

# French A Level Overview

# Well done on an excellent choice

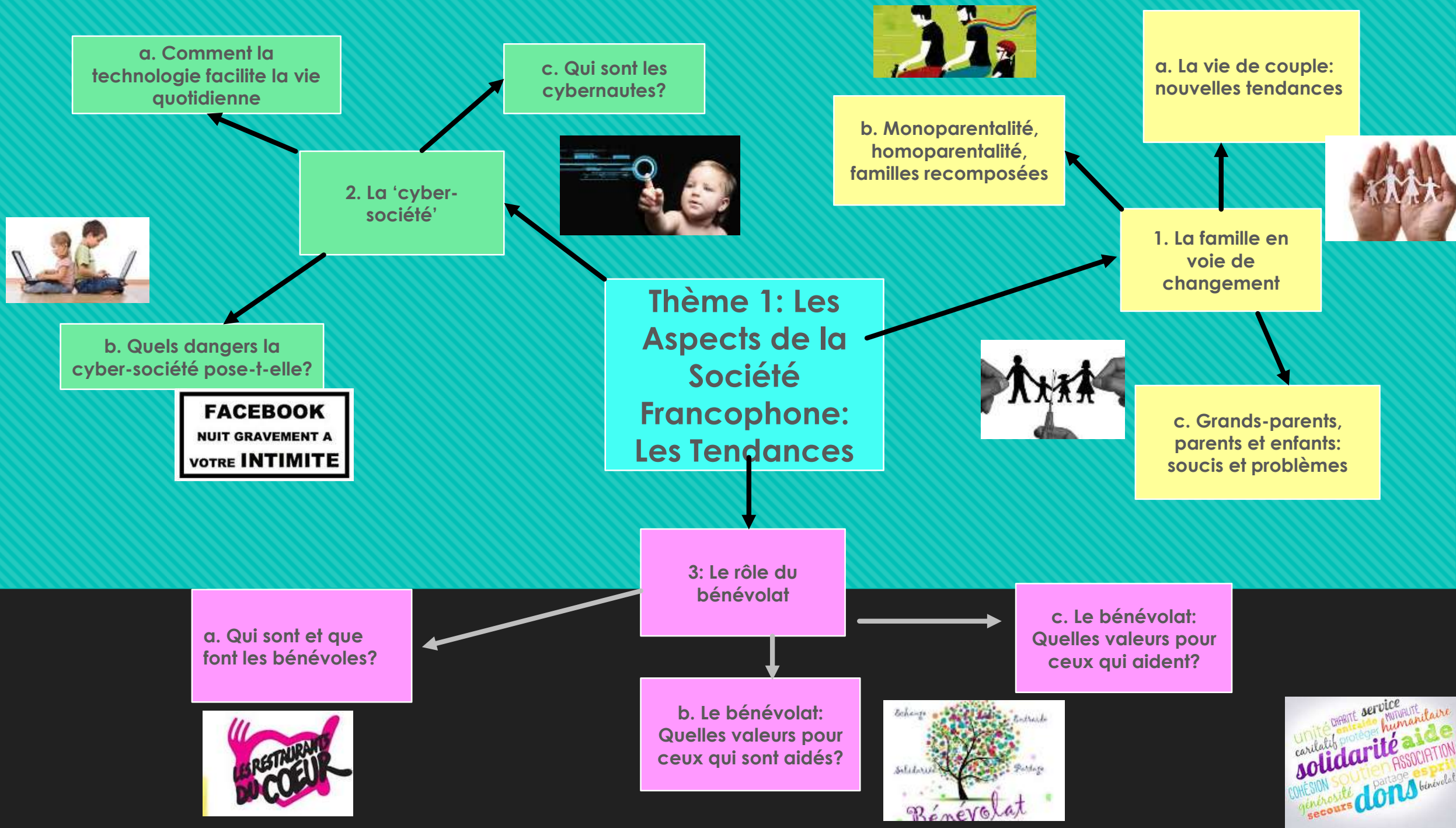
- An A Level in a language complements other Arts subjects such as English and History, while providing a welcome contrast if you have chosen to study Sciences or Maths
- Smaller class sizes give you the opportunity to thrive and succeed in a warm, caring environment
- Many subjects apart from the obvious ones (which are any Arts subjects, Law, Business ....) can have a language element at university. Eg. a language module with Physics or with Product Design.

- Specifications have more focus on the culture and society of the countries in which the language is spoken
- A-level is a two year linear course & ALL exams will take place at the end of year 2.
  - There are two written exams and a speaking test.
  - A-level includes an independent research topic for speaking.
- The speaking test for A-Level students is based on a research topic of their choice

Year 1

# Year 1 content

- Core content:
  - Social issues and trends in the French-speaking world
  - Artistic culture in the French-speaking world
  - Grammar
- Literature and film:
  - 1 literary text (Un Sac de Billes' by Joseph Joffo) and 1 film (La Haine by Mathieu Kassovitz from set list)



a. Le patrimoine  
sur le plan  
national, régional  
et local

c. Le patrimoine et le  
tourisme

1. Une culture fière  
de son héritage

b. Comment le  
patrimoine  
reflète la culture

## Thème 2: La Culture Artistique dans les Pays Francophones

b. Qui écoute et apprécie  
cette musique ?

a. La diversité de la  
musique francophone  
contemporaine

2. La musique  
francophone  
contemporaine

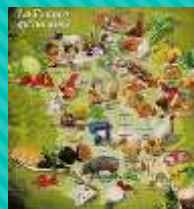
c. Comment  
sauvegarder cette  
musique ?

3. Le cinéma: le  
septième art

a. Pourquoi le  
septième art ?

b. Le cinéma – une  
passion nationale ?

c. Evolution du  
cinéma – les  
grandes lignes



# Textes littéraires et films (same list for As and A2)

## ○ Texts

- Molière *Le Tartuffe*
- Voltaire *Candide*
- Guy de Maupassant *Boule de Suif et autres contes de la guerre*
- Albert Camus *L'étranger*
- Françoise Sagan *Bonjour tristesse*
- Claire Etcherelli *Elise ou la vraie vie*
- Joseph Joffo *Un sac de billes*
- Faïza Guène *Kiffe kiffe demain*
- Philippe Grimbert *Un secret*
- Delphine de Vigan *No et moi*

## ○ Films

- *Les 400 coups* François Truffaut (1959)
- *Au revoir les enfants* Louis Malle (1987)
- *La Haine* Mathieu Kassovitz (1995)
- *L'auberge espagnole* Cédric Klapisch (2002)
- *Un long dimanche de fiançailles* Jean-Pierre Jeunet (2004)
- *Entre les murs* Laurent Cantet (2008)

# Grammaire

- A Level GCE students will be expected to have studied closely the grammatical system and structures of the French language during their course. In the examination they will be required to use actively and accurately grammar and structures appropriate to the tasks set, drawn from the following list.

**Nouns:** gender singular and plural forms

**Articles:** definite, indefinite and partitive

**Adjectives:** agreement position comparative and superlative demonstrative (*ce, cet, cette, ces*) indefinite (*chaque, quelque*) possessive interrogative (*quel, quelle*)

**Adverbs:** comparative and superlative interrogative (*comment, quand*)

**Quantifiers/intensifiers** (*très, assez, beaucoup*)

**Pronouns:** personal reflexive relative disjunctive/emphatic demonstrative (*celui*) indefinite (*quelqu'un*) possessive (*le mien*) interrogative (*qui, que*) use of *y, en*

**Tenses:** present perfect (including agreement of past participle) imperfect future conditional future perfect (R) conditional perfect (R) pluperfect past historic (R)



**Verbs:** regular and irregular forms of verbs, including reflexive verbs modes of address (*tu, vous*) impersonal forms verbs followed by an infinitive (with or without a preposition) dependent infinitives (*faire réparer*) perfect infinitive negative forms interrogative forms

**Passive voice:** present tense other tenses (R) imperative present participle

**Indirect speech**

**Inversion after speech**

**Prepositions**

**Conjunctions**

**Number, quantity and time** (including use of *depuis, venir de*)

**Subjunctive mood** present perfect

# A Level core content

# Year 2 Content

- Core content:
  - Social issues and trends in the French-speaking world
  - Artistic culture in the French-speaking world
  - Grammar
- Options:
  - 1 literary text ('Un Sac de Billes' by Joseph Joffo) and 1 film ('La Haine' directed by Mathieu Kassovitz)



a. L'enrichissement dû à la mixité ethnique

1. Les aspects positifs d'une société diverse

c. Diversité- un apprentissage pour la vie



b. Diversité, tolérance et respect



### Thème 3: Les Aspects de la Société Francophone: Les Questions d'Actualité



a. Qui sont les marginalisés?



2. Quelle vie pour les marginalisés?

b. Quelle aide pour les marginalisés?

c. Quelles attitudes envers les marginalisés?



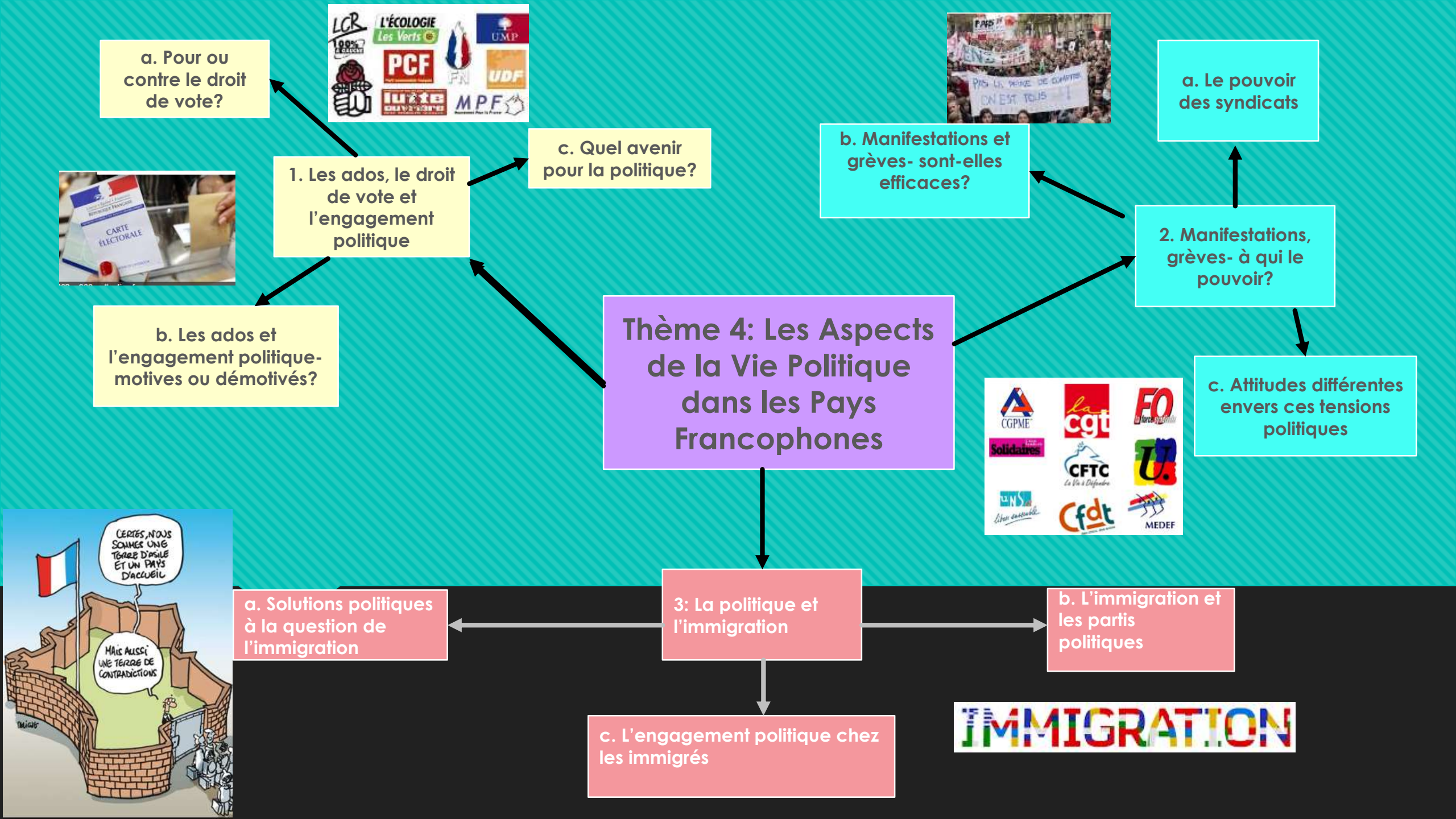
3: Comment on traite les criminels

a. Quelles attitudes envers la criminalité?

b. La prison-échec ou succès?

c. D'autres sanctions?





# A Level assessments

| Paper | Skills                         | Marks | Timing    | Proportion of AS |
|-------|--------------------------------|-------|-----------|------------------|
| 1     | Listening, reading and writing | 100   | 2h30      | 50%              |
| 2     | Writing                        | 80    | 2h        | 20%              |
| 3     | Speaking                       | 60    | 21-23 min | 30%              |

## Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

### What's assessed

- Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends
- Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking world
- Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world
- Grammar

### How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 100 marks
- 50 % of A-level

### Questions

- Listening and responding to spoken passages from a range of contexts and sources covering different registers and adapted as necessary. Material will include complex factual and abstract content and questions will target main points, gist and detail. Studio recordings will be used and students will have individual control of the recording.

All questions are in French, to be answered with non-verbal responses or in French (30 marks).

- Reading and responding to a variety of texts written for different purposes, drawn from a range of authentic sources and adapted as necessary. Material will include complex factual and abstract content and questions will target main points, gist and detail.

All questions are in French, to be answered with non-verbal responses or in French (50 marks).

- Translation into English; a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks).
- Translation into French; a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks).

No access to a dictionary during the assessment.

## Paper 2: Writing

### What's assessed

- One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification
- Grammar

### How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 80 marks in total
- 20 % of A-level

### Questions

- **Either** one question in French on a set text from a choice of two questions and one question in French on a set film from a choice of two questions **or** two questions in French on set texts from a choice of two questions on each text.
- All questions will require a critical appreciation of the concepts and issues covered in the work and a critical and analytical response to features such as the form and the technique of presentation, as appropriate to the work studied (eg the effect of narrative voice in a prose text or camera work in a film).

No access to texts or films during the assessment.

No access to a dictionary during the assessment.

Students are advised to write approximately 300 words per essay.



## Paper 3: Speaking

### What's assessed

- Individual research project
- One of four themes ie Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends, Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues, Artistic culture in the French-speaking world, Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world

### How it's assessed

- Oral exam: 21–23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time)
- 60 marks in total
- 30 % of A-level

### Questions

- Discussion of a sub-theme with the discussion based on a stimulus card (5–6 minutes). The student studies the card for 5 minutes at the start of the test (25 marks).
- Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9–10 minutes) of individual research project (35 marks).

No access to a dictionary during the assessment (including 5 minutes preparation).

Students may take the assessment only once before certification.

Assessments will be conducted by either the centre or a visiting examiner and marked by an AQA examiner.