

FR 256
THE RIGHT IN FRANCE
FROM THE DREYFUS AFFAIR TO THE PRESENT

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT, 2025-26

The assessment for FR 256 consists of one 2250-2500-word essay (70%) + one 1250-1500-word close analysis (30%). The deadline for the close analysis is 12 noon on Wednesday 17 December 2025, and the deadline for the essay is 12 noon on Monday 19 January 2026.

You should ensure that you do not reproduce material from formative work in your summative assessments, and that there is no overlap between your summative close analysis and summative essay in terms of texts or arguments.

You are welcome to submit for feedback a **500-word plan** for **EITHER the summative close analysis OR the summative essay**. If possible, please submit your plan at least 10 days before the assessment is due.

This booklet contains a selection of essay titles for you to choose from. You may also choose your own title for the summative essay, provided you agree your choice with me as module convenor.

SUMMATIVE ESSAY TITLES

Answer ONE of the following questions in an essay of 2250-2500 words. Deadline: 12 noon, Monday 19 January 2026.

1. 'L'Antisémitisme ... nous en sommes tous plus ou moins responsables.' (Ferdinand BRUNETIÈRE, 1898). Account for the strength of antisemitism in late nineteenth-century France.
2. To what extent could French political culture be described as 'allergic' to fascism? Answer with reference to ONE OR MORE case studies from this module.
3. Analyse the strategies and success of the right in mobilizing young people. You should make detailed reference to AT LEAST ONE case study from this module.
4. How revolutionary was Vichy's National Revolution?
5. 'Especially during the war years and at the Liberation, but also in later decades, de Gaulle's voice and his physical image played a major role in the creation of his legend.' (Sudhir HAZAREESINGH, 2012). Discuss.
6. 'Populism can be both a corrective and a threat to liberal democracy.' (Cas MUDDE and Cristobál ROVIRA KALTWASSER, 2012). Discuss with reference to ONE OR MORE of the following: the Ligue des Patriotes, the Parti Social Français, the Parti Populaire Français, Poujadism, the Front National/Rassemblement National, and the *gilets jaunes*.
7. 'De Gaulle a systématiquement trompé ceux qui lui avaient fait confiance, trompé l'Armée, trompé les Français, trompé les Musulmans d'Algérie.' (Jacques SOUSTELLE, 1961). In what ways did Charles de Gaulle's changing perspective on Algerian independence shape the development of the French right?
8. To what extent did Jacques Chirac revise the Gaullist narrative of *la France résistante*? Answer with close reference to AT LEAST TWO of his public speeches.
9. 'Il faut dire que Marine Le Pen a beaucoup travaillé pour lisser son image, se présenter en vraie républicaine, en femme d'État, en figure maternelle, et tenter de se rendre aimable et rassembleuse.' (Frédéric JOIGNOT, *Le Monde*, 14 April 2022). How convincing was Marine Le Pen's self-transformation? Give reasons for your answer.

10. 'Dans les medias, des commentateurs, experts ou autres, affirment que le clivage droite/gauche est dépassé.' (Janine MOSSUZ-LAVAU, 2021). How significant is the left-right divide to political organization and activism in contemporary France?