

FRENCH COURSE CHALLENGE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who should initiate a French course challenge?

Senior high school students who believe that they have acquired the knowledge, skills and attitudes as defined by the program of studies for a given course and are ready to demonstrate that achievement can participate in a summative assessment/evaluation process can do a course challenge.

What is the process?

A student must initiate a course challenge through the principal or his designate. He must demonstrate that he has the knowledge, skills and attitudes as defined by the program of studies through a portfolio. All components of a course challenge must be completed in order to be successful.

What are the different types of French courses?

There are three different types of French courses:

French as a Second Language (FSL): FSL is for students who have taken French as a second language. There are two streams: 3Y (a three year program of studies starting in grade 10) and 9Y (a nine year program of studies starting in grade 4). This course has no diploma exam.

French Language Arts (FLA): FLA is for students who are in French Immersion. There are two streams FLA 10/20/30-1 and FLA 10/20/30-2. This course has a diploma exam.

Français : Français is for students who are in Francophone schools. Only Francophone regional authorities can offer this course. There are two streams Français 10/20/30-1 and Français 10/20/30-2. This course has a diploma exam.

When should prerequisites be waived?

A student who has previous experience and chooses to continue the study of a second language in high school may have certain prerequisites waived by the principal, if the following requirements are met:

- the student possesses the knowledge, skills and attitudes identified in the waived course or program of studies
- judgments are made on an individual basis, not for an entire class of students
- it is in the student's best interest

(Source: Alberta Guide to Education p.103)

Principals shall report any waived prerequisite course(s). Credits are then granted for the waived prerequisite course and a 'P' for pass is recorded on the student's record and transcript. If the student requires a mark for scholarship or other purposes, the course may be challenged using the appropriate procedure. The challenge of any course must take place outside of regular instructional hours.

For example, a student completes French 9 in junior high and chooses to continue French in high school. The principal determines that the student possesses the knowledge, skills and attitudes of the learner outcomes for French 10. The student enrolls in and successfully completes French 20. The principal submits the appropriate information waiving the prerequisite of French 10, for which the student receives credit, but no mark (a P for will be recorded on the transcript). Should the student want a mark in French 10, a course challenge may be initiated.

What are retroactive credits?

Students not achieving at least 50% in a course may repeat the course or, subject to the approval of the school principal, take a course in an alternative sequence. Students who successfully complete the next higher-level course in an alternative sequence shall be granted credit for the prerequisite course in that alternative sequence.

Only courses listed in the Guide to Education are eligible for retroactive credit.

How many credits do students get for course challenges?

The student receives the same amount of credits as if he had taken and passed the course.

What are the components to a course challenge?

A student initiating a French course challenge must complete a portfolio, an oral interview, a written composition as well as reading and listening comprehensions.

Who authorizes course challenges?

The principal, or his designate, authorizes course challenges.

How should a student prepare for a course challenge?

A student should be familiar with the student course challenge package as well as the learner outcomes in the program of studies that can be found at http://education.alberta.ca/media/677897/nine_year.pdf

What kind of preparation should a teacher provide for a course challenge?

A course challenge has no instructional component to it. If a student is asking to initiate a course challenge, it is because s/he feels that they have the knowledge, skills and attitudes identified in the program of studies. As a result, teachers should not provide any preparation, tutoring or other support for the content of a course challenge.

If a student cannot meet the learner outcomes of the program of studies, they should enrol in the course.

How often can the same course be challenged?

A course challenge may only be initiated once for the same course. Should a student not be successful in a course challenge, it may not be challenged again. If the student would like credits, s/he must enroll and complete the course.

How many credits can a student receive for language courses?

While students can earn as many credits as they want in language courses (generally for marks purposes), no more than 25 credits in languages may be used towards the Alberta High School Diploma.

In what order can courses be challenged?

A student may not initiate a course challenge for a lower level course, once credits have been earned in a higher level. For example, if a student receives credits for French 30 in grade 10, they may not challenge French 10 or 20 later on.

COURSE CHALLENGE APPLICATION FORM

Student Name: _____

Student ID: _____ Exam Session (circle one) **January** or **June**

Course being challenged: **FSL 30-9Y**

Learning Leader Approval: _____

Student's email: _____

- ✓ I understand that I must complete all components of the course challenge by the assigned dates.
- ✓ I understand that I may only initiate a course challenge once. Should I not succeed or I would like to raise my mark, I must enroll in the course.
- ✓ I understand that by initiating the course challenge, I have the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes as defined by the program of studies.
- ✓ I understand that I will not be prepared by teachers for the course challenge
- ✓ I understand that I may not receive a mark in a lower level course once I have earned credits in a higher level course.

IMPORTANT

**The exam will be held during both exam schedules
in January and June 2015.**

**This application form and the portfolio MUST be given to Mme Pettigrew
no later than December 15th and May 15th of each school calendar.**

***** Every applicant will receive an email indicating the date, the time
and the place of the exam. *****

Questions? Please contact Mme Pettigrew JEPettigrew@cbe.ab.ca

Student's signature

Parent's signature

Administrator's signature

Date

Date

Date