

Course Information



French

What is A Level French? This course gives students an excellent grounding in all aspects of French language and culture, with the opportunity to demonstrate their ability in speaking, listening, reading and writing. It allows them to show they have the skills to be successful in today's competitive world of work, and that they are effective communicators.

Entry Requirements: Grade 6 at GCSE

What will the course cover? Students are taught using a range of multimedia resources. Websites in the target language, as well as film and literature, are central to work in class. Students use individual study guides / textbooks / past papers for homework, grammar and exam practice, and receive a dictionary and vocabulary guide for the duration of the course. Students also meet weekly with the French Assistant to boost their confidence and for support when preparing for their speaking exams. Lessons always include a lot of group discussion, text analysis and research using authentic materials.

What themes are studied? The course covers many aspects of French-speaking society and culture. Year 12– Cybersociety, the role of the family, heritage and culture, cinema, music and charity. Students will also study a film. A Level only: law & order, integration, politics and recent history. Students are always encouraged to explore their own areas of interest and will study a novel.

AQA	AS		A Level
Paper 1 45%	Listening, Reading & Writing (1hr 45 mins): Questions on a range of spoken and written passages + a short translation into English.	Paper 1 50%	Listening, Reading & Writing (2hrs 30 mins): Questions on a range of spoken and written passages + 2 translations, 1 into English and 1 into French.
Paper 2 25%	Writing (1hr 30 mins): A short translation into French + one essay (250 words) in French about a film, book or play that candidates have studied.	Paper 2 20%	Writing (2hrs): 2 essays (300 words each) in French, one about a film and the other about a book or play that candidates have studied.
Paper 3 30%	Speaking (12-14 mins + 15 mins prep): Candidates are given a choice of short texts on topics they have studied and choose 2 to discuss with their teacher.	Paper 3 30%	Speaking (21-23 mins + 5 mins prep): Candidates discuss one topic from a choice of themes, and then present and discuss a topic they have researched independently.

How is it assessed?

We also ask all students to sit the AS French qualification at the end of Year 12, as the AS course is the same as the first half of the A Level exam. This gives invaluable experience of the exams process, as well as the ability to gain a grade after one year.

Extra Information To be successful, our students must learn and revise grammar and vocabulary as a matter of routine. Independent research on topics relating to the country is also essential, especially in preparation for speaking exams. As such, a lively interest in current issues, Europe, society, media and the Arts is encouraged. Students would be well advised to watch the news and go online to keep up to date with events in countries where the target language is spoken.

What next? As it is a 'facilitating subject', good Universities are always keen to interview candidates with A Level French, whatever degree they are applying for. Against a backdrop of declining languages skills in the UK, those with proven competence in French may now have better promotion prospects and could command higher salaries in sectors such as Banking, the Media, Education, Engineering, Law, Leisure & Tourism, Manufacturing, Retail, Telecommunications, indeed in any area where we are working or trading with our European partners.

For more information about the course, your suitability for it, and possible career paths for students with languages skills, talk to your languages teacher or Mrs Berry, Head of French. General information is also available at www.whystudylanguages.ac.uk/post16