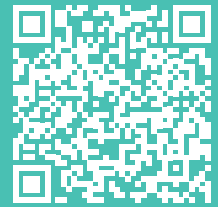


A Level French AQA

Find out more



LINEAR

Why study French?

Languages are an essential part of our international, intercultural world in which we live. Studying Languages equips students with a skill for life which will broaden horizons, increase employability, and enable them to have the confidence to venture out into the world and discover new places and cultures. Language learning also develops critical thinking, research, and communication skills, helping students prepare for higher education and gives them access to a wide range of exciting future careers.

French is an important language, being one of the official languages of the United Nations and the Olympic Games. It is also spoken across many countries of the world, particularly in Africa. A-Level French will foster an appreciation for the language and an awareness of many cultural aspects of the French-speaking world including, literature, film, history, and politics.

About the course

French A-level develops a student's knowledge and use of the language, building confidence and fluency throughout the course. Students will broaden their vocabulary and their grammatical knowledge to be able to use the language independently whilst developing their understanding of topics relating to the culture and politics of French speaking countries. All four skills, Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening will be practiced in a variety of different contexts and situations.

Year 12

In Year 12 students' study two main themes covering Current Trends in French speaking society and Artistic Culture in the French speaking world.

In the first theme students learn about the changing nature of Family Life, gaining an understanding of trends in marriage and how modern and traditional values differ. They will also learn about the use of New Technologies and the Role of Voluntary Work and the influence they have on society today.

The second theme teaches about Popular culture and the impact that artists from the world of Music, TV and Fashion have on our society. Students will also learn about the preservation of French Heritage and how these impacts upon and is guided by culture in society.

They will acquire knowledge of Film studies when they study a film by a French director, enhancing their ability to evaluate and analyse.

Year 13

In the second year, we focus on the topics of Multiculturalism and Political Life in the French speaking world.

Students develop an understanding of ethnic diversity and the way in which cultures coexist and integrate in today's

society. They also look at society's disadvantaged, from the homeless to the handicapped, and the topic of Crime and Punishment in France.

In the second topic students learn about the importance of politics in the lives of young people and the power of popular movements in creating a change to the world we live in. They also examine Immigration in French speaking countries and the effect it can have on society.

Students also get to complete an individual research project. They may choose any topic of their choice, linked to the French speaking world to research and they prepare a presentation on their chosen topic for the speaking exam.

A book by a French author is taught during this year too, giving further insight into the Culture of France.

Assessment

Assessment is through three separate papers.

Paper 1 worth 50% of the grade is an exam in Reading, Listening and Writing and Translation into English.

Paper 2 is a two-hour writing paper worth 20% of the grade and includes a translation into French (100 words) and two essay questions, one on the book and the other on the film studied.

Paper 3 is the speaking exam which lasts 16 minutes, worth 30% of the grade. This involves students discussing a sub-theme from the year for 5 minutes and then doing a 2-minute presentation and discussion for 10 minutes on an individual project chosen by the student.

Entry criteria

Students are required to achieve grade 6 at GCSE to be able to study languages at A level.

Outside the classroom

Students have regular contact with a Foreign Language Assistant to develop their conversational skills and fluency.

