

Level overview

C1 and C2	DALF	
Proficient user	DALF	
B1 and B2	DELFD	
Independent user	DELFD	
A1.1 *, A1 and A2	DELFD	
Basic user	DELFD	

* Not offered in Switzerland

DELFD A1

“ Bonjour, je m’appelle Alice. Je suis au niveau A1.”*
 DELFD A1 is the most basic level targeted at discovering the language. It recognises the learner’s ability to take part in simple interactions such as speaking about themselves and their immediate surroundings, understanding and using familiar everyday expressions and simple terms to fulfil specific needs.

The candidate CAN:

- Identify numerals, a person, a place, an itinerary.
- Understand basic messages (postcards, text messages, notices, and posters).
- Answer simple questions about themselves and their immediate surroundings.
- Communicate in simple everyday situations, e.g. shopping, ordering, asking for a price, and paying.
- Understand and completing forms.
- Write simple messages (postcards, text messages, and e-mails).

Total duration of written exams: 1 hour 20 minutes
Total points: 100; minimum points required to obtain a diploma: 50/100. **Minimum points required for each exam:** 5/25. **Listening:** Duration: 20 minutes. Three or four recorded texts of everyday life, each heard twice. **Reading:** Duration: 30 minutes. Understanding four or five texts of everyday life. **Writing:** Duration: 30 minutes. Two parts: completing a form (introducing oneself, providing information), and writing a simple message containing 40 to 50 words. **Speaking:** Duration: 10 minutes preparation time, 5-7 minutes speaking. Three parts: directed informal conversation (simple questions about the candidate and their immediate surroundings); exchange with the examiner (candidate asks questions about pictures or key words, chosen randomly); interactive part (role play).

DELFD A1 Prim

Listening: understand a simple instruction or description, numbers, do a simple exercise.
Reading: understand simple information, a short text, message or postcard. **Writing:** write personal information, a simple message or complete a story. **Speaking:** talk about oneself, explain the story presented in pictures, conduct an easy role play with the examiner.

Offers in Switzerland: DELFD A1 Tout public (adults), DELFD A1 Junior (preadolescents and adolescents up to approx. the age of 20), DELFD A1 Prim (primary school pupils). DELFD A1 Pro (work related topics)

DELFD A2

“ Ma meilleure amie s’appelle Charlotte et elle a beaucoup travaillé au niveau A2 parce qu’elle veut parler bien.”*
 DELFD A2 certifies elementary linguistic competence in a range of social contexts. The candidate is capable of dealing with simple everyday tasks. They can use polite forms and common expressions.

The candidate CAN:

- Describe their educational background, immediate surroundings, and talk about topics at hand using simple vocabulary.
- Understand public announcements and the meaning of a recorded text relating to everyday situations.
- Establish a contact and exchange information.
- Describe facts, speak, and narrate.
- Understand documents and locate information in simple everyday material.
- Describe an event of a personal experience based on pictorial documents.
- Write to invite, thank, refuse, apologise etc.

Total duration of written exams: 1 hour 40 minutes. **Total points:** 100; minimum points required to obtain a diploma: 50/100. **Minimum points required for each exam:** 5/25. **Listening:** Duration: approx. 25 minutes. Three or four short recordings involving everyday situations, each heard twice. **Reading:** Duration: 30 minutes. Three or four texts about everyday situations. Reading for information: identifying specific information. Reading for orientation: understanding advertisements or instructions. **Writing:** Duration: 45 minutes. Two parts: creative writing based on pictorial documents / correspondence: writing a message, answering an invitation. **Speaking:** Duration: 10 minutes preparation time, 6-8 minutes speaking. Three parts: directed conversation (establishing a contact, exchanging information); continuous monologue (describing, speaking, narrating); interactive part (role play).

Key words: survival / simple / cooperative discourse partner / familiar matters / myself and others

Offers in Switzerland: DELFD A2 Tout public (adults), DELFD A2 Junior (pre-adolescents and adolescents up to approx. the age of 20), DELFD A2 Prim, DELFD A2 Pro (work related topics)

DELFD B1

“ Elle a passé la semaine dernière un test de niveau B1, qui était très difficile. La salle d’examen était grande. De plus, il pleuvait ce jour-là. Je pense que le temps peut changer l’humeur des gens.”*
 At the B1 level, the user becomes independent. They are now capable of continuing an interaction: they can understand and continue a discussion, and give their views and opinions. They can manage unpredictable everyday situations.

The candidate CAN:

- Understand the main points in a situation where clear and standard language is used.
- Manage most situations.
- Hold simple and coherent conversation on familiar matters.

- Talk about events, experiences, and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans.

Total duration of written exams: 1 hour 45 minutes. **Total points:** 100; minimum points required to obtain a diploma: 50/100. **Minimum points required for each exam:** 5/25. **Listening:** Duration: 25 minutes. Three recordings, each heard twice. Understanding general and specific facts of a situation (who, to whom, where, when, why). **Reading:** Duration: 35 minutes. Two types of tasks: Reading for orientation: locating information. / Reading for information: analysing a text on a general subject, identifying the issue presented. Understanding the general organisation of a document, recognising the main line of argument. **Writing:** Duration: 45 minutes. Expressing own views on a general subject in a coherent manner, analysing advantages and disadvantages. Writing different text types such as essays, letters, articles, informative letters, and electronic messages. **Speaking:** Duration: 10 to 15 minutes. Three parts: Directed informal conversation: presenting oneself, talking about oneself, one’s activities, talking about one’s past, present, and one’s plans. Interactive part (role play). Expressing an opinion based on a given text (preparation time: 10 minutes).

Key words: threshold / justified opinion / to manage / main points / coherence

Offers in Switzerland: DELFD B1 Tout public (adults), DELFD B1 Junior (adolescents up to approx. the age of 20), DELFD B1 Pro (work related topics)

DELFD B2

“ Il faudrait que je fasse aussi des exercices pour le niveau B2, car les langues sont très importantes de nos jours. En effet, avec les échanges internationaux, on a beaucoup de chances de rencontrer quelqu’un qui ne parle pas notre langue.”*
 The B2 user has acquired a degree of independence which allows them to form arguments defending their opinion, develop their point of view, and negotiate. At this level, the candidate expresses themselves well in a conversation and becomes capable of correcting their own mistakes.

The candidate CAN:

- Understand the main ideas of complex texts on both concrete and abstract topics.
- Understand authentic recorded texts (reports, weather forecasts, news bulletins, and radio broadcasts).
- Understand authentic written documents about France and the French-speaking world in a general as well as a detailed manner.
- Communicate spontaneously and easily, express themselves in a clear and detailed manner on a range of topics, express their views, defend their opinion, and interact with others in a discussion.
- Write an essay on a social issue, react to regulations, and write a humorous article or a counterstatement.

Total duration of written exams: 2 hours 30 minutes. **Total points:** 100; minimum points required to obtain a diploma: 50/100. **Minimum points required for each exam:** 5/25. **Listening:** Duration: 30 minutes. Two authentic recorded texts about social topics. Recording one is heard twice. Recording two is heard only once. Identifying both general messages and specific details. **Reading:**

Duration: one hour. Two texts of approx. 500 words each about France or the French-speaking world. One informative, one argumentative text. Text comprehension questions on both general information and specific details (about the source, author, structure, author's tone etc.). **Writing:** Duration: one hour. Writing an essay which develops an argument, giving reasons in support of or against a particular point of view. Different text types: critical article or formal, argumentative letter. **Speaking:** Duration: 15 to 20 minutes (preparation time: 30 minutes). Two parts: presenting and defending an opinion based on a given text of approximately 200 words. / Discussion and interaction with the examiners.

Key words: argumentation / structure / language awareness / circumlocutions / self-correction / elements of civilisation / communicate with ease in a social discourse / concrete and abstract / relatively complex / coherence

Offers in Switzerland: DELF B2 Tout public (adults), DELF B2 Junior (adolescents up to approx. the age of 20), DELF B2 Pro (work related topics)

DALF C1

" Être capable de parler plusieurs langues à un niveau C1 aide donc les gens à communiquer entre eux. Comme les échanges peuvent être intéressants, on a là un avantage de l'accroissement de la mobilité. Mais elle n'a certainement pas que des avantages."*

The level C1 user is independent. They can establish communication easily and spontaneously. They possess a large vocabulary, and can choose appropriate expressions flexibly. They speak in a clear, well-organised manner without much obvious searching for expressions, showing controlled use of organisational patterns, connectors, and cohesive devices.

The candidate CAN:

- Be independent.
- Produce fluent, spontaneous, and convincing communication.
- Use the language in an effective, clear, and structured manner, even in complex matters.
- Use the tools of organisation, articulation, and cohesion of a conversation.
- Display knowledge at an advanced level (idiomatic expressions, different registers).
- Recognise the implicit meaning.

Total duration of written exams: 4 hours. **Total points:** 100; minimum points required to obtain a diploma: 50/100. **Minimum points required for each exam:** 5/25. **Listening:** Duration: 40 minutes. Two authentic recorded texts (max. duration: 10 minutes). Recording one: long text (approx. 8 minutes; discussion or conference). Heard only

once. Understanding general and specific information. Recording two: heard only once. Several (more than 3) short recorded texts of approx. 2 minutes each: newsflashes, advertisements, polls etc. **Reading:** Duration: 50 minutes. Understanding the main ideas and the purpose of a literary or journalistic text of approx. 1500 to 2000 words. Understanding sub-ideas and author's arguments; reformulation, text analysis. **Writing:** Duration: 2 hours 30 minutes. Choice of two areas: "science" or "literature and social sciences".

Two parts: writing a summary (approx. 220 words) of two texts of approx. 1000 words each. Writing an argumentative essay (approx. 250 words) based on the content of the texts. **Speaking:** choice of two areas: "science" or "literature and social sciences". Duration: 20 to 30 minutes. Preparation: 1 hour. Two parts: Giving a presentation based on several texts. / Discussion and interaction based on the presentation.

Key words: clear / detailed / structured / vast / long / complex / extensive / with ease / with little effort / spontaneously / fluently / abstract topics / complex / wide range of texts / also outside of one's field of interest / high level of grammatical correctness / implicit / style adapted to the recipient

Offers in Switzerland: choice of two areas: science or literature and social sciences

DALF C2

" Et, avec un niveau C2, il est possible de disserter en long et en large des différents aspects de cette problématique, qui est, en fait, celle de la mondialisation. Davantage de mobilité suppose en effet davantage de déplacements et ceux-ci sont le plus souvent effectués avec des moyens de transport polluants."*

Language proficiency is characterised by a degree of precision and adequacy, and the ability to express oneself fluently. The C2 candidate can perform tasks on an academic or advanced level. They can understand with ease virtually everything heard or read. They can express themselves spontaneously and precisely, differentiating finer shades of meaning even in more complex situations.

The candidate CAN:

- Express themselves fluently and spontaneously on complex topics both orally and in written form in a precise, coherent, and adequate manner.
- Summarise the main features of a recorded text in a structured and concise manner.
- Write a structured essay of approximately 700 words (article, discourse, report) based on input material.
- Express themselves with a high level of lexical, grammatical, and spelling correctness.

- Use a wide-range of vocabulary and recognise the different levels of formality (standard, frozen, formal, informal, slang).

Total duration of written exams: 3 hours 30 minutes. **Total points:** 100; minimum points required to obtain a diploma: 50/100. **Minimum points required for each exam:** 10/50. **Reading and Writing** forms one part of the exam (50 points): writing a structured essay (article, discourse, report) based on several texts of approx. 2000 words. Identifying the issue, organising ideas, and writing an essay containing an introduction, a body developing the most pertinent points, and an adequate conclusion. **Individual Exam / Listening and Speaking:** candidates may choose between two areas: science or literature and social sciences. The exam is divided into three parts (50 points). Part one: recorded text, heard twice. Duration: approx. 20 minutes. Part two: summary of the recorded text / development of opinion on the issue presented. Part three: debate with the examiners with opposing views.

Key words: idiomatic expressions / no difficulty at all / fast / with no effort / abstract / complex / clear / fluent / rectify / compensate for one's weaknesses / help the discourse partner recall the most important points / summarise and criticise

Offers in Switzerland: choice of two areas: science or literature and social sciences

Please visit our website www.delfdalf.ch for more information, or to download exam samples, evaluation forms, and the CEFR scale descriptors.

* Citations taken from: Préparer pour le DELF et le DALF – Un manuel pour la préparation et le déroulement des examens DELF et DALF, published by Schulverlag Bern, 2007.