**24.2 French**

**Why learn French?**

* French is the second most spoken language after English.
* Native language of around 200 million people.
* Spoken in France, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Canada, South East Asia, North Africa and much of central Africa, and Caribbean.
* It’s a key language of European Union’s 25 Nations, the world’s largest economic entity with a population of 350 million
* Working language in United Nations, UNESCO, NAATO, International Red Cross, International courts,
* Proficiency in French is a prerequisite for anyone planning on a career in International Organizations.
* It is a base language for learning other languages such as, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Roman etc.
* French is a language of business. More than one million jobs in US require French.
* French is a language of technology and medicine
* French fashion designers, artists, writers, musicians and film-makers have had a wide influence in United States and the rest of the world.
* Learning French grants access to new horizons.
* French is a language of influential, religious, and intellectual movements.
* France is the no.1 tourist destination and attracts more than 70 million visitors a year.
* French is an asset for anyone interested in working in International Organizations.