

# A LEVEL FRENCH



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Learning a language is fun and useful!

Confidence in a foreign language can open doors for you: the chance to meet people from other countries and explore their lives and cultures. It adds an international dimension to your profile which many employers and higher education providers want. It gives you opportunities to work and/or study abroad – or to work for companies in the UK with international links.

Our study of French is based on four themes; we study Themes 1 and 2 in the first year and Themes 3 and 4 in the second year. All focus on France and/or francophone countries.

Theme 1: Social change in France: family / education / work

Theme 2: Music / The media / Festivals and traditions

Theme 3: Immigration and France's multicultural society

Theme 4: Occupation and Resistance (1940s)

## TEACHING AND LEARNING

Staff in our department are highly qualified and experienced at A Level teaching.

- Discussions in groups and whole class
- 1 to 1 or 1 to 2 weekly oral conversations with a native speaker
- Pair work
- Presentations and lectures
- Individual and group research
- Using on-line resources and videos
- Comprehension and vocabulary
- Improving your note-making
- Devising arguments and debates
- Making links between texts
- Planning and writing essays
- Research and presentations
- Songs and Film Studies
- Cultural activities such as cooking and cinema trips
- Quizzes and learning games
- Effective revision

Students prepare lessons by reading and research; we have excellent on-line resources. Our student feedback is outstanding.



We also offer an optional Exchange Visit or trip to France – this is a fantastic way to extend your confidence in the language!

## A LEVEL ASSESSMENT

If you follow the 2 year A Level course you will be assessed in the second year.

Paper 1 (Exam: 40%)

Based on vocabulary and structures learnt across all 4 themes.

- Listening: test of your comprehension of listening to spoken French
- Reading: tests your understanding of various texts from different genres
- Translate a passage from French into English

Paper 2 (Exam: 30%)

Written response to works and translation: based on study of a film (e.g. *Intouchables*) and a literary text (e.g. *Un Sac de Billes* by Joffo).

- Translate an unseen passage from English into French
- Write about a literary text studied
- Write about a film studied

Paper 3: Speaking (Oral test: 30%)

An oral assessment in which you talk about and discuss in French one of the 4 themes studied on the course and present a summary of independent research you have done followed by a discussion.

## ENTRY AND SKILL REQUIREMENTS

At least a grade 5 at GCSE French and a minimum of level 4 at GCSE English or English Language (though we strongly recommend you have level 5 in English).

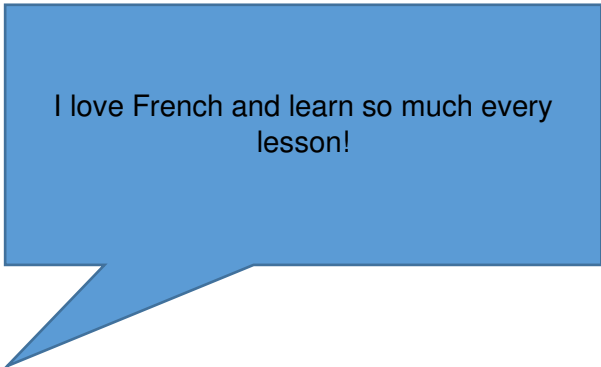
We aim to offer an optional exchange visit or trip and also other optional visits to the cinema and to lectures in local universities. (Students can apply for financial support to help with college trips.)

## WHAT NEXT?

French goes well with a very wide range of other subjects, adding a valuable international dimension to your study programme

The skills you learn are highly valued by employers in all areas of work.

French A Level can lead to employment in business, marketing, journalism, teaching, health, the media, the law, creative industries in the arts and many other areas of work. An A Level in a Modern Foreign Language is accepted as a “facilitating subject” by most competitive universities.



I love French and learn so much every lesson!

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