



FRENCH: BACKGROUND LANGUAGE

ATAR course

**Year 12 syllabus – What’s changing: Rationale and Aims
For teaching in 2027**

Acknowledgement of Country

Kaya. The School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) acknowledges that our offices are on Whadjuk Noongar boodjar and that we deliver our services on the country of many traditional custodians and language groups throughout Western Australia. The Authority acknowledges the traditional custodians throughout Western Australia and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We offer our respect to Elders past and present.

Background

As part of the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) Refreshment for reviewing the nomenclature of courses, the Authority has updated the rationale and aims of each syllabus.

The revised rationale and aims are aligned with the mapping of the general capabilities to provide clear connections between the rationale, aims and syllabus content. The rationale outlines what the subject is about and why it is important. It describes what students can expect to study in the course, along with the knowledge, skills and understandings they will develop throughout the course. It also explains how these can be applied in everyday life and references potential future pathways, outlining how students might connect what they learn in the course to further education, training and employment opportunities.

Important information

WACE Refreshment: Reviewing the nomenclature of courses

This document contains information that will be included in the syllabus effective from 1 January 2027.

Users of the syllabus are responsible for checking its currency.

Syllabuses are formally reviewed by the Authority on a cyclical basis, typically every five years.

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Rationale

The French: Background Language ATAR course connects students with a language that has over 300 million speakers globally. French is an official language in approximately 30 countries across all continents. In addition, French is crucial in fields such as diplomacy, international relations, business, and the arts. The language's influence extends across various international institutions, including the European Union, the International Olympic Committee, Médecins Sans Frontières and World Health Organisation (WHO), the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations (UN).

The course is designed for students who acquired the language through immersion or interaction within their environment, such as through family, community, in-country, or cultural experiences. They explore their personal world and the perspectives of others, and the effect of change and current issues in the global community. Within these contexts, students reflect on making life and career choices and their role in the community, explore aspects of Francophone culture and French-speaking communities, and examine a range of global issues and their impact on society.

Students extend and refine their intercultural and linguistic skills in French to communicate confidently in a range of situations. They gain a deeper understanding of the global significance of French language and culture, fostering a heightened sense of intercultural awareness and empathy. Students analyse cultural practices and norms in an ongoing process of interpretation, self-reflection, comparison and negotiation, developing their cognitive skills through thinking critically and analytically, solving problems, and making connections.

Through the course, students engage with the linguistic and cultural diversity of our interconnected world, reflecting on their role in society and how they interact with others across various social contexts. Language learning is a powerful tool for personal growth and broadens students' worldviews. Australia's cultural and linguistic diversity provides many opportunities to hear and use French in real-life situations as well as through French media, and to make actual and virtual connections with French-speaking communities throughout the world.

Australia has strong personal, cultural, political and trade connections with Francophone countries and proficiency in French provides students with enhanced vocational opportunities in a wide range of sectors. Studying French opens pathways for further academic study in fields like languages, international studies, and cross-cultural communication, and careers in areas such as the arts, business, diplomacy, humanitarian and environmental sectors, engineering, international communication, trade relations, law, scientific research fields, tourism and hospitality, and translation services. French also provides a foundation for learning other Romance languages, expanding career and intercultural opportunities. Ultimately, the course offers students valuable linguistic and intercultural skills, fosters personal growth and empathy, and enhances future academic and career prospects.

Aims

The French: Background Language ATAR course builds on students' French language proficiency and knowledge about the cultures of French-speaking communities. It enables students to:

- interact with others to exchange information, ideas, opinions and experiences in French
- analyse a range of texts in French to comprehend and interpret meaning
- apply the skills they have acquired to produce texts in French to convey information and express ideas, opinions and experiences for specific audiences, purposes and contexts
- strengthen their intercultural communication skills in both the French and English languages
- demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of language as a system
- reflect on the relationship between language and culture.