

Read the following article and then complete the following 3 activities.

L'enseignement secondaire en France

Métro,



boulot,



dodo!



"Métro, boulot, dodo!" This expression sums up how people who live in Paris describe their daily routine of taking the subway, going to work and then going to bed. This rhyme also describes the busy schedule of students, since education is a full-time job for French teenagers.

Secondary education begins when 11-year-olds enter **le collège**, or **C.E.S.**

(Collège d'Enseignement Secondaire). They stay here for four years:

sixième (6^{ème}), **cinquième** (5^{ème}), **quatrième** (4^{ème}) and **troisième**

(3^{ème}). These years correspond to junior high school or middle school in the United States. (Note that the way of labeling school years is the opposite of the American system.)

Since the public educational system is the same all over the country, all French students use similar textbooks, follow similar course schedules and take the same major tests. Students spend up to ten hours a day at school, since classes begin as early as 8:00 A.M. and sometimes continue as late as 6:00 P.M. However, all classes do not meet every day. For example, one day a student may have six classes, and another day just two; he or she may have history twice a week, French three times a week, and drawing once a week. Students have Wednesday afternoons off to study, play sports or meet friends. Some classes are held on Saturday mornings. Students must take a

second language. They begin learning their first foreign language, usually English or German, in **sixième** and then add a second language a few years later. Teenagers usually have hours of homework to do every night.

At the end of **troisième**, students take their first big exam, **le brevet des collèges**. The results of this test do not affect entrance into high school (**le lycée**), but a high grade is naturally a morale boost. After four years at **le collège**, some students choose to go to a vocational school, while others who are academically inclined attend **le lycée**.



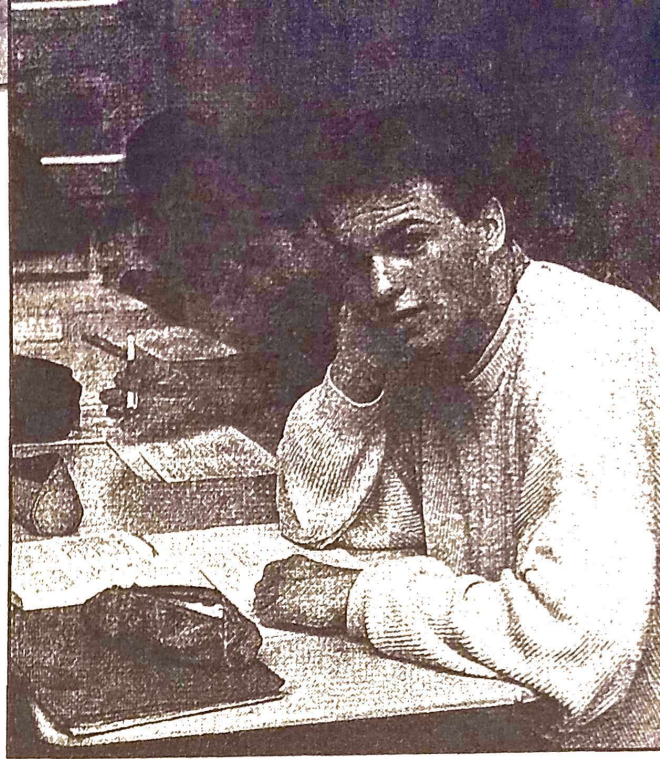
Martine is a student in *cinquième* at *le Collège Montaigne*.

Students go to **le lycée** in **seconde** (2^{ème}), **première** (1^{ère}) and **terminale**. Here they choose a major area of study in preparation for **le baccalauréat (bac)**, the national exam which usually determines whether or not students may continue their studies at a university. In **première**, students take the first part of **le bac**, which concentrates on the French language. The second half of **le bac**, given in **terminale**, focuses on each student's area of concentration.

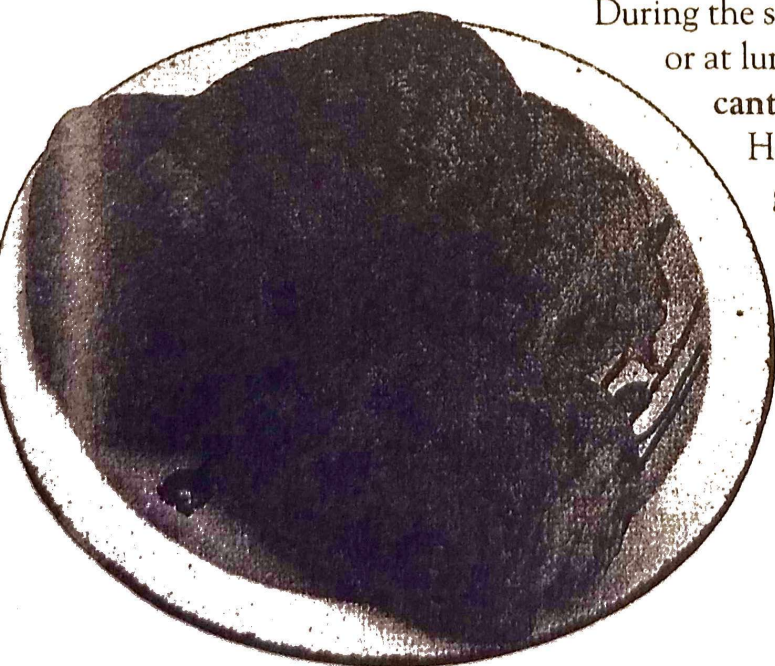
A typical French **lycée** classroom is sparsely decorated. Students sit at tables instead of desks. Classroom instruction focuses on the teacher and textbook, with few of the visual aids seen on the walls of many American classrooms. Likewise, the relationship between teacher and students, which is often personal in the United States, is more formal in France.

As for grades, the French use a point system, with 20 points being the top score. Instead of an "A," a student might receive 18 out of 20. Teachers grade strictly and students are often happy when they get a score of 12 out of 20. Students need to have an overall average of 10 out of 20 to pass to the next grade, otherwise they must repeat it. Repeating a grade is fairly common in France: over half of the students in **le lycée** repeat at least one year of school. They may take **le bac** over if they don't pass it the first time, but if they fail a second time, they must repeat the whole school year.

During the school day, students meet in the school courtyard or at lunch to talk with friends. A long lunch period in **la cantine** or **la cafétéria** usually breaks up the school day. However, many students choose to leave the school grounds to have lunch in a **café** or at home. After school, teenagers may stop for **un goûter** (afternoon snack) at a sidewalk stand or for a beverage at a local **café**. Cocurricular activities generally take place away from school in France, and organized sports are less important in French **lycées** than they are in American high schools.



Two students share a table in a typical French **lycée**.



For their **goûter**, French students might also stop at a pastry shop for **un pain au chocolat**.

Complete these assignments on a separate sheet of paper

11 L'enseignement secondaire en France

Répondez aux questions.

1. What is junior high school called in France?
2. What is one similarity between French and American secondary schools?
3. What is one difference between French and American secondary schools?
4. What is the name of the test that students take at the end of le collège?
5. What is senior high school called in France?
6. What may French students do instead of attending a lycée?
7. Why is le baccalauréat so important?
8. What is one difference between classrooms in France and the United States?
9. What overall score do students need to pass to the next grade?
10. Where might students go to eat lunch during the school day?



Solange gets a well-balanced lunch in her school's cantine.

12 Le bulletin de notes de Michel

Looking at Michel's bulletin de notes (report card) for a three-week period, answer the following questions.

1. How many different courses did Michel take?
2. In what class did Michel receive the highest grade?
3. What were Michel's three scores in French composition?
4. What four languages did he take?
5. How many periods of science did Michel have?
6. What grade did Michel receive for his leçons (lessons) in art? (Dessin)
7. How many teachers signed the report card?
8. Was Michel an honor student?
9. The appréciations (comments), such as très bien, bien, assez bien (fairly well) and vous pouvez mieux faire (you can do better), show the teachers' opinions of Michel's efforts. What would your French teacher write about your efforts in class?
10. In what class did Michel do assez bien?

PÉRIODE DU _____		AU _____		APPRECIATIONS
Lapins	Devoirs de contrôle	Autres devoirs		
Composition française	14	16	15	C'est bien. Continuez
Orthographe Grammaire	17	17,5	18	
Révisions	18	16	17	
Mathématiques	13,5	15,5	16	Bien, vous pouvez mieux faire.
Langue vivante I Anglais/Allemand	17	19	18,5	Très bien.
Langue vivante II Anglais/German/Espagnol	15,5	16	17,5	Bien, vous avez fait des efforts.
Latin ou Grec Soutien renforcé	15	14,5	16	Bien, continuez.
Histoire Géographie	16	16	17	C'est bien. Apprenez plus la Géographie.
Biologie Géologie	17,5	15,5	16	C'est bien. Travaillez encore la Géologie.
Sciences Physiques	18	15	17,5	Très bien.
Technologie	18	18	18	Très bien.
Dessin	17,5	17	17	
Musique	17	15,5	16	Assez bien
Éducation Physique	17	15	16	Continuez
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Write a sentence in English that defines or describes each of the following words or expressions.

1. Métro, boulot, dodo!

2. C.E.S.

3. le brevet des collèges

4. le baccalauréat

5. la cantine

6. un goûter

7. troisième

	Leçons	Devoirs de contrôle	Autres devoirs	APPRECIATIONS
Composition française	14	16	15	C'est bien, continuez
Orthographe Grammaire	17	17,5	18	
Récitations	18	16	17	
Mathématiques	17,5	15,5	16	Bien, vous pouvez mieux faire.
Langue vivante I Anglais Allemand	17	19	18,5	Très bien.
Langue vivante II Anglais Allemand Espagnol	15,5	16	17,5	Bien, vous avez fait des efforts.
Latin ou Grec ou langue renforcée	15	14,5	16	Bien, continuez
Histoire Géographie	16	16	17	C'est bien. Apprenez plus la Géographie.
Biologie Géologie	17,5	15,5	16	C'est bien. Travaillez encore la Géologie.
Sciences Physiques	18	15	17,5	Très bien.
Technologie	18	18	18	Très bien.
Dessin	17,5	17	17	
Musique	17	15,5	16	Assez bien
Education Physique	17	15	16	Continuez

Le Professeur Principal

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