



## International French Language Examinations in Latvia

French language is one of European Union working languages and therefore there is growing interest among pupils and students to study French language. It is being promoted not only by the cooperation between Embassy of France and Latvia in the field of economics, defence and culture but also by events organised by various education and cultural institutions for popularising the French language such as Francophonie days organised by the French Institute in Latvia. The Latvian Academy of Culture offers a bachelor's degree study programme Intercultural links Latvia- France offering students an insight of French culture, history, geography and in depth acquisition of French language. French language is offered as a second foreign language in secondary schools in Latvia and the Riga French International School is the leading French language teaching school offering French as a first foreign language from the primary school onwards.

The French Institute offers examinations to get the following diplomas and certificates testifying one's French language knowledge and skills: DELF-DALF, TCF and business French diplomas, awarded by the Paris Chamber of Trade and Industry. French business language examinations in a practical manner evaluate the candidate's ability to use French language (in written and oral form) in real professional situations. DFP diplomas are especially suited for those who wish to testify their French language skills in a professional environment in France or worldwide. The diplomas are valid indefinitely.

TCF (*Test de connaissance du français*) is a test to evaluate the candidate's French language skills at the moment of taking the test. The test consists of three compulsory and 2 optional tests (written and oral). The French language skills are evaluated in accordance with the 6 language competency levels defined by the European Council. The certificate is valid for two years.

DELF (*Diplôme d'études en langue française*) and DALF (*Diplôme approfondi de langue française*) consist of 6 diplomas independent from each other that correspond to the 6 language competency levels defined by the European Council. The following skills are assessed at each level: writing, reading, listening and speaking. The diploma awarded is valid indefinitely. The DALF certificate validates fluent and spontaneous communication skills at highest level and ability to use the language in everyday as well as professional business situations. DALF examinations are considered as French language entrance examinations for many French Universities. This certificate also significantly facilitates candidates in finding jobs in French speaking countries.

DELF Prim is an examination version that is especially suited for children (8-12 years), DELF Prim consists of three diplomas (A1.1, A1 and A2) that are independent from each other and correspond to the 6 language competency levels defined by the European Council. The examination assesses the 4 language skills: listening comprehension, reading comprehension, speaking and writing. The examination topics are adapted to the specifics of the relevant age groups. The diploma awarded has the same value as that foreseen for adults at the corresponding level.

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The examinations are held several times a year and the candidate has to apply for them in advance. The French institute of Latvia offers testing of candidates, preparation courses for examinations and consultations.

**For further information and examination sample:**

- [www.fda.ccip.fr](http://www.fda.ccip.fr)
- [www.ciep.fr](http://www.ciep.fr)
- [www.institut-francais.lv](http://www.institut-francais.lv)

**For additional information:**

- Additional resources and preparatory courses for French language examinations  
<http://web1.ihriga.lv/1/1/lv/393>
- Library:  
<http://www.bnf.fr/fr/acc/x.accueil.html>
- Additional learning materials: <http://francais-authentique.blogspot.com/>

**Information and applications:**

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