



Diplôme de **C**ompétence en **L**angue

www.education.gouv.fr/dcl

French Ministry of Education

«The **DCL**: an innovative language certification...»

The **DCL** is a **national professional diploma** delivered in **13 languages**

Foreign languages: Arabic language, Chinese, English, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, Russian

French: French as a Foreign Language*
Professional French*

French Sign Language

Regional languages: Breton and Occitan languages

(*) Both DCL in French were created in partnership with the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIP)

«The **DCL**: an innovative language certification...»

Who can take the **DCL**?

- Employees
- Job seekers
- French students entering teacher training
- People wishing to obtain French nationality
- Individuals

«The **DCL**: an innovative language certification...»

How innovative is the **DCL**?

- The **DCL** is a **professional diploma from the French Ministry of Education** adapted to the needs of the working world
- It has an **unlimited validity**
- The **DCL** assesses candidates' levels of **language skill and knowledge** in operational communication. There are no specific vocabulary or grammar tests

«The **DCL**: an innovative language certification...»

How innovative is the **DCL** ?

- **No prerequisite** diploma, training, professional experience or nationality
- **Exams** simulate a **professional situation** for candidates
- **Positive evaluation** of pragmatic and linguistic parameters of a language
 - **Pragmatic criteria** are common to all languages of the **DCL** *
 - **Linguistic criteria** are specific to each language

* *Except for Professional French and French Sign Language*

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How innovative is the **DCL** ?

- The **DCL** results are determined through the assessment of **achieved performance** based on common exam materials, designed to be handled at **different levels by all candidates**
- The official diploma states the candidate's **CEFRL level** (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) :
 - **A1 to A2** in **Professional French**,
 - **A2 to C1** in all **12 other languages**

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How innovative is the **DCL** ?

- Through a **role play**, the **DCL exam** evaluates :
 - **reading** and **listening***
 - **writing** and **speaking***
 - **interactive communication**
- The **DCL exam lasts**: **1 hour and 30 minutes** in Professional French
2 hours and 30 minutes in the 12 other languages

* DCL French Sign Language (FSL): understanding and expression in FSL

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Quality guaranteed by the French Ministry of Education

- **Quality control**: rationales provided by university lecturers and inspection bodies
- **Equity and fairness**:
 - Specifically trained examiners
 - Authorised exam centres respecting stringent guidelines
- **Ongoing research** on the future development of the **DCL**:
«Orientation committees » operating under the close supervision of inspection bodies
- **DCL exam centres** in metropolitan France, in French overseas territories and internationally in the near future

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- **on-line registration**
- **Information on :**
 - Examination format and calendar,
 - DCL examination centres,
 - Legal texts
- **Practice exams**
- **Results:**
 - **Global level** expressed as a CEFRL level
 - **Detailed profile** in the various language components

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Our references

- **Clients and partners:** French Ministry of Defence, French Ministry of Finance, Gendarmerie Nationale, Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIP), French graduate business schools, Europa Formation, Paris City Hall, La Poste...
- **Partnerships in process:** French engineering schools, French universities, IUT, AEFÉ and the network of French Schools abroad, private training centres

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Contact

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