



Comparison scale UIAA and scale french

UIAA Grade Scale		FR
Easy. Easiest form of rock climbing (scrambling). Frequent use of hands required for balance. Beginners may be secured on the rope. Head for heights already required.	I	
Moderate. Here the real climbing begins. Three points of contact are required, plus the precise placing of feet and hands. Holds are still big and abundant. Occasional belays.	II	
Somewhat difficult. Intermediate protection (runners) required at exposed locations. Vertical steps, or even easy overhangs (lots of holds) demanding arm power.	III III+	3a 3b
Difficult. Considerable climbing experience required. Longer climbing pitches usually requiring several intermediate 'runners'.	IV- IV IV+	3c 4a 4b
Very difficult. An increasing number of runners are required to make the climbing safe. Increased physical condition, climbing technique and experience required. Long, high alpine routes of difficulty level V already count among the "grande courses" of the Alps.	V- V V+	4c 5a 5a+
Incredibly difficult. The climbing requires above-average ability and a good level of training. Small holds. Exposed climbing, often with small/hanging belays. Routes of this difficulty can usually only be climbed in good conditions. (Sometimes combined with artificial climbing: A1 to A4).	VI- VI VI+	5b 5b+ 5c 5c+
Extremely difficult. This level of difficulty can only be achieved with intensive training and the best equipment. Small holds, widely spaced. Even very good climbers need training adapted to the specific rock type in order to master passages of this difficulty without falling. In addition to acrobatic climbing ability, the mastery of sophisticated safety techniques (placing gear, rope management, etc.) is essential.	VII- VII VII+	6a 6a+ 6b 6b+ 6c
A verbal definition is not possible here. Further increase in the difficulties to be overcome, which place increasing demands on climbing ability as well as physical and psychological performance.	VIII- VIII VIII+ IX- IX IX+ X- X X+ XI- XI	6c+ 7a 7a+ 7b 7b+ 7c 7c+ 8a 8a+ 8b 8b+ 8c 8c+ 9a