

French civic exam: numbers to remember

52 official questions have a number as their answer: 23 for the multi-year residence card, 16 for the resident card and 28 for naturalisation. Here they all are, with a quiz to test yourself.

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CSP = multi-year residence card · CR = resident card · NAT = naturalisation

How long are the President, députés and senators elected for?

5 years

President of the Republic, députés,
European elections

CSP CR NAT

6 years

Senators, municipal council and mayor

CSP CR NAT

How many departments, regions and communes are there?

577 députés

in the National Assembly

CSP CR

5 republics

in France so far

CSP

101 departments

in France

CSP NAT

18 regions

in France

CR

13 regions

in mainland France

CSP NAT

35,000 communes

in France, roughly

CR

27 member states

in the European Union on 1 January 2025

CSP NAT

12 stars

golden, in a circle, on the European flag

CR NAT

69 million

inhabitants in France in 2025, roughly

CR NAT

400 million

French speakers worldwide, roughly

CR

4th

French among the world's most
spoken languages

CR

At what age can you vote, work, start school?

18 years old

Voting, majority, standing in municipal
elections, buying alcohol

CSP CR NAT

500 sponsorships

from elected officials to stand for
President (and aged at least 18)

NAT

15 years old

Digital majority (majorité numérique)

NAT

16 years old

A minor can start working

CSP

3 to 16 years old

Compulsory education, for all children

CSP CR NAT

23 years old

Juror at the cour d'assises, chosen by lot

NAT

Emergency numbers, working hours, deadlines: daily life

15

SAMU (emergency medical service)

CSP NAT

17

Police

CSP CR NAT

18

Fire brigade (pompiers)

CSP

112

With 15, 17 and 18: the emergency services
CSP

35 hours

Legal working week
CSP NAT

28 days

Paternity leave, since 1 July 2021
NAT

14th week

A woman can choose an abortion until the end of the 14th week of pregnancy
CSP NAT

5 days

To register a birth at the town hall's civil registry
CSP NAT

6 months · €7,500

Maximum penalty for parents who do not respect compulsory education
CR NAT

What majority is needed to amend the Constitution?

3/5

Majority of Parliament meeting as Congress, one way to amend the Constitution
NAT

Numbers not to mix up

5 years President, députés, European Parliament ≠ 6 years Senators, mayor and town council

President, députés, European Parliament: 5 years. Senators, mayor and town council: 6 years.

18 regions in France ≠ 13 regions in mainland France

18 regions in all: 13 in mainland France and 5 overseas. 27 is the number of EU member states.

15 SAMU ≠ 17 Police ≠ 18 Fire brigade ≠ 112 Any emergency

15 for the SAMU, 17 for the police, 18 for the fire brigade. And 112 for any emergency.

15 Digital majority ≠ 16 Working; end of compulsory school ≠ 18 Voting, adulthood, alcohol

15 online, 16 at work, 18 in the polling booth.

3 years old Compulsory education begins ≠ 6 years old The starting age before 2019

Since 2019, education has been compulsory from age 3. Before that, it started at 6.

Questions: official lists of the French Ministry of the Interior. Answers checked against the texts cited on recitecitizen.com.

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Questions, quiz and explanations:

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