syllabus different per country? No. All exams are based on the CEFR scale (A1-C2).
- ◆ What changes per country? The Exam Type (DELF/DALF for lifetime vs TCF/TEF for visa) and the Target Level (B2 for French uni, C1 for PhD/specific jobs).
- ◆ Your Syllabus Action Plan: Identify your destination \rightarrow Identify your Target CEFR Level (A2/B1/B2/C1) \rightarrow Select the appropriate Exam (DELF/TCF/TEF) \rightarrow Follow the 3-Month Plan using official resources.



OUR CERTIFICATION





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