

CIVIC EXAM

Complete Study Guide

Multi-year Residence Permit (CSP)

Based on the official questions from formation-civique.interieur.gouv.fr

Required since January 1, 2026

Exam Details

Format :	40 multiple-choice questions
Breakdown :	28 knowledge questions + 12 scenarios
Duration :	45 minutes
Pass score :	32/40 (80%)
Validity :	The certificate does not expire
Cost :	About 60 to 150 EUR
Legal basis :	Law No. 2024-42 of January 26, 2024, Article 20

Contents

- Theme 1 : Principles and Values
- Theme 2 : Institutions of the Republic
- Theme 3 : Rights and Duties
- Theme 4 : History of France
- Theme 5 : Life in Society
- Scenario Practice (12 sample scenarios)
- Important Notice

Official Resources

Official Question Bank (CSP)

<https://formation-civique.interieur.gouv.fr/examen-civique/liste-officielle-des-questions-de-connaissance-csp/>

Official Question Bank (CR)

<https://formation-civique.interieur.gouv.fr/examen-civique/liste-officielle-des-questions-de-connaissance-cr/>

Exam Information (Service-Public.fr)

<https://www.service-public.gouv.fr/particuliers/vosdroits/F39530>

Civic Formation Portal

<https://formation-civique.interieur.gouv.fr/>

Free Practice Quiz (Ensemble en France)

<https://www.ensemble-en-france.org/quiz-examen-civique-gratuit-debutant/>

Exam Registration - CCI Paris

<https://francais.cci-paris-idf.fr/candidat?produit=21>

Exam Registration - FEI

<https://test-civique.fr/inscription>

Find an Exam Center

https://www.france-education-international.fr/centres-d-examen/carte?type-centre=examen_civique

Decree No. 2025-647 (Légifrance)

<https://www.legifrance.gouv.fr/jorf/id/JORFTEXT000051900489>

Theme 1 : Principles and Values

The Motto: Liberty, Equality, Fraternity

Liberty: Every person can act freely as long as they respect the law and the rights of others. This includes freedom of expression, freedom of movement, and freedom of religion.
Equality: All citizens have the same rights before the law, regardless of origin, gender, or religion. Men and women are equal. All professions are open to everyone.
Fraternity: Solidarity and mutual assistance between citizens. Helping each other is a fundamental value of the Republic.

Symbols of the Republic

The tricolor flag — blue, white, and red. It is displayed on public buildings.
Marianne — The female figure symbolizing the Republic. Her bust is in every town hall.
La Marseillaise — The national anthem, written in 1792.
The rooster — A traditional symbol of France.
July 14 — National holiday, celebrating the storming of the Bastille (1789). A military parade is held on the Champs-Élysées.

Secularism (Laïcité)

The law of 1905 separated Churches and the State. This is a fundamental principle. What secularism means:

- The State does not favor any religion
- Everyone is free to believe or not believe
- Everyone can practice their religion privately
- Public services (schools, hospitals) are neutral
- A child cannot refuse to go to school for religious reasons
- You can change your religion freely

The Constitution and the French Language

The current Constitution is the Constitution of the Fifth Republic (1958). Article 1 says: "France is an indivisible, secular, democratic and social Republic." French is the official language of the Republic and is written into the Constitution. Speaking French is essential for integration.

Freedom of Expression

Everyone has the right to express their ideas and opinions. However, this freedom has limits:

- You cannot insult someone because they are different
 - You cannot incite hatred or violence
 - You are responsible for what you say publicly
- Associations play an important role in defending causes and creating social connections.

Questions - Principles and Values

1. What does July 14 correspond to?

- A) Napoleon's birthday
- B) France's national holiday [correct answer]**
- C) The end of World War I
- D) The creation of the European Union

2. Which of these is a symbol of the French Republic?

A) The cross

B) The tricolor flag [correct answer]

C) The royal eagle

D) The fleur-de-lis

3. The principle of equality means that:

A) Everyone earns the same salary

B) All citizens have the same rights before the law [correct answer]

C) Men have more rights than women

D) Only French citizens have rights

4. "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity" is:

A) The title of the national anthem

B) A law

C) The motto of the French Republic [correct answer]

D) The name of Parliament

5. Is it allowed to publicly insult someone because they are different?

A) Yes, that is freedom of expression

B) No, it is forbidden by law [correct answer]

C) Yes, if it is on the internet

D) Only among friends

6. Can some professions be reserved for men?

A) Yes, dangerous jobs

B) Yes, military jobs

C) No, all professions are open to women and men [correct answer]

D) Yes, by presidential decision

7. When does the Constitution of the Fifth Republic date from?

A) 1789

B) 1905

C) 1945

D) 1958 [correct answer]**8. France's system of government is:**

A) A monarchy

B) A dictatorship

C) A democratic republic [correct answer]

D) An empire

9. Which of these symbols officially represents the French Republic?

A) The Eiffel Tower

B) The fleur-de-lis

C) Marianne [correct answer]

D) Cheese

10. Where can the motto of the Republic be seen?

- A) On foreign banknotes
- B) On coins and public buildings [correct answer]**
- C) Only in schools
- D) On American passports

11. Which are official symbols of the French Republic?

- A) The tricolor flag, Marianne, La Marseillaise [correct answer]**
- B) The Eiffel Tower, beret, baguette
- C) Croissant, wine, cheese
- D) The Palace of Versailles and the TGV

12. What is equality?

- A) Everyone has the same job
- B) All human beings have the same rights [correct answer]**
- C) Rich people have more rights
- D) Equality exists only between men

13. What does liberty mean?

- A) Doing anything you want without limits
- B) Being free to act while respecting the law and the rights of others [correct answer]**
- C) Respecting no rules
- D) Being allowed to insult others

14. What does the word "fraternity" mean in the French motto?

- A) The obligation to have brothers
- B) Solidarity and mutual support among citizens [correct answer]**
- C) Respect for hierarchy
- D) Competition between individuals

15. Which animal is a symbol of France?

- A) The eagle
- B) The lion
- C) The rooster [correct answer]**
- D) The bear

16. What is one role of associations?

- A) To replace the government
- B) To vote on laws
- C) To defend causes and create social ties [correct answer]**
- D) To appoint the Prime Minister

17. What is the name of the national anthem?

- A) The Internationale
- B) La Parisienne
- C) La Marseillaise [correct answer]**
- D) La Brabançonne

18. Which symbol of the French Republic is tricolor?

A) Marianne

B) The flag [correct answer]

C) The rooster

D) The motto

19. What is the date of France's national holiday?

A) May 1

B) May 8

C) July 14 [correct answer]

D) November 11

20. What is the motto of the French Republic?

A) Honor and Fatherland

B) Liberty, Equality, Fraternity [correct answer]

C) God and My Right

D) Unity, Work, Progress

21. What is the official language of the French Republic?

A) English

B) French [correct answer]

C) Latin

D) There is no official language

22. What is the status of the French language in the Republic?

A) It is one language among others

B) It is the official language written into the Constitution [correct answer]

C) It is required only at school

D) It has no special status

23. Which freedom allows everyone to express their ideas?

A) Freedom of trade

B) Freedom of expression [correct answer]

C) Freedom of movement

D) Freedom of religion

24. Which statement is correct? Freedom of expression:

A) Allows people to say absolutely anything

B) Is limited by respect for others and the law [correct answer]

C) Does not exist in France

D) Only concerns journalists

25. What are the colors of the French flag?

A) Red, white, black

B) Blue, white, red [correct answer]

C) Green, white, red

D) Blue, yellow, red

26. What is La Marseillaise?

- A) A monument in Paris
- B) The French national anthem [correct answer]**
- C) A traditional dish
- D) A daily newspaper

27. What is traditionally held on the Champs-Élysées on July 14?

- A) A Christmas market
- B) A military parade [correct answer]**
- C) A car race
- D) A rock concert

28. Who is Marianne?

- A) The President's wife
- B) The symbolic figure of the French Republic [correct answer]**
- C) A famous singer
- D) The founder of France

29. Can a person freely change religion?

- A) No, it is forbidden
- B) Yes, freedom of conscience is guaranteed [correct answer]**
- C) Only with state authorization
- D) Only if the person is French

30. "France is an indivisible, ..., democratic and social Republic." Complete the sentence:

- A) Catholic
- B) Monarchical
- C) Secular [correct answer]**
- D) Military

31. In which year was the law separating Churches and the State passed?

- A) 1789
- B) 1848
- C) 1905 [correct answer]**
- D) 1958

32. What does the principle of secularism make possible?

- A) Imposing an official religion
- B) Living together while respecting the freedom to believe or not believe [correct answer]**
- C) Banning all religions
- D) Favoring one religion over others

33. Which right is guaranteed by secularism?

- A) The right to vote
- B) Freedom of conscience and religion [correct answer]**
- C) The right to work
- D) The right to strike

34. Why must the principle of secularism be respected at school?

- A) To favor the Catholic religion
- B) To guarantee neutrality and equality for all students [correct answer]**
- C) To stop children from thinking
- D) Because children have no rights

35. What is secularism?

- A) The banning of all religions
- B) The separation of Churches and the State and freedom of conscience [correct answer]**
- C) The obligation to believe in God
- D) Replacing religion with science

36. Can a child refuse to go to school for religious reasons?

- A) Yes, religion comes before school
- B) No, school is compulsory for all children [correct answer]**
- C) Yes, with parental permission
- D) Only during religious holidays

37. Does a person have the right not to believe in any religion?

- A) No, everyone must believe in something
- B) Yes, freedom of conscience is a fundamental right [correct answer]**
- C) Only older people
- D) No, it is forbidden in France

Theme 2 : Institutions of the Republic

The Three Powers

France separates power into three branches:

- Executive power — The President and the Government. They apply and enforce laws.
- Legislative power — Parliament votes laws.
- Judicial power — Judges deliver justice and protect freedoms. The President does not have all powers. They are separated and balanced.

The President and the Government

The President is elected by universal suffrage for 5 years and lives at the Élysée Palace. The President appoints the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister leads the government. If a minister breaks the law, that person can be judged like any citizen.

Parliament

Parliament = National Assembly + Senate. National Assembly: 577 deputies, elected by citizens for 5 years. They vote laws and oversee the government. Senate: senators are elected indirectly for 6 years.

Elections

Voting age: 18 years old. Voters must be registered on the electoral roll. Universal suffrage means that all adult citizens can vote. Types of elections: presidential, legislative, municipal, senatorial, and European. France is a democracy — leaders are chosen by citizens. Multiple political parties may exist freely.

Territorial Organization

101 departments in France. The prefect represents the State in each department. 13 regions in metropolitan France. The commune is the smallest unit and is led by the mayor.

The European Union

27 member states as of January 2025. France is a founding member. Switzerland is not in the EU. The United Kingdom left in 2020. Currency: the euro (€). European elections take place every 5 years. EU citizens living in France can vote. Europe Day: May 9.

Questions - Institutions of the Republic

1. Who appoints the Prime Minister?

- A) Parliament
- B) The people by referendum
- C) The President of the Republic [correct answer]**
- D) The Senate

2. Parliament is composed of:

- A) The President and the Prime Minister
- B) The National Assembly and the Senate [correct answer]**
- C) Mayors and prefects
- D) Judges and lawyers

3. What is executive power? The power to:

- A) Vote on laws
- B) Judge criminals
- C) Apply and enforce the laws [correct answer]**
- D) Amend the Constitution

4. Leaders are elected by citizens in:

- A) A monarchy
- B) A dictatorship
- C) A democracy [correct answer]**
- D) An empire

5. Is it allowed not to obey a law?

- A) Yes, if you disagree with it
- B) No, the law applies to everyone [correct answer]**
- C) Yes, if you are a foreigner
- D) Only old laws

6. Who must obey the law?

- A) Only French citizens
- B) Only adults
- C) Anyone present in France [correct answer]**
- D) Only men

7. What is the role of the judicial authority?

- A) To vote on laws
- B) To appoint the President
- C) To deliver justice and protect individual freedoms [correct answer]**
- D) To command the army

8. What power does a judge hold? The ... power.

- A) Executive
- B) Legislative
- C) Judicial [correct answer]**
- D) Military

9. Judicial authority is exercised by:

- A) The President of the Republic
- B) Members of Parliament
- C) Judges and magistrates [correct answer]**
- D) Police officers

10. What happens if a minister breaks the law?

- A) Nothing, ministers are above the law
- B) They can be judged like any citizen [correct answer]**
- C) The President protects them
- D) They only have to resign

11. Who is elected in legislative elections?

- A) The President
- B) Mayors
- C) Members of Parliament [correct answer]**
- D) Senators

12. How many deputies are in the National Assembly?

- A) 100
- B) 346
- C) 577 [correct answer]**
- D) 1000

13. How are senators elected?

- A) By direct universal suffrage
- B) By an electoral college (indirect suffrage) [correct answer]**
- C) By the President
- D) By deputies

14. Who is elected in municipal elections?

- A) Deputies
- B) The President
- C) Municipal councilors and the mayor [correct answer]**
- D) Senators

15. Who is elected in presidential elections?

- A) The Prime Minister
- B) The President of the Republic [correct answer]**
- C) Deputies
- D) Mayors

16. From what age do people have the right to vote?

- A) 16
- B) 18 [correct answer]**
- C) 21
- D) 25

17. For how long is the President of the French Republic elected?

- A) 4 years
- B) 5 years [correct answer]**
- C) 6 years
- D) 7 years

18. For how long are deputies elected?

- A) 4 years
- B) 5 years [correct answer]**
- C) 6 years
- D) 7 years

19. For how long are senators elected?

- A) 4 years
- B) 5 years
- C) 6 years [correct answer]**
- D) 9 years

20. Who holds executive power?

- A) Parliament
- B) The President of the Republic and the government [correct answer]**
- C) Judges
- D) Mayors

21. What condition is necessary to vote in elections?

- A) Owning property
- B) Having a job
- C) Being registered on the electoral roll [correct answer]**
- D) Having a diploma

22. Who can vote in elections in France?

- A) Only men
- B) Only wealthy people
- C) Adult French citizens registered on the electoral roll [correct answer]**
- D) Everyone without condition

23. What does "universal suffrage" mean?

- A) Only rich people can vote
- B) Voting is reserved for men
- C) All adult citizens can vote [correct answer]**
- D) The President decides who can vote

24. Regarding political parties, which statement is correct?

- A) Only one party is allowed
- B) Political parties are forbidden
- C) Several parties may exist and take part in elections [correct answer]**
- D) Parties are created by the President

25. What is the role of deputies?

- A) To direct the police
- B) To vote on laws and oversee the government [correct answer]**
- C) To appoint judges
- D) To manage hospitals

26. Separation of powers is a fundamental principle. What are the three powers?

- A) Military, religious, economic
- B) Executive, legislative, judicial [correct answer]**
- C) Presidential, royal, popular
- D) National, regional, local

27. Who holds legislative power?

- A) The President
- B) The Prime Minister
- C) Parliament (National Assembly and Senate) [correct answer]**
- D) Judges

28. Who punishes the perpetrator of a theft?

- A) The mayor
- B) The police
- C) Justice (a judge) [correct answer]**
- D) The President

29. Who elects the deputies?

- A) The Senate
- B) The President
- C) French citizens through voting [correct answer]**
- D) Mayors

30. Who votes on laws?

- A) The President alone
- B) Parliament [correct answer]**
- C) Prefects
- D) Citizens directly

31. Who lives at the Élysée Palace?

- A) The Prime Minister
- B) The President of the Republic [correct answer]**
- C) The President of the National Assembly
- D) The Mayor of Paris

32. How many departments are there in France?

- A) 50
- B) 80
- C) 101 [correct answer]**
- D) 150

33. Who represents the State in a department?

- A) The mayor
- B) The deputy
- C) The prefect [correct answer]**
- D) The senator

34. Who leads the commune?

- A) The prefect
- B) The deputy
- C) The mayor [correct answer]**
- D) The President

35. Does the President of the Republic have all powers?

- A) Yes, the President decides everything
- B) No, powers are separated and shared [correct answer]**
- C) Yes, in peacetime
- D) Only on military issues

36. Who is the prefect?

- A) The head of the police
- B) The representative of the State in the department [correct answer]**
- C) The mayor of the department
- D) A specialized judge

37. What is Parliament's role?

- A) To command the army
- B) To vote on laws and oversee government action [correct answer]**
- C) To appoint prefects
- D) To manage local taxes

38. What is France's political system today?

- A) A constitutional monarchy
- B) A pure parliamentary system
- C) A semi-presidential Republic (the Fifth Republic) [correct answer]**
- D) A military dictatorship

39. How many States are part of the European Union on January 1, 2025?

- A) 15
- B) 25
- C) 27 [correct answer]**
- D) 35

40. Which country is not a member of the European Union?

- A) Germany
- B) Switzerland [correct answer]**
- C) Italy
- D) Belgium

41. What condition is necessary to vote in European elections?

- A) Being a citizen of an EU Member State and living in France [correct answer]**
- B) Being only French
- C) Being over 21
- D) Having a job

42. How often are European elections held?

- A) Every 3 years
- B) Every 5 years [correct answer]**
- C) Every 7 years
- D) Every 10 years

43. Which country is a founding member of the European Union?

A) The United Kingdom

B) France [correct answer]

C) Sweden

D) Poland

44. What currency is used in France?

A) The franc

B) The dollar

C) The euro [correct answer]

D) The pound

45. Who elects Members of the European Parliament?

A) The governments of the Member States

B) European citizens through voting [correct answer]

C) The French Parliament

D) The European Commission

46. When is Europe Day celebrated?

A) January 1

B) July 14

C) May 9 [correct answer]

D) December 25

Theme 3 : Rights and Duties

Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (1789)

Written during the French Revolution, this text establishes fundamental rights:

- Freedom of expression
 - Right to a fair trial and a lawyer
 - Equality before the law
 - Freedom of conscience
- It is a founding text of rights and duties in France.

Fundamental rights

Rights apply to everyone in France, regardless of nationality.

- Abortion is legal — a woman's right guaranteed by law
- Divorce is always possible — it's a right
- Death penalty was abolished in 1981
- Polygamy is prohibited
- Freedoms can be limited to protect public order and others' rights

Duties of citizens

Everyone in France must:

- Respect the law — it applies to all (French and foreign)
- Reduce waste — sort and recycle (environmental duty)
- Not litter — throwing trash in the street can lead to a fine
- Bring large items to the waste center (déchetterie)
- Call emergency services if there's an accident (15, 18, or 112)

Justice and infractions

Three levels of infractions (from least to most serious):

- Contravention — a minor offense punished mainly by a fine
 - Misdemeanor (délit) — a more serious offense
 - Crime — the most serious level
- Police work mainly in urban areas. The Gendarmerie works mainly in rural areas. Both ensure safety and enforce the law. A judge holds judicial power and sanctions criminals. Victims should file a complaint (porter plainte).

Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is the exploitation of people through force, deception, or coercion. It is a serious crime in France. Victims have the right to protection and assistance.

Questions - Rights and Duties

1. What is the name of France's current Constitution?

A) The Constitution of the Fourth Republic

B) The Constitution of the Fifth Republic [correct answer]

C) The Declaration of the Rights of Man

D) The Environmental Charter

2. What is the name of the text that sets out the rights and duties of people living in France?

A) The Civil Code

B) The Charter of the Rights and Duties of the French Citizen [correct answer]

C) The Penal Code

D) Only the Constitution

3. Regarding individual rights, which statement is correct?

A) Only French citizens have rights

B) Rights apply only to adults

C) Every person has fundamental rights, whatever their nationality [correct answer]

D) Rights depend on religion

4. From what year does the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen date?

A) 1689

B) 1789 [correct answer]

C) 1848

D) 1958

5. Which of these rights is a fundamental right?

A) The right to own a car

B) The right to freedom of expression [correct answer]

C) The right to own a pet

D) The right not to work

6. Which of these texts guarantees rights and freedoms in France?

A) The Highway Code

B) The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen [correct answer]

C) A company's internal rules

D) The school curriculum

7. What is freedom of expression?

A) The right to say anything without consequences

B) The right to express opinions within the limits of the law [correct answer]

C) The right to shout in the street

D) A right reserved for journalists

8. Which right allows a person to defend themselves in court?

A) The right to strike

B) The right to a lawyer (right of defense) [correct answer]

C) The right to vote

D) The right to housing

9. What is the founding text establishing the rights and duties of each citizen?

- A) The Labor Code
- B) The 1789 Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen [correct answer]**
- C) The Penal Code
- D) The Finance Act

10. Which text was adopted during the French Revolution?

- A) The Constitution of the Fifth Republic
- B) The Napoleonic Code
- C) The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen [correct answer]**
- D) The law separating Churches and the State

11. Which freedom allows a person to have no religion?

- A) Freedom of expression
- B) Freedom of trade
- C) Freedom of conscience [correct answer]**
- D) Freedom of movement

12. A woman may have an abortion:

- A) Never, it is forbidden
- B) Only with her husband's consent
- C) Freely, it is a right guaranteed by law [correct answer]**
- D) Only if she is French

13. Is divorce always possible?

- A) No, divorce is forbidden
- B) Yes, divorce is a right [correct answer]**
- C) Only for men
- D) Only after 10 years of marriage

14. The death penalty is:

- A) Allowed for serious crimes
- B) Abolished in France since 1981 [correct answer]**
- C) Decided by the President
- D) Applied only in wartime

15. Regarding limits on individual freedoms, which statement is correct?

- A) There are no limits
- B) Freedoms may be limited to protect public order and the rights of others [correct answer]**
- C) Only the President may limit freedoms
- D) Limits depend on religion

16. In France, is it legal to be married to several people at the same time?

- A) Yes, it is allowed
- B) No, polygamy is forbidden [correct answer]**
- C) Yes, with a judge's approval
- D) Only for religious reasons

17. Should we reduce our waste?

- A) No, it is not important
- B) Yes, it is an environmental duty [correct answer]**
- C) Only in the countryside
- D) Only businesses must do it

18. Throwing a bottle into the street is:

- A) Normal
- B) Forbidden and punishable by a fine [correct answer]**
- C) Allowed if the trash can is far away
- D) Tolerated at night

19. Why may individual freedoms be limited?

- A) To satisfy the government
- B) To protect public order and the rights of others [correct answer]**
- C) To give some people an advantage
- D) Freedoms are never limited

20. What should a person do in case of an accident?

- A) Leave without saying anything
- B) Call the emergency services (15, 18, or 112) [correct answer]**
- C) Wait for someone else to call
- D) Do nothing if it is not serious

21. What does French citizenship allow?

- A) Not paying taxes
- B) Voting and taking part in civic life [correct answer]**
- C) Having only a passport
- D) Not obeying the laws

22. What can happen to a person who does not obey the law?

- A) Nothing
- B) A criminal penalty (fine, prison) [correct answer]**
- C) Only a verbal warning
- D) Automatic expulsion

23. What is the role of the gendarmerie?

- A) Collect taxes
- B) Ensure security, mainly in rural areas [correct answer]**
- C) Vote on laws
- D) Manage hospitals

24. What is the role of the police?

- A) Vote on laws
- B) Ensure security and public order, mainly in urban areas [correct answer]**
- C) Appoint judges
- D) Manage schools

25. What is an offense?

A) An act against the law [correct answer]

- B) An act of solidarity
- C) A decision by the President
- D) A type of contract

26. How can waste be reduced?

A) By throwing everything into the same bin

B) By sorting waste and recycling [correct answer]

- C) By burning waste
- D) By throwing it into the river

27. Leaving a broken washing machine on the sidewalk is:

A) Normal

B) Allowed on Sundays

C) Forbidden, it must be taken to a waste collection center [correct answer]

D) Allowed in town

28. What is human trafficking?

A) International trade

B) The exploitation of people through force or deception [correct answer]

- C) Volunteer work
- D) Legal immigration

29. What should a victim of violence do?

A) Say nothing

B) File a complaint with the police or gendarmerie [correct answer]

- C) Wait for it to pass
- D) Take justice into their own hands

30. Which is the most serious type of offense?

A) Contravention

B) Misdemeanor

C) Crime [correct answer]

D) Fine

Theme 4 : History of France

Key dates in French history

1789 — French Revolution. Storming of the Bastille (July 14). King Louis XVI was in power. The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen was adopted. 1848 — Definitive abolition of slavery. 1881-1882 — Jules Ferry makes school free, secular, and compulsory. 1905 — Law separating Churches and State (laïcité). 1914-1918 — World War I. Armistice: November 11, 1918 (public holiday). 1939-1945 — World War II. The Shoah: genocide of European Jews by the Nazis. 1957 — Creation of the EEC (European Economic Community). 1958 — Charles de Gaulle founded the Fifth Republic. He was its first President. 1981 — Abolition of the death penalty. France has had 5 Republics in total.

Napoleon

Napoleon Bonaparte (Napoleon I) was an emperor, not a king or president. He modernized the administration and created the Civil Code.

Geography of France

Capital: Paris (on the continent of Europe). Seas/Oceans: Atlantic Ocean (west), Mediterranean Sea (south), and the English Channel (north). Mountains: The Alps (France-Italy border) and the Pyrenees (France-Spain). Rivers: the Seine, the Loire, the Rhône, and the Garonne. Key cities: Lyon, Marseille (port), Nice (Mediterranean), Bordeaux, Toulouse, Strasbourg, Lille. Corsica: an island in the Mediterranean Sea. 13 metropolitan regions, 101 departments. Overseas departments (DOM): Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guiana, Réunion, Mayotte.

Cultural figures

Writers: Molière (17th c. playwright), Victor Hugo, Charles Baudelaire (19th c. poet), George Sand (19th c. female writer), Albert Camus (Nobel Prize), Simone de Beauvoir (feminist philosopher), Jean de La Fontaine (fables). Painters: Paul Cézanne (post-impressionist), Marc Chagall (Russian-born, lived in France). Performers: Édith Piaf (singer), Joséphine Baker (American-born artist and Resistance fighter who became French). Landmarks: The Louvre (largest art museum in Paris), the Eiffel Tower (Paris). Holidays: Christmas = December 25th.

Questions - History of France

1. In what year did the French Revolution begin?

A) 1689

B) 1789 [correct answer]

C) 1889

D) 1958

2. Who was Napoleon I?

A) A king of France

B) An emperor who modernized the administration and created the Civil Code [correct answer]

C) A President of the Republic

D) A Roman general

3. Which of these historical figures is French?

- A) Shakespeare
- B) Beethoven
- C) Napoleon Bonaparte [correct answer]**
- D) Leonardo da Vinci

4. In which Republic are we today?

- A) The Third Republic
- B) The Fourth Republic
- C) The Fifth Republic [correct answer]**
- D) The Sixth Republic

5. What is the Shoah?

- A) A war between France and Germany
- B) The genocide of Europe's Jews by the Nazis during World War II [correct answer]**
- C) A political revolution
- D) An artistic movement

6. Which country or region of the world was colonized by France?

- A) Japan
- B) Algeria [correct answer]**
- C) China
- D) Brazil

7. Who made school free, secular, and compulsory?

- A) Napoleon
- B) Jules Ferry [correct answer]**
- C) Charles de Gaulle
- D) Victor Hugo

8. When did World War II take place?

- A) 1914-1918
- B) 1939-1945 [correct answer]**
- C) 1870-1871
- D) 1954-1962

9. When did World War I take place?

- A) 1870-1871
- B) 1914-1918 [correct answer]**
- C) 1939-1945
- D) 1954-1962

10. In what year was the European Economic Community (EEC) created?

- A) 1945
- B) 1957 [correct answer]**
- C) 1968
- D) 1992

11. November 11 is a public holiday. What does this date correspond to?

- A) The national holiday
- B) The armistice of World War I (1918) [correct answer]**
- C) The end of World War II
- D) The creation of the EU

12. Who was the first President elected under the Fifth Republic?

- A) Georges Pompidou
- B) François Mitterrand
- C) Charles de Gaulle [correct answer]**
- D) Jacques Chirac

13. In what year was slavery definitively abolished in France?

- A) 1789
- B) 1815
- C) 1848 [correct answer]**
- D) 1905

14. Since what year has public school been free?

- A) 1789
- B) 1848
- C) 1881-1882 [correct answer]**
- D) 1958

15. How many republics has France had?

- A) Three
- B) Four
- C) Five [correct answer]**
- D) Six

16. Who was king of France at the time of the French Revolution?

- A) Louis XIV
- B) Louis XV
- C) Louis XVI [correct answer]**
- D) Napoleon

17. Who founded the Fifth Republic?

- A) Georges Pompidou
- B) Charles de Gaulle [correct answer]**
- C) François Mitterrand
- D) Nicolas Sarkozy

18. What is celebrated on July 14?

- A) Napoleon's birthday
- B) The storming of the Bastille and the national holiday [correct answer]**
- C) The end of World War II
- D) The signing of the Constitution

19. Which war took place between 1914 and 1918?

- A) The Hundred Years' War
- B) World War II
- C) World War I [correct answer]**
- D) The Algerian War

20. Why is the year 1958 important for France?

- A) The end of the monarchy
- B) The creation of the Fifth Republic [correct answer]**
- C) The abolition of slavery
- D) Entry into the EU

21. Which river flows in France?

- A) The Nile
- B) The Danube
- C) The Seine [correct answer]**
- D) Only the Rhine

22. Which city is French?

- A) Brussels
- B) Geneva
- C) Lyon [correct answer]**
- D) Munich

23. Which ocean borders France's west coast?

- A) The Indian Ocean
- B) The Pacific Ocean
- C) The Atlantic Ocean [correct answer]**
- D) The Arctic Ocean

24. What is Paris?

- A) A region
- B) The capital of France [correct answer]**
- C) An overseas department
- D) An island

25. What is the capital of France?

- A) Lyon
- B) Marseille
- C) Paris [correct answer]**
- D) Bordeaux

26. On which continent is metropolitan France located?

- A) Africa
- B) America
- C) Asia
- D) Europe [correct answer]**

27. Which island is a French overseas department?

A) Sicily

B) Guadeloupe [correct answer]

C) The Balearic Islands

D) Iceland

28. How many regions are there in metropolitan France?

A) 8

B) 13 [correct answer]

C) 18

D) 22

29. Which city is a major seaport?

A) Lyon

B) Marseille [correct answer]

C) Toulouse

D) Strasbourg

30. Which sea is south of metropolitan France?

A) The North Sea

B) The English Channel

C) The Mediterranean Sea [correct answer]

D) The Baltic Sea

31. Which city is on the Mediterranean Sea?

A) Bordeaux

B) Brest

C) Nice [correct answer]

D) Lille

32. Where is Corsica located?

A) In the Atlantic Ocean

B) In the Mediterranean Sea [correct answer]

C) In the English Channel

D) In the North Sea

33. Which mountain range lies between France and Italy?

A) The Pyrenees

B) The Jura

C) The Alps [correct answer]

D) The Vosges

34. Who was Molière?

A) A painter

B) A king

C) A seventeenth-century playwright and actor [correct answer]

D) A general

35. Who was Charles Baudelaire?

- A) A politician
- B) A nineteenth-century poet [correct answer]**
- C) A musician
- D) An architect

36. Who was George Sand?

- A) An English general
- B) A nineteenth-century French writer [correct answer]**
- C) An impressionist painter
- D) An explorer

37. Who was Simone de Beauvoir?

- A) A singer
- B) A twentieth-century feminist writer and philosopher [correct answer]**
- C) A queen of France
- D) A scientist

38. Who was Albert Camus?

- A) A musician
- B) A painter
- C) A writer and philosopher, Nobel Prize in Literature winner [correct answer]**
- D) A politician

39. Who was Paul Cézanne?

- A) A writer
- B) A post-impressionist painter [correct answer]**
- C) A musician
- D) An architect

40. Who was Marc Chagall?

- A) A French writer
- B) A Russian-born painter who lived in France [correct answer]**
- C) A politician
- D) A musician

41. Who was Joséphine Baker?

- A) A queen of France
- B) An artist and Resistance fighter, American-born and later French [correct answer]**
- C) A politician
- D) A scientist

42. Who was a famous French singer?

- A) Simone de Beauvoir
- B) Marie Curie
- C) Édith Piaf [correct answer]**
- D) George Sand

43. What is the Louvre?

- A) A castle in the Loire Valley
- B) The largest art museum in Paris [correct answer]**
- C) An amusement park
- D) A Paris train station

44. Who was Jean de La Fontaine?

- A) A king
- B) A poet famous for his fables [correct answer]**
- C) A painter
- D) A musician

45. Which writer is French?

- A) Charles Dickens
- B) Victor Hugo [correct answer]**
- C) Mark Twain
- D) Dostoevsky

46. In which city is the Eiffel Tower located?

- A) Lyon
- B) Marseille
- C) Paris [correct answer]**
- D) Bordeaux

47. When is Christmas celebrated?

- A) January 1
- B) July 14
- C) December 25 [correct answer]**
- D) November 11

Theme 5 : Life in Society

Emergency Numbers

15 — SAMU (medical emergency) 17 — Police 18 — Fire brigade 112 — European emergency number These numbers are free and available 24/7.

Healthcare

Carte Vitale — Proves your right to health insurance reimbursement. Primary doctor — Coordinates your care and refers you to specialists. See this doctor first for non-urgent health issues. Supplementary health insurance — Covers part of what public health insurance does not reimburse. Emergency room — Only for life-threatening situations or serious injuries. Compulsory vaccinations — Protect everyone against serious diseases. Everyone living in France has the right to healthcare coverage.

Employment

France Travail — The first step for job seekers. It helps unemployed people find work. SMIC — The legal minimum wage. Employers must pay at least the SMIC. 35 hours/week — Legal working time. Undeclared work is illegal. Women can create businesses on the same basis as men. Foreigners with valid residency can create businesses under certain conditions. Minors can work from age 16 under special conditions.

Education

School is compulsory for all children living in France, girls and boys, up to age 16. Primary school (école) → middle school (collège) → secondary school (lycée) → baccalauréat. Enrolled children who do not speak French have the right to go to school and receive language support.

Civil registration and family

Marriage is only legally recognized if celebrated at the mairie (town hall). A religious ceremony alone is not legally valid. Birth declaration: within 5 days of birth at the mairie. Parental authority: parents must protect, educate, and provide for their children. Driver's license: After passing, you need car insurance and a carte grise (registration).

Questions - Life in Society

1. Which emergency number calls SAMU?

A) 15 [correct answer]

B) 17

C) 18

D) 112

2. Which emergency number calls the fire brigade?

A) 15

B) 17

C) 18 [correct answer]

D) 112

3. After getting a driving license, what must you do to drive your car?

- A) Nothing else
- B) Insure the vehicle and have a registration certificate [correct answer]**
- C) Pay a monthly tax
- D) Ask the mayor for permission

4. Under what conditions is a marriage legally recognized?

- A) A religious ceremony is enough
- B) It must be celebrated at the town hall [correct answer]**
- C) Living together is enough
- D) A simple verbal agreement is enough

5. When must you declare your child to the civil registry at the town hall?

- A) Within the month after birth
- B) Within 5 days after birth [correct answer]**
- C) Within the year
- D) When the child starts school

6. Undeclared work is:

- A) Legal in France
- B) Illegal and punishable by law [correct answer]**
- C) Allowed for small jobs
- D) Tolerated if temporary

7. What must an employer do when setting a salary?

- A) Decide freely without rules
- B) Pay at least the SMIC (minimum wage) [correct answer]**
- C) Ask the President's opinion
- D) Pay whatever the employee asks

8. What is the SMIC?

- A) A trade union
- B) The legal minimum wage in France [correct answer]**
- C) A type of contract
- D) A social benefit

9. What is the first step to take when looking for a job?

- A) Write to the President
- B) Register with France Travail (formerly Pôle emploi) [correct answer]**
- C) Go directly to a company
- D) Contact the town hall

10. What is the legal working time per week?

- A) 30 hours
- B) 35 hours [correct answer]**
- C) 39 hours
- D) 40 hours

11. Who is helped by France Travail?

- A) Retired people
- B) People looking for a job [correct answer]**
- C) Only students
- D) Tourists

12. Can a foreigner legally living in France start a business?

- A) No, it is reserved for French citizens
- B) Yes, under certain conditions [correct answer]**
- C) No, you must be European
- D) Only after 10 years in France

13. Can a woman start her own business?

- A) No, it is reserved for men
- B) Yes, with her husband's consent
- C) Yes, on the same basis as a man [correct answer]**
- D) Only in certain sectors

14. From what age can a minor work?

- A) 14 years old
- B) 16 years old under special conditions [correct answer]**
- C) 18 years old only
- D) No minor can work

15. Which organization handles reimbursement of healthcare costs?

- A) The town hall
- B) France Travail
- C) Health insurance (Assurance maladie / Sécurité sociale) [correct answer]**
- D) The bank

16. What is an emergency number?

- A) A number to book a restaurant
- B) A free number to call emergency services in danger [correct answer]**
- C) A number to contact the town hall
- D) A paid number

17. Regarding access to healthcare, which statement is correct?

- A) Only French citizens have access to healthcare
- B) Healthcare is reserved for rich people
- C) Anyone living in France has a right to health coverage [correct answer]**
- D) Healthcare is always free

18. In the event of a non-urgent health problem, whom should you contact first?

- A) Hospital emergency room
- B) Your primary doctor [correct answer]**
- C) The pharmacy
- D) SAMU

19. What is the role of the primary doctor?

- A) To operate on patients
- B) To coordinate care and refer to specialists [correct answer]**
- C) To dispense medicines
- D) To reimburse healthcare costs

20. In what situations should you go to a hospital emergency room?

- A) For a simple cold
- B) In a life-threatening emergency or serious injury [correct answer]**
- C) To renew a prescription
- D) For a medical certificate

21. What is the purpose of compulsory vaccinations?

- A) To monitor the population
- B) To protect everyone's health against serious diseases [correct answer]**
- C) To make money
- D) To control births

22. What is the Carte Vitale for?

- A) To vote
- B) To prove your right to reimbursement by health insurance [correct answer]**
- C) To drive
- D) To travel

23. What is a supplementary health insurance policy for?

- A) To replace health insurance
- B) To top up reimbursements from health insurance [correct answer]**
- C) To pay taxes
- D) To find a job

24. Up to what age is school compulsory?

- A) 12 years old
- B) 14 years old
- C) 16 years old [correct answer]**
- D) 18 years old

25. Parental authority includes the obligation:

- A) To choose the child's religion
- B) To protect, educate, and support the child [correct answer]**
- C) To work full-time
- D) To own a home

26. For whom is school compulsory?

- A) Only boys
- B) Only French children
- C) All children living in France, girls and boys [correct answer]**
- D) Only children over 8

27. What diploma is obtained at the end of secondary school (lycée)?

- A) The brevet
- B) The certificate of primary studies
- C) The baccalauréat [correct answer]**
- D) The bachelor's degree

28. Which schools do pupils attend after primary school?

- A) Lycée
- B) Middle school (collège) [correct answer]**
- C) University
- D) Apprenticeship

29. A child enrolled in school:

- A) Can miss classes whenever they want
- B) Must attend regularly [correct answer]**
- C) Does not have to come every day
- D) Can be replaced by a brother or sister

30. Children who do not speak French:

- A) Cannot go to school
- B) Must wait to learn French before going to school
- C) Have the right to go to school and may receive support [correct answer]**
- D) Must go to a private school

Scenario Practice

The real exam includes 12 unpublished scenario questions. They test how candidates apply republican values in everyday life. The scenarios below are practice simulations covering the same themes.

1. A person publishes hateful comments targeting someone's religion on social media. What happens?

- A) Nothing, it's freedom of expression
- B) The person can be prosecuted - hate speech is a crime [correct answer]**
- C) Only the social media platform is responsible
- D) The person gets a warning but no legal action

2. During an authorized protest, a group starts destroying shop windows. What should happen?

- A) Nothing, it's part of the protest
- B) The violent individuals can be arrested - destruction of property is illegal [correct answer]**
- C) The entire protest is canceled and everyone is arrested
- D) The shop owners must accept it

3. A company refuses to hire a qualified woman because she is pregnant. Which republican value is violated?

- A) Fraternity
- B) Liberty
- C) Equality - discrimination based on pregnancy is illegal [correct answer]**
- D) Secularism

4. Your employer tells you to remove a visible religious symbol at work in a public school. What must you do?

- A) Refuse, your religion comes first
- B) Comply - public service employees must be religiously neutral [correct answer]**
- C) File a complaint for discrimination
- D) Ask the students to decide

5. You witness a serious car accident with injured people. What should you do?

- A) Keep driving - it's not your problem
- B) Call emergency services (15 or 112) and help if you can safely [correct answer]**
- C) Post a video on social media
- D) Wait for someone else to call

6. A neighbor plays extremely loud music every night until 3 AM. What should you do?

- A) Nothing, they have the right
- B) First talk to them, then contact police if it continues - noise nuisance is illegal [correct answer]**
- C) Destroy their speakers
- D) Move to another apartment

7. Your child says they don't want to go to school because other children make fun of their religion. What is your obligation?

- A) Keep the child home - religion is more important
- B) Send the child to school - attendance is mandatory. Report the bullying to the school [correct answer]**
- C) Change the child's religion
- D) Nothing, the child decides

8. A friend asks you to work for cash without declaring it to avoid taxes. What should you know?

- A) It's fine if it's just a small amount
- B) Undeclared work is illegal and both the employer and worker can be penalized [correct answer]**
- C) It's only illegal for the employer, not the worker
- D) It's legal if you're a foreigner

9. A man tells his wife she is not allowed to work outside the home. Is this legal in France?

- A) Yes, the husband decides
- B) No - women and men have equal rights, including the right to work [correct answer]**
- C) Only if it's for religious reasons
- D) Only if they have children

10. You find a wallet with money and an ID card on the street. What should you do?

- A) Keep the money and throw away the wallet
- B) Take it to the nearest police station or mairie [correct answer]**
- C) Post about it on social media
- D) Ignore it

11. A public school teacher wears a large religious necklace during class. Is this allowed?

- A) Yes, teachers have freedom of religion
- B) No - public school employees must maintain religious neutrality during service [correct answer]**
- C) Only if students don't complain
- D) Only for Christian symbols

12. Your landlord refuses to rent to you because of your nationality. What can you do?

- A) Nothing, landlords can choose freely
- B) File a complaint - discrimination based on nationality in housing is illegal [correct answer]**
- C) Find another apartment - it's not worth fighting
- D) Accept it and move on

Important Notice

QUESTIONS: The questions in this guide come from the official list published by the French Ministry of the Interior on formation-civique.interieur.gouv.fr.

ANSWER OPTIONS: The answer choices were created for study purposes. The French government publishes the questions, but not the multiple-choice options.

SCENARIOS: The 12 scenario questions from the real exam are not published. The scenarios in this guide are practice simulations based on the same themes.

This tool is not affiliated with or endorsed by the French government. Always consult the official sources: formation-civique.interieur.gouv.fr

Legal basis: Law No. 2024-42 of January 26, 2024 (Article 20)

Livre Français | République Numérique

petitfr.com

This guide was prepared by Livre Français (petitfr.com) to help candidates prepare for the civic exam.

Designed by Mohammadreza Domiriganji