

A LEVEL FRENCH



Course description

Awarding Body: AQA

Examinations :

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing (including translation) (50% of A level)

Paper 2: Essay-writing (20%)

Paper 3: Speaking (30%)

Non Examined Assessment : n/a

Course content

Studying French at A Level provides a unique opportunity to not only improve the students' language skills in French, but also gain an invaluable insight into the culture as well as political and social life in France and other countries of the French-speaking world. It therefore allows them to acquire knowledge in a variety of subjects (literature, film studies, politics) at the same time as developing a practical and highly marketable skill.

Paper 1 assesses aspects of French-speaking society, artistic culture in the French-speaking world, aspects of political life and French grammar. We revise both basic grammar and study advanced, complex structures. Amongst the topics studied are contemporary French music, French cinema, immigration and diversity, current social and political trends and social problems such as homelessness and crime. The students acquire translation skills, which will be useful in any future career and help them to improve their written English at the same time as their French whilst providing them with the competencies required to learn any other languages much more easily.

In order to prepare for Paper 2 the students learn how to write essays about a film and a book. They will study the film "La Haine" by M. Kassovitz and the novel "No et moi" by a successful contemporary French author, Delphine de Vigan, in detail. Both the film and the novel have been popular with our students, whilst also providing them with further insights into the paper 1 topics.

The speaking exam (paper 3) comprises a discussion of one of the topics studied for paper 1 as well as the presentation and discussion of an individual research project, which allows the students to focus on a topic of their choice. They may well wish to relate it to their other A level subjects and research a historical figure, author or scientist of the French-speaking world to name just a few options. All students have individual speaking sessions with the language assistant in order to support them in the development of their spoken French.

Entry requirements

Grade 7, 8 or 9 at GCSE

Future opportunities

Given the wide range of skills acquired by the students during their Sixth form French studies, this A Level may give them a competitive edge both for university applications (especially Oxbridge) and future job applications. Increasingly our students go on to combine the study of subjects such as History, Law, Science, Politics or Engineering with French at university, thus really standing out from the crowd.

We are not only able to provide the students with plenty of individual attention during their studies, but they will also have a good chance to become a subject leader and help to promote languages across the school. Students can participate in day trips to cultural events, such as the French film study day at the British film institute. We also offer the opportunity to take part in a cross-curricular trip to Strasbourg where they can practise their French.

Further information

Our results are high with an average of 68% A*/A over the last 3 years and we continuously strive to improve our students' outcomes. Our students have gone on to study languages at universities such as Oxford, Durham, Bristol and Liverpool to name just a few.