

Innovation, ethics and access in the digital age

AP French Language and Culture · Lesson

This AP French lesson explains **AP French science and technology** step by step, with examples in French and English. Then practise with the worksheet on AP French science and technology and check yourself with the quiz.

Quick answer: In AP French, discussing science and technology means describing an innovation, weighing its benefits against its risks, and defending a position with precise vocabulary. Use concession structures, cause and consequence markers, and concrete francophone examples such as research institutes, so that each paragraph states, explains and illustrates one clear idea.

Level: AP French Language and Culture · **Standards:** AP French Language and Culture (College Board CED), Theme: Science and Technology

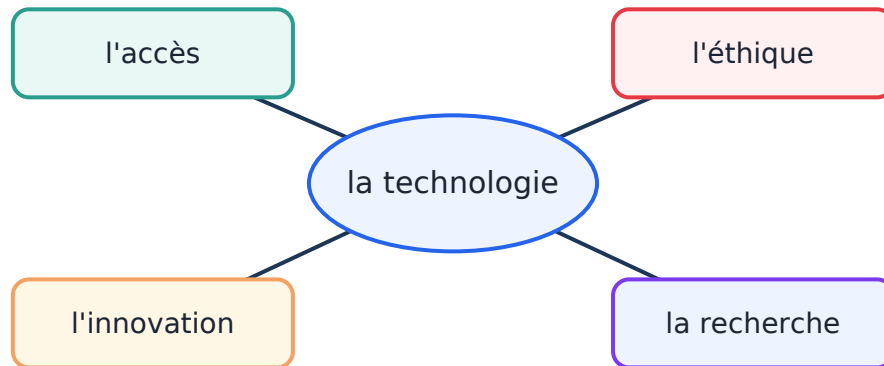
AP French science and technology: the lesson

How do you discuss technology in an AP French response?

The Science and Technology theme asks you to describe an innovation, weigh its benefits against its risks, and defend a position. Build each paragraph in three moves: state the idea, explain it, then illustrate it with a precise example.

Core vocabulary

French	English
la fracture numérique	the digital divide
une avancée	a breakthrough
les données personnelles	personal data
la vie privée	privacy
un chercheur, une chercheuse	a researcher
mettre au point	to develop, to perfect



Four branches of the theme: access, ethics, innovation and research.

How do you present both sides of an ethical debate?

Balanced argument

Open with *certes* to concede a point, then pivot with *mais*, *cependant* or *en revanche*. Close with a consequence marker: *par conséquent*, *c'est pourquoi*, *il faut donc*.

In context

Certes, la reconnaissance faciale accélère les contrôles, mais elle menace la vie privée. — Admittedly, facial recognition speeds up checks, but it threatens privacy.

C'est pourquoi la loi doit protéger les citoyens. — That is why the law must protect citizens.

False friends

Actuellement means currently, not actually (*use en fait*). *Sensible* means sensitive, not sensible. *Une expérience* is both an experience and a scientific experiment.

Les avantages

la rapidité
l'accès au savoir
les progrès en santé

Les risques

la vie privée
la dépendance
les inégalités

Weigh both columns before taking a position.

How do you express progress and access?

Use grâce à for a helpful cause and à cause de for a harmful one. Opinions about what must happen take the subjunctive: Il faut que tous les élèves aient accès à Internet. — Every student must have Internet access.

Useful sentence frames

- Cette innovation permet de + infinitive. — This innovation makes it possible to ...
- Il est essentiel que + subjunctive. — It is essential that ...
- À long terme, on peut craindre que + subjunctive. — In the long run, one may fear that ...

In the interpersonal speaking task, react to the other person's point before adding your own: Je comprends votre point de vue, cependant je pense que l'accès au savoir est prioritaire. Keep your tone polite and your sentences varied.

Francophone research

The Institut Pasteur in Paris, founded in 1887, is a biomedical research foundation; its teams identified the HIV virus in 1983. In Montréal, the institute Mila gathers specialists in artificial intelligence. CERN, near Geneva, is where the World Wide Web was first proposed in 1989. Cite examples like these to make an essay concrete.

Zoé's tip

Before writing, jot down one benefit, one risk and one francophone example. Three notes give you a complete paragraph in minutes.

Key points to remember

- The theme covers access to technology, ethics, innovation, the future of technology and scientific research.
- Concession pattern: certes, ... mais ... gives a balanced, mature argument.
- Grâce à introduces a positive cause; à cause de introduces a negative one.
- False friends to avoid: actuellement means currently, sensible means sensitive.
- Strong essays cite precise francophone examples, not vague generalities.

Innovation, Ethics and Access in the Digital Age: frequently asked

questions

What does the AP French Science and Technology theme cover?

It covers access to technology, ethical questions, innovation, the future of technology and scientific research. Tasks ask you to read, listen, write and speak about these topics, often comparing francophone communities.

How do I give both sides of a technology debate in French?

Concede one point with certes, then contrast with mais or en revanche. Finish with a consequence such as c'est pourquoi.

Is actuellement the same as actually?

No. Actuellement means currently or at the moment. To say actually, use en fait or en réalité.

When do I use grâce à instead of à cause de?

Use grâce à when the cause has a positive result and à cause de when the result is negative. Both are followed by a noun.

Which vocabulary should I memorize first?

Start with la fracture numérique, les données personnelles, la vie privée, une avancée and mettre au point. They fit almost every prompt.