

French Proficiency Exam – Study Guide

The Providence French proficiency exam is in three sections: vocabulary, grammar, and culture. This is a multiple-choice format test. The test covers what would be included on a second semester final exam for French I. The test corresponds roughly to the final six chapters of Book One of the *C'est a Toi* series. The following are general topic lists for each section followed by several sample questions.

Vocabulary topics covered are:

1. countries and nationalities
2. professions
3. seasons and weather expressions
4. clothing and types of stores to buy it in/shopping in general
5. colors
6. adjectives of size
7. fruits and vegetables
8. food items
9. housing/rooms in a house/parts of a house/furniture
10. meals/table settings
11. parts of the body
12. health expressions

Sample questions:

1. If someone says to you, *J'ai mal à la tête*, what are they telling you?
 - a. that they have a headache
 - b. that they are feeling tired
 - c. that they are too cold
 - d. none of these are correct
2. How would you say *I'm cold* in French in the sense that you would need to put on a sweater?
 - a. j'ai chaud
 - b. j'ai froid
 - c. je suis froid
 - d. je suis chaud
 - e. j'ai fait froid
3. If you want to say that there is *nobody* at the door, how would you complete this sentence: *Il n'y a _____ à la porte.*
 - a. jamais
 - b. quelqu'un
 - c. personne
 - d. plus
 - e. jamais
4. Claire vient d'Angleterre. Elle est _____.
 - a. espagnole
 - b. anglaise
 - c. anglais
 - d. allemande
5. When standing in the *entrée* of a house, would you usually have to go up to reach *le grenier*?
 - a. oui
 - b. non

Grammar topics covered are:

1. present tense of regular verbs
2. present tense of irregular verbs avoir, être, mettre, prendre, venir, faire, devoir
3. expressions with de + definite article
4. expressions with a + definite article
5. forming questions with inversion
6. the adjective *quell*
7. *c'est* vs *il est*
8. *aller* + infinitive construction
9. irregular adjectives
10. placement of adjectives

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11. indefinite articles in negative sentences
12. comparative of adjectives
13. superlative of adjectives
14. partitive articles
15. passe compose with etre and avoir
16. irregular past participle

Sample questions:

1. Je voudrais _____ glace, s'il vous plait.
a. du b. le c. des d. de la e. d'
2. J'aime _____ glace.
a. de la b. des c. du d. la e. le
3. Which of the following sentences does **not** contain an error in the conjugation of the verb *devoir*?
a. Je doit telephone au médecin.
b. Nous devoirons étudier por l'examen.
c. Elles doivent faire leurs devoirs.
d. Il dois dormir.
4. How would you say *The grapes are less expensive than the cherries*?
a. Les raisins sont moins chers que les cerises.
b. Les raisins est moins cher que le cerise.
c. Les raisins sont plus chers que les cerises.
d. None of these are the correct answer.
5. You wish to tell your little brother to finish his homework. Complete the following sentence:
_____ *tes devoirs*!
a. Finit b. Finis c. Finisons d. Finissent

Culture topics covered are:

1. general French geography
2. food in France
3. shopping in France
4. family life in France
5. the health system and doctors in France
6. Paris (geography, history, the Metro)
7. the Francophone world

Sample questions:

1. Which daily meal is usually the largest one in France?
a. breakfast b. lunch c. dinner
2. France is shaped like a _____.
a. square b. hexagon c. triangle d. octagon
3. What is the name of the river that flows through Paris?
a. la Rhone b. la Loire c. le Rhin d. la Seine