# Teaching programmes and the Common core of knowledge, skills and culture

**This sections describes the Common Core of knowledge, skills and culture that  was developed in order to teach students the necessary skills and values needed to become a successful and active future citizen within French society and the world.**

**It describes as well briefly the three cycles that covers primary and lower secondary school:**

* **Cycle 2 which  is the first stage of compulsory schooling for all pupils beginning in Cours Préparatoire (age 6) and finishing in Cours Elémentaire 2 (age 8).**
* **The Consolidation Cycle (cycle 3) which helps with the transition from primary school to lower secondary school by convering the last two years of primary school and the first year of lower secondary**
* **The Development Cycle (cycle 4) which goes from "Cinquième" (second year of lower secondary school) up to "Troisième" (fourth year of lower secondary school).**
* [**The Common Core of Knowledge, Skills, and Culture**](http://eduscol.education.fr/cid61050/the-common-core-of-knowledge-skills-and-culture.html)

The Common Core of Knowledge, Skills, and Culture identifies the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes necessary for a student to be successful in their schooling, personal life, and life as a future active citizen; students are expected to know and master the Common Core by the end of their obligated schooling, age 6-16. In 2013, the Common Core was redefined to include the concept of Culture, so as to ensure students were educated about the common identity shared within the French culture and what it means to live in France as a citizen.

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[**The Fundamental Learning Cycle (cycle 2)**](http://eduscol.education.fr/cid116594/the-fundamental-learning-cycle-cycle-2.html)

Cycle 2 is the first stage of compulsory schooling for all pupils, beginning in Cours Préparatoire (age 6-7) and finishing in Cours Elémentaire 2 (age 8-9). It gives students solid groundwork in subjects like reading, writing, problem solving and the French language. Subjects covered in Cycle 2 include French, Modern Languages (foreign or regional), Art and Music, Physical and Sport education, Civic and Moral Education, Investigating the world, and Mathematics.

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[**The Consolidation Cycle (cycle 3)**](http://eduscol.education.fr/cid116614/the-consolidation-cycle-cycle-3.html)

Cycle 3 has two main objectives: reinforcing the base knowledge learned in Cycle 2 and helping with the transition from primary school to lower secondary school. It covers the last two years of primary school and the first year of lower secondary, in order to reinforce the continuity and consistency of learning between them. The "Sixième" class (first year of lower secondary) therefore occupies a particular place in this cycle, allowing pupils to adapt to the pace, educational organisation and lifestyle of lower secondary school while continuing on from CM1 and CM2 (Cours Moyen 1ère année, age 9-10 and Cours Moyen 2e année, age 10-11). Subjects covered in Cycle 3 include French, Modern Languages (foreign and regional), Art, Music, History of art, Physical and sport education, Civic and moral education, History and Geography, Science and Technology, and Mathematics.

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[**The Development Cycle (cycle 4)**](http://eduscol.education.fr/cid116621/the-development-cycle-cycle-4.html)

Cycle 4, which goes from "Cinquième" (second year of lower secondary school) up to "Troisième" (fourth year of lower secondary school) is the last stage of compulsory education for all pupils: at the end of this cycle, pupils must have acquired sufficient mastery of the knowledge and skills defined in the Common Core to successfully continue their education, whichever baccalaureate pathway they choose next. Subjects covered in Cycle 4 include French, Modern Languages (foreign and regional), Art, Music, History of Art, Physical and sport education, Civic and moral education, History and Geography, Life and Earth Sciences, Physics-Chemistry, Technology, Mathematics, Media and Information education, and Interdisciplinary Teaching Topics (EPI).