



# **French: Background Language ATAR course practical (oral) examination requirements**

---

**2025**

## **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.

## **Copyright**

© School Curriculum and Standards Authority, 2017

This document – apart from any third-party copyright material contained in it – may be freely copied, or communicated on an intranet, for non-commercial purposes in educational institutions, provided that the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) is acknowledged as the copyright owner, and that the Authority’s moral rights are not infringed.

Copying or communication for any other purpose can be done only within the terms of the *Copyright Act 1968* or with prior written permission of the Authority. Copying or communication of any third-party copyright material can be done only within the terms of the *Copyright Act 1968* or with permission of the copyright owners.

Any content in this document that has been derived from the Australian Curriculum may be used under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence](#).

## Contents

<b>French: Background Language ATAR course practical (oral) examination.....</b>	<b>1</b>
1. Reporting achievement.....	1
2. Candidates with an injury, illness or disability .....	2
3. Provisions for sickness or misadventure .....	2
4. Principles of external assessment.....	2
5. Criteria for marking.....	3
6. Marking procedure .....	3
7. Examination requirements .....	3
8. Examination procedure.....	3
9. Breach of examination rules .....	4
10. Structure of the practical (oral) examination .....	4
10. Conduct of the practical (oral) examination.....	4
11. Key dates.....	5
<b>Appendix 1: Personalised practical (oral) examination timetable .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Appendix 2: Personal investigation interview sheet .....</b>	<b>7</b>



## French: Background Language ATAR course practical (oral) examination

This document provides general advice to teachers, candidates and parents/carers/guardians about the French: Background Language ATAR course practical (oral) examination.

Where a Year 12 ATAR course has both a written and a practical examination, students are required to sit for both of these examinations. Students who do not sit an ATAR course examination and do not have an approved sickness/misadventure application for that course will not have the grades for the pair of units completed in that year contribute to the calculation of the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE).

The practical (oral) examination for the French: Background Language ATAR course will be held during the period from **Saturday, 27 September** to **Sunday, 26 October 2025** (weekends and the public holiday included) at metropolitan locations. Candidates must be available to complete their practical (oral) examination during this time. A *Personalised practical (oral) examination timetable* (Appendix 1) for each candidate will be made available from **Tuesday, 9 September 2025**.

Examination timetables can be download by schools/providers via SIRS and by students from the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority) [student portal](https://studentportal.scsa.wa.edu.au/) (<https://studentportal.scsa.wa.edu.au/>). Country candidates are expected to sit their practical (oral) examination via telephone or may choose to travel to the examination centre at their own cost.

For the French: Background Language ATAR course examination, the weightings are:

- Written examination 70%
- Practical (oral) examination 30%

### 1. Reporting achievement

Teachers are responsible for ensuring the practical (oral) examination requirements are met and candidates are adequately prepared. Teachers must ensure they are using the current syllabus. Any further advice on matters related to the syllabus or assessment will be published in the [7to12 Circulars](https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/circulars/7to12-circulars) (<https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/circulars/7to12-circulars>) on the Authority website.

Teachers should also refer to the ATAR course examination information published in Section 6 of the [WACE Manual](http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/wace-manual) (<http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/publications/wace-manual>) on the Authority website.

For all ATAR courses with a practical examination, for the pair of units, schools are required to submit to the Authority a:

- course mark out of 100 (weighted for each component)
- mark out of 100 for the written component
- mark out of 100 for the practical component
- grade for the completed pair of units.

## 2. Candidates with an injury, illness or disability

Candidates who have a permanent disability or condition that could prevent them demonstrating their knowledge, understanding or skills under standard examination conditions may apply to be assessed with equitable access adjustments.

Application is made through the school on the form available from the [Applications and Order Forms page \(https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/forms/forms\)](https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/forms/forms) on the Authority website. Adjustments requested for the written examinations do not apply to the practical examinations. Requests for adjustments in the practical examinations must be stated separately in the application, and relate directly to the nature and duration of the practical examination. Applications should be received by the Authority by **Thursday, 27 March 2025**.

## 3. Provisions for sickness or misadventure

Consideration may be given to candidates (with the exception of non-school candidates) suffering from a temporary sickness or misadventure close to or during the examinations. The candidate may submit a *Sickness/Misadventure Application* if they believe their performance in an examination has been affected by the sickness or misadventure.

If a candidate misses or is not able to complete an examination session for health reasons, it is important that medical evidence be provided to verify the nature and severity of the illness/injury. In most cases, that will mean producing evidence from a medical professional who was consulted on the day of the examination or the day before.

Applications will be considered only if made on the correct form, available from the [Applications and Order Forms page \(https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/forms/forms\)](https://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/forms/forms) on the Authority website from September. Applications that relate to the practical component must be submitted immediately following the practical examination.

Only one form should be used to cover all practical examinations for which the application is being made. The completed form and all supporting evidence must be received by the Authority by **4.00 pm Thursday, 30 October 2025**.

## 4. Principles of external assessment

The marking process preserves the anonymity of candidates and their school. This requires that candidates are identified only by their Western Australian student number (WASN).

Markers apply a consistent standard to assess the candidate's performance. This requires:

- a marking key for the practical (oral) examination
- attendance at a marker training meeting prior to the commencement of marking
- trial marking of sample oral recordings to ensure a common understanding of the marking key
- the practical (oral) examination to be marked independently by two markers who then reconcile any differences between them
- the Chief Marker to ensure consistency throughout the marking by monitoring the marking process and reconciling significant differences where necessary.

## 5. Criteria for marking

Practical (oral) performance is assessed on what a candidate is able to demonstrate throughout the discussion. The *French: Background Language ATAR course practical (oral) marking key 2025*, published on the Authority website, identifies the assessment criteria suited to the discussion and describes levels of candidate performance for each criterion. Candidates are therefore advised to familiarise themselves with the marking key as preparation for their performance in the examination. Candidates are strongly advised to participate in a discussion with the marker, rather than attempt to recite a prepared response that resembles a monologue. In the interest of the candidate, such monologues will be interrupted by the marker at an appropriate point.

A numerical scale is used to assess candidate performance in the practical (oral) examination. All candidates are examined against the following criteria:

- personal investigation (introduction)
- response (relevance and depth of information)
- linguistic resources (range)
- linguistic resources (accuracy)
- speech (fluency, pronunciation and intonation).

## 6. Marking procedure

Each candidate's practical (oral) examination is marked independently by two markers. One marker conducts the discussion while the second marker sits in the background and makes notes on the candidate's performance. An audio recording of each candidate's performance is made. The audio recordings are used to ensure comparability between markers when necessary.

## 7. Examination requirements

Candidates are required to submit a *Personal investigation interview sheet* (Appendix 2) by **Wednesday, 24 September 2025**, including:

- a 300-word summary in French
- an annotated bibliography of three source texts.

## 8. Examination procedure

On the day of the practical (oral) examination, the candidate **must** bring a signed hard copy of their *Personalised practical (oral) examination timetable* (Appendix 1) to the examination as proof of enrolment. An image of their *Personalised practical (oral) examination timetable* on their mobile phone will **not** be accepted as proof of enrolment. Candidates must also present a form of photographic identification; an image of the candidate's identification on a phone is acceptable.

If a candidate is found with any unauthorised materials during the examination, they will be referred to the Breach of Examination Rules Committee.

Candidates must **not** wear or carry anything that identifies them or any person, school, club or achievements. Any candidate who does not comply with these requirements will be referred to the

Breach of Examination Rules Committee. The candidate is responsible for their personal belongings at all times.

The candidate must report to a supervisor at the examination centre at the scheduled reporting time. This reporting time is 20 minutes before the scheduled examination time. The scheduled examination time is the time at which the examination commences.

A candidate who has not reported to a supervisor once their scheduled examination time has commenced will not be admitted to the practical (oral) examination and the examination cannot be rescheduled.

The candidate is taken to an interview room at the prescribed time.

The candidate must leave the examination area once they have completed the examination. The candidate must not have contact with candidates waiting to be examined, teachers or other parties who are seeking information about the examination until all the examinations have concluded. Any candidate who does not comply with these requirements will be referred to the Breach of Examination Rules Committee.

## 9. Breach of examination rules

An alleged breach of examination rules will be referred to the Breach of Examination Rules Committee. Further information related to examination breaches can be found on the [Rules of conduct for Year 12 ATAR course examinations page \(https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/assessment/examinations/rules-of-conduct-for-atar-course-examinations\)](https://senior-secondary.scsa.wa.edu.au/assessment/examinations/rules-of-conduct-for-atar-course-examinations) on the Authority website and in Part II of the *Year 12 Information Handbook*, published in July.

A breach of one of these rules can result in cancellation of part or all of the practical raw examination mark.

## 10. Structure of the practical (oral) examination

Examination	Duration
Discussion of personal investigation	approximately 12–15 minutes

## 11. Conduct of the practical (oral) examination

When the candidate enters the interview room, the marker begins by greeting the candidate in French and then asks them in English to state their WASN. The candidate reads out their WASN in English.

For example:

Marker: *Bonjour. Comment allez-vous ?*

Candidate: *Bonjour Madame/Monsieur. Ça va bien merci.*

Marker: I am your interviewer for the French: Background Language ATAR course practical (oral) examination today. Can you read me your WA student number in English please?

Candidate: Yes, my number is ...



Marker: Thank you. I'll repeat that number (repeats number to confirm).

### **Discussion of personal investigation**

The marker initiates the discussion.

For example:

Marker: *Parlez-moi de ...* (focus of the candidate's personal investigation).

The candidate introduces briefly the focus of their personal investigation in approximately 90 seconds.

The candidate discusses the focus of the personal investigation with the marker, referring to the source texts used. The candidate can also refer to personal experiences related to the topic or area of interest.

This discussion of the personal investigation between the candidate and the marker allows for an accurate assessment of the candidate's linguistic ability and knowledge of their topic or area of interest.

At the end of the discussion, the marker stands, thanks the candidate and states that the examination has concluded.

For example:

Marker: *Merci (Je vous remercie). C'est la fin de l'entretien.*

## **12. Key dates**

### **Thursday, 24 July 2025**

Last date for withdrawal of enrolment from ATAR courses with a practical examination component

### **Tuesday, 9 September 2025**

Personalised practical examination timetables can be downloaded by schools/providers via SIRS. Students can access their personalised practical examination timetables via the student portal

### **Wednesday, 24 September 2025**

Last date for the Authority to receive *Personal investigation interview sheet* submissions

**Saturday, 27 September to Sunday, 26 October 2025** (weekends and the public holiday included)

French: Background Language ATAR course practical (oral) examination

# Appendix 1: Personalised practical (oral) examination timetable



Government of Western Australia  
School Curriculum and Standards Authority



## Personalised practical (oral) examination timetable 2025 French: Background Language

WA student number: 

X	X
---	---

X	X	X
---	---	---

X	X	X
---	---	---

Candidate: Name

School name: School School code: XXXX

### Examination details

Course: French: Background Language

Date: Day, Date Month Year

Reporting time: 1:10 pm

Examination time: 1:30 pm

Venue: Venue  
**(Re-check on the day prior to the examination)**

Reporting location: Reporting room

**These examination details are final and no changes can be made.**

Candidates, staff and visitors are required to comply with all venue-specific requirements.

Candidates who are unwell must complete and submit a *Sickness/Misadventure Application Form*, with supporting evidence, to the School Curriculum and Standards Authority (the Authority). If you are a non-school candidate for this course, there is no option to apply for Sickness/Misadventure.

Candidates who have not reported to a supervisor once their scheduled examination time has commenced will not be admitted to the practical (oral) examination. The examination cannot be rescheduled.

Candidates **must not** wear or carry anything that identifies either them or any school, club or achievements. Failure to do so will result in a breach of examination rules.

Candidates are required to sign this timetable prior to the examination. This signed timetable must be shown to the supervisor, with photographic ID, when registering at the examination venue for the practical (oral) examination. Digital copies of your timetable, e.g. on a mobile telephone, are **not** permitted.

Candidates **must not** contact the venue about the examination arrangements. Any queries must be directed to the Authority on 9273 6377.

Signature ..... Date .....

**Emergency contact for candidates: Phone 0434 734 248**

Google Maps QR code:



**Google Maps link:** <https://studentportal.scsa.wa.edu.au/>

**Description:** Venue and location information

## Appendix 2: Personal investigation interview sheet



Government of **Western Australia**  
School Curriculum and Standards Authority



### **French: Background Language ATAR course practical (oral) examination 2025**

#### **Personal investigation interview sheet**

WA student number:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

#### **Instructions to candidate**

Use the information from your personalised practical examination timetable to fill in the time and date of your practical (oral) examination.

Time:

Date:

Use this three-page template to complete the following:

- a cover sheet
- a 300-word summary of your personal investigation, written in French
- an annotated bibliography of your three source texts.

Note: ensure that submitted materials do not contain anything that identifies the candidate or any person, school, teacher or achievements. Use generic terminology, e.g. 'my teacher', without using actual names.

**Submissions must be marked Private and Confidential and emailed to Dianne Rogers ([dianne.rogers@scsa.wa.edu.au](mailto:dianne.rogers@scsa.wa.edu.au)) no later than 4 pm Wednesday, 24 September 2025.**

Complete the 300-word summary of your personal investigation, written in French, below.

SAMPLE

Complete the annotated bibliography of your three source texts below.

SAMPLE