
Examination Board: AQA

Qualification: A level

Teacher Contact: Miss Heaven and Mrs Elson

Entry Requirements: Grade 6 or above in GCSE French.

Students should have acquired the knowledge, understanding and skills required at the Higher Tier of entry at GCSE.

What will I study?

The A level course is comprised of three papers.

Each unit covers a wide range of topics and subtopics on the following themes:

- social issues and trends (modern and traditional values, cyberspace, equal rights etc.)
- political and artistic culture in French-speaking countries (modern day idols, French regional identity, cultural heritage or cultural landscape etc.).

Students will also study one literary text and one film in French.

The A level course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It fosters a range of transferable skills, including communication, critical thinking and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and to society. Students will develop their understanding of themes relating to the society and culture of the countries where French is spoken. They will do so by using authentic spoken and written sources in French.

How will I be assessed?

The final exam will consist of three papers.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing (50% of A level)

Paper 2: Writing (20% of A level)

Paper 3: Speaking (30% of A level)

Am I suited to this course?

You would be well suited to studying French at A level if you:

- enjoy languages and want to develop your skills in a range of contexts
- are interested in French and French-speaking cultures and societies
- are willing to develop your opinions on personal, national and international issues
- are willing to work hard to learn grammatical structures and new vocabulary
- are aiming for an international career
- would like to develop your knowledge of foreign literature and film.

What other subjects does it complement?

French links well with almost any subject as you will study a wide range of life experiences from a French point of view. Other languages will also complement the study of French, as linguistic skills are highly transferable. A language can also be incredibly useful if applying for any other university or professional field where verbal and written skills are paramount, e.g. Law, Politics, History, English, Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology.

Where can it lead?

A level French will provide an excellent qualification from which to proceed to higher education. Languages can be studied at university in combination with many other subjects. Linguists are in high demand in the business world, and many other career paths value language skills highly.