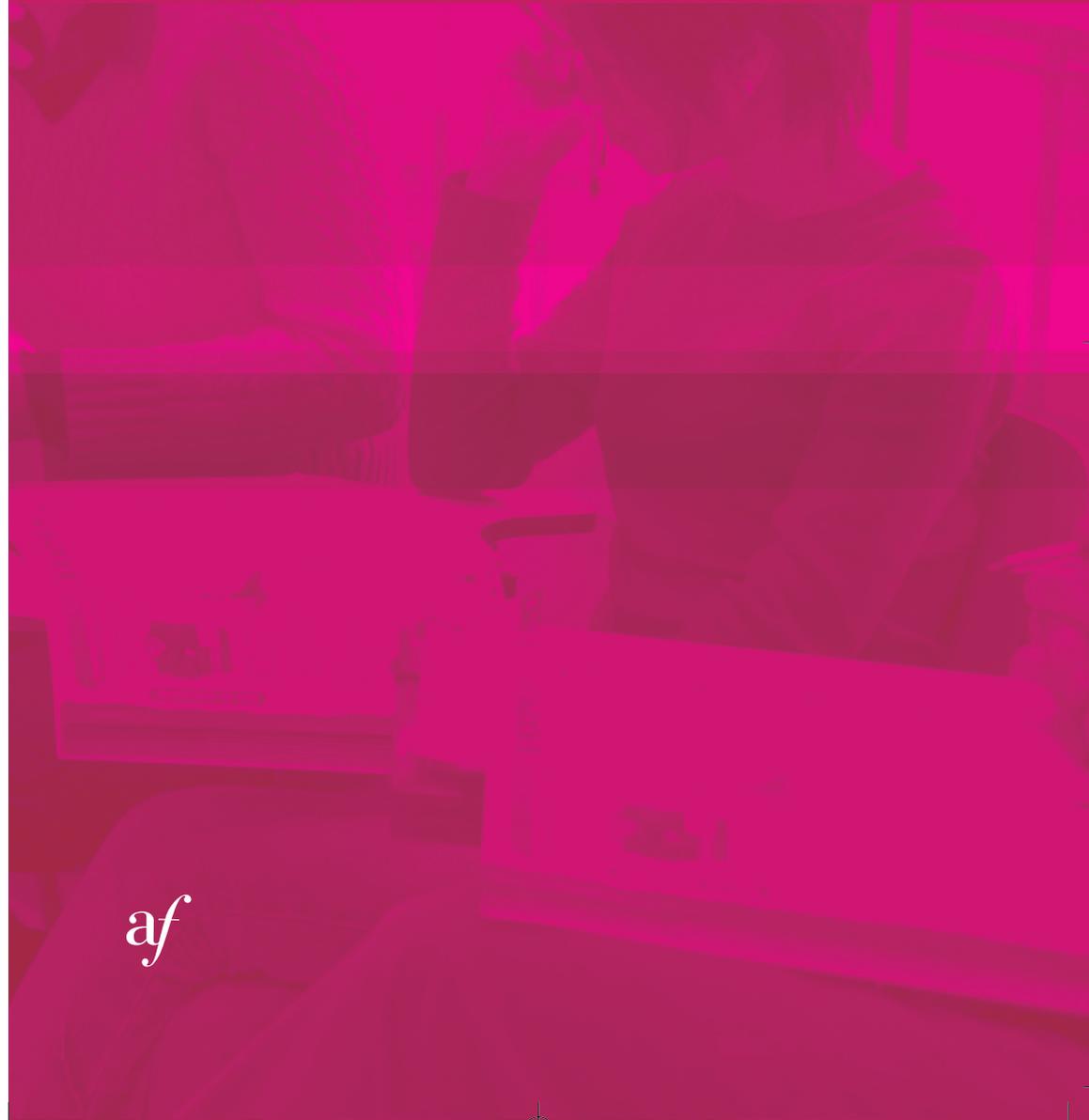


Alliance Française /// Ecole de Paris



Certifications

Ecole Internationale de Langue et de Civilisation Françaises



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Each year, nearly 10,000 candidates take the Alliance française de Paris examinations in French as a Foreign Language.

Their aim in sitting these exams is to improve their employment prospects, continue their studies, prepare themselves for travelling or living abroad or because they wish to hold diplomas that are recognised on an international scale and which reliably certify their proficiency in the language.

Throughout the world, the Alliance française is recognised as a reference in terms of learning French as a Foreign Language and for examining a complete range of diplomas.

What are the advantages of taking an Alliance française de Paris examination?

// FOR THE STUDENTS ////////////////

Alliance française examinations are motivational for French language learners as their objectives are realistic and correspond to real daily-life situations. The diplomas offered are accepted throughout the world in universities and other institutions of higher education.

// FOR THE TEACHERS ////////////////

Alliance Française examinations are based on the Common European Reference Framework established by the Council of Europe. Preparing for an examination conforms to this internationally recognised framework, which is designed by the French Ministry of National Education and, at the same time, motivates the student and allows them to progress in all areas of communication: speaking, listening, writing and reading skills. In this way, Alliance française examinations complement learning as much for the teachers as for the students.

// FOR THE SCHOOLS ////////////////

Alliance française examinations enrich the teaching programmes. An external authority at each examination centre ensures an objective evaluation of the candidate's linguistic ability. For youngsters, these examinations act as a guarantee of effective learning for the parents.

A SCALE OF 5 LEVELS /

The Alliance Française examinations are placed on the international grading system of six levels established by the Association of Language Testers in Europe (ALTE), which itself is linked to the Common European Reference Framework (CECR). They validate communicative skills (speaking, listening, writing and reading), as described in the CECR for European languages.

// LEVEL BREAKTHROUGH/ A1 //

// LEVEL 1/A2 WAYSTAGE LEVEL //

Basic use of French essential for various situations, for example, the speaker is able to understand and convey simple messages.

// LEVEL 2/B1 THRESHOLD LEVEL //

Limited but efficient use of the language in familiar situations, for example, the speaker is able to participate in routine meetings about familiar subjects, notably simple exchanges of factual information.

// LEVEL 3/B2 VANTAGE LEVEL //

Proven general use of the language in various situations, for example, the speaker is able to contribute to discussions from a practical point of view.

// LEVEL 4/C1 PROFICIENCY LEVEL //

Good use of the language in a whole range of globally topical situations, for example, the speaker is able to participate confidently in conversations and at meetings.

// LEVEL 5/C2 MASTERY LEVEL //

Excellent high-level use of the language in the majority of situations, for example, the speaker is able to debate confidently, give justification and be convincing.

ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE PARIS CERTIFICATIONS AND DIPLOMAS /

// CERTIFICAT D'ETUDES DE FRANÇAIS PRATIQUE 1 // (CEFP 1)

Level 1/A2 – approximately 125 hours of tuition

At this level, the candidate must be able to use the language to obtain and give essential basic information.

// CERTIFICAT D'ETUDES DE FRANÇAIS PRATIQUE 2 // (CEFP 2)

Level 2/B1 – approximately 250 hours of tuition

At this level, the candidate must be able to communicate satisfactorily in the majority of social and professional daily-life situations.

The following 3 diplomas are designed by the Ministry of National Education.

// DIPLÔME DE LANGUE FRANÇAISE // (DL)

Level 3/B2 – approximately 400 hours of tuition

At this level, the candidate must be capable of using the principal structures of the language, demonstrate a good knowledge of vocabulary and use communicative strategies appropriate to daily-life situations

// DIPLÔME SUPÉRIEUR DE LANGUE ET CULTURE FRANÇAISES // (DSLCF)

Level 4/C1 – approximately 600 hours of tuition

At this level, the candidate must be capable of using the language creatively and flexibly and to react appropriately in both predictable and unpredictable situations whilst employing long and complex speech.

This diploma tests the candidate's capacity to follow a theoretical course at university level.

// DIPLÔME DE HAUTES ETUDES FRANÇAISES // (DHEF)

Level 5/C2 – more than 600 hours of tuition

At this level, the linguistic ability of the candidate is close to that of a native speaker with a cultural background. The candidate must be capable of using the language appropriately in different social situations.

The examination evaluates a thorough mastery of the language as well as specific cultural knowledge.

WHAT IS BULATS? /

BULATS is a testing service for several languages: German, English, Spanish and French. It tests the ability to use the language in a professional context and is aimed at companies which need a reliable way of evaluating the linguistic ability of their employees or trainees i.e. evaluation of the linguistic level of staff and/or candidates for a post, placement of trainees in appropriate language training courses, training evaluation and orientation towards certifications.

The BULATS tests, standardised and rigorously graded, are designed and tested by each party. The Alliance Française de Paris designs all the French versions.

THE BULATS TESTS EVALUATE CANDIDATES ON FIVE LINGUISTIC ABILITIES AS DEFINED BY ALTE

The computerised test is simple to use; progress can be managed independently without specialist intervention, with help being provided on screen to guide the candidate. If required, the instructions can appear in the candidate's mother tongue. This test is adaptable as it selects the questions in line with the candidate's progress, relating back to the answer given to the previous question until a coherent level is achieved

The standard paper test is comprised of two parts: evaluation of reading and listening skills and knowledge of the language (grammar / vocabulary). The tasks relate to activities in a professional context such as taking down a telephone message, understanding notices or correcting errors in a text.

The speaking test is composed of an interview with an examiner, a presentation, an information exchange and discussion. It mainly evaluates the candidate's ability to structure and develop their ideas.

The writing test evaluates the skills required to use written french at work: range of language resources and accuracy, discourses management and task realisation.

TESTS FOR YOUNG LEARNERS /

Within the framework of the ALTE association, Alliance française de Paris has designed tests for children aged between 7 to 12 years. These tests correspond to learning objectives/content rather than age brackets.

The tests evaluate receptive and productive skills based particularly on the recognition of vocabulary and meaning using mini dialogues and narratives, all in an authentic context using colourful iconic material.

All of these tests are aligned with the European reference, ALTE, and the Common European Reference Framework.

The three tests differ in relation to the age and level of the learners in the following order:

- Pas à pas
From 7 years old – approximately 100 hours of French
- En route
Between 8 and 11 years old – approximately 175 hours of French
- En vol
Between 9 and 12 years old – approximately 250 hours of French

There is a booklet with recommendations for the preparation and sitting of the tests, as well as a handbook with a test description, a list of tasks, objectives, vocabulary and syntax. The vocabulary is listed alphabetically and by topic.

For these tests, which contain numerous pictures, a colour copy is to be arranged.

// SERVICE FOR CERTIFICATIONS AND TEACHING // // // // //

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