

Living in French society

Theme 5 of 5 · conforms to the official programme (arrêté du 10 October 2025)

Revision sheet — Living in French society

This topic has **4 of the 40 questions**. The official programme (the référentiel of the **decree of 10 October 2025**) splits it into four sub-topics, **1 question each**: settling and residing in France, access to healthcare, working in France, and parental authority and the education system. Few questions, but easy points to lock in. This sheet covers **the whole of the programme**.

The essentials in 30 seconds

- Procedures are handled at the **town hall (mairie)**, the **prefecture** or on **service-public.fr**.
- **Social security** (+ a complementary insurance / mutuelle) reimburses healthcare costs.
- Schooling is **compulsory from 3 to 16**.
- Key numbers: **15** (medical), **17** (police), **18** (fire), **112** (European emergency).

1. Settling and residing in France (1 question)

- **Everyday procedures**: taking out **civil liability insurance**, exchanging your driving licence, filing your **tax return**, reporting a change of address.
- **Residence**: applying for and renewing the **residence permit** (at the prefecture).
- **Access to French nationality**: by **declaration** or by **naturalisation** (decree), subject to **assimilation** into French society.
- **Civil status** (at the town hall): declarations of birth, marriage, divorce, death; access to **family and social benefits** (CAF).
- **Housing**: lease, inventory of fixtures; rights and obligations of the **tenant** and the **landlord**; housing benefits (CAF).

2. Access to healthcare (1 question)

- **Where to get care**: hospitals, clinics, emergency services, **general practitioner** (attending doctor) and specialists.
- **Reimbursement**: **social security** (carte Vitale) and a **complementary health insurance (mutuelle)**.
- **Compulsory vaccinations** for young children.
- **Patient rights**: choice of practitioner, **medical confidentiality** and the right to information.
- **Emergencies**: **15** (SAMU) or **112**.

3. Working in France (1 question)

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- **Employment framework:** legal working hours, paid leave, the **employment contract**, **safety** rules, internal regulations.
- **Pay:** the **SMIC** is the legal minimum wage; protection against discrimination.
- **Related rights:** trade-union rights, **training**, **recognition of qualifications**, access to **French** classes.
- **Job search** and **starting a business:** dedicated bodies and procedures exist to support you.

4. Parental authority and the education system (1 question)

- **Parental authority:** parents have obligations towards their minor children and must protect their **physical and moral integrity**.
- **Compulsory instruction from 3 to 16;** the teaching provided at school cannot be contested.
- **Organisation:** nursery school, primary school, lower secondary (collège), upper secondary (lycée), higher education.
- State schooling is **free, secular and co-educational**; parents must follow the rules and support their child's schooling.
- **119** — Child in danger.

Useful numbers

- **15** — SAMU (medical emergencies) · **17** — Police / gendarmerie · **18** — Fire brigade
- **112** — European emergency number · **114** — Emergencies for deaf or hard-of-hearing people (SMS)
- **3919** — Violence against women · **119** — Child in danger

Common mistakes

- Confusing the emergency numbers: **15** (SAMU), **17** (police), **18** (fire).
- Thinking school is compulsory from age 6: it has been **3** since 2019.
- Thinking this topic is negligible: its points are easy to win.

Tip: learn the emergency numbers and key procedures by heart, then practise with the [timed mock exam](#).