

French civic exam: the key dates to remember

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Key dates in French history, from 1789 to today

1789–1804	
Revolution and Empire	
1789	The French Revolution begins; Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen Multi-year card Naturalisation
1792	The Republic is established Resident card
1804	Napoleon I becomes emperor Resident card Naturalisation
1848–1905	
19th century and Third Republic	
1848	Slavery is abolished for good Multi-year card Naturalisation
1881	State schools become free Multi-year card Naturalisation
1889	World's Fair: the Eiffel Tower is built Naturalisation
1 July 1901	Law on freedom of association Naturalisation
1905	Law separating the Churches and the State, the basis of laïcité Multi-year card Resident card Naturalisation
1914–1945	
The two world wars	
1914–1918	First World War Multi-year card Resident card Naturalisation
11 November 1918	Armistice ending the First World War Multi-year card Naturalisation
1939–1945	Second World War Multi-year card Naturalisation
18 June 1940	General de Gaulle's call to resistance Resident card Naturalisation
1944	Women win the right to vote; the Normandy landings Resident card Naturalisation
25 August 1944	Liberation of Paris Naturalisation
8 May 1945	Allied victory and the end of the Second World War in Europe Resident card Naturalisation
1945–1981	
Post-war and Fifth Republic	
1945	Social security and the United Nations are created Resident card Naturalisation
1958	Constitution of the Fifth Republic Multi-year card Naturalisation
1962	The president is elected by direct universal suffrage Resident card Naturalisation
1975	Veil law: abortion is legalised Naturalisation
1981	The death penalty is abolished Multi-year card Resident card

1951–2020 Building Europe	
1951	The ECSC, the first step in building Europe Resident card Naturalisation
1957	The European Economic Community (EEC) is created Multi-year card
1992	Maastricht Treaty: the European Union and European citizenship are founded Resident card Naturalisation
2002	The euro (coins and notes) becomes France's currency Resident card Naturalisation
2013	Croatia joins the European Union Naturalisation
2020	The United Kingdom leaves the European Union Resident card Naturalisation
2011–2019 Recent landmarks	
2011	Mayotte becomes the 101st département Naturalisation
2019	Fire at Notre-Dame cathedral in Paris Resident card
Every year Fixed dates of the year	
1 May	Labour Day Naturalisation
9 May	Europe Day Multi-year card Resident card Naturalisation
14 July	National day, marking the storming of the Bastille (1789) and the Festival of the Federation (1790) Multi-year card Resident card Naturalisation
9 December	Secularism day, anniversary of the 1905 law Naturalisation
25 December	Christmas Multi-year card

Close dates not to mix up

8 May
Allied victory, end of the war in Europe (1945)

1789
The French Revolution begins

1944
Women win the right to vote

1958
Constitution of the Fifth Republic

1992
Maastricht Treaty, founding of the European Union

≠ 9 May
Europe Day

≠ 1792
The Republic is established

≠ 1945
Social security is created

≠ 1962
Direct election of the president

≠ 2002
The euro becomes France's currency

SOURCES

The questions come from the official lists of the French Ministry of the Interior (formation-civique.interieur.gouv.fr and immigration.interieur.gouv.fr). The answer options, answers, English translations and explanations are written by Recite.