

French

Exam board: AQA

Entry requirements: Grade 6 or above (or equivalent) at French GCSE. We think a Grade 7 would give you the edge in preparing for the A Level.

Course content:

Study of Themes including Family, Modern Technologies, Voluntary Work, Music, Cinema & Cultural Heritage in the French-Speaking World, A Diverse Society/Immigration, Crime, Young People Rights, Demonstrations and Strikes.

Study of literature and film (or two pieces of literature). Current students are studying:

- No et Moi (Delphine de Vigan)
- La Haine (Mathieu Kassovitz)

Lots of speaking and discussions, presentations, practice of listening, reading and writing skills.

Assessment:

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Translation (50%)

Paper 2: Written Response to Work (20%)

Paper 3: Speaking (30%)

All examinations are externally marked. Speaking exams are usually conducted by one of the class teachers.

Why choose French:

French is an excellent A Level to study, because it's a real chance to develop your opinions and analytical skills. Although it's sold as 'French' you actually get a good overview of society, history and literature, as well as achieving an almost fluent level of a foreign language by the end of the course. This makes it an excellent subject for preparing you for further study and you will be the master of university quizzes and have a good knowledge of culture after the A Level. Also many leading universities, including Russell Group, consider MFL as facilitating subjects for entry to all courses.

There are lots of excellent ways to improve your French, and each theme fits nicely with a film to watch and music to listen to, making a change from formal reading and essay-writing which you might be doing a lot of during your A Level Studies.

Skills and progression:

Studying French will lead you to a variety of options, whether you'd like to study it at degree level, or not. French study can lead to jobs in the European Union: imagine interpreting for Brexit Negotiations, or translating legal documents. You could work abroad; in any Francophone country, not just France, and it would set you up to learn other languages. You could be posted to other countries working for the government after intensive language courses in lesser-known languages.

If you choose not to study French past A Level, you will have gained skills in debate, essay writing, analysis, interpreting data and statistics and independent research, all of which set you up as a very effective student or colleague for the future.