

French Curriculum Overview: A-Level

French is an official language of 29 countries worldwide with some 275 million speakers across all five continents making it the World's second most widely spoken language.

Learning French will enable you to develop communication skills to a high degree as well as enriching your own perspective on the wider World. A-Level languages are much valued by universities and employers alike. As well as promoting international relations and understanding of other cultures, languages facilitate travel and open up opportunities to study, live and work abroad.

A-Level French will enable you to achieve a high degree of fluency and to be able to converse and form opinions on a range of social, political and artistic issues as well as giving you a detailed insight into a wide range of cultural aspects of French speaking countries. The studying of a book and a film will teach skills of analysis and evaluation and the Individual Research project will develop your research skills on a topic of your choosing.

What topics will I learn in French?

Aspects of French-speaking society: Current trends

- The changing role of the family
- Cyberspace (La cyber-société)
- The role of the voluntary sector

Artistic culture in the French-speaking world

- Cultural heritage (le patrimoine)
- French contemporary music
- French cinema

Aspects of French-speaking society : Current issues

- The positive aspects of a diverse society
- Socially marginalised groups
- Crime and Punishment

Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world

- Young people and the right to vote
- Demonstrations and strikes
- Politics and Immigration

How will we study?

Lessons in French will cover skills based work in Listening, Reading, Translation (from and into French) Speaking and Essay Writing. Grammar is taught both explicitly and in context of the topic areas and reinforced throughout the course. All topics are taught in the context of French Speaking countries.

Teaching is highly interactive and paired and group work is a key feature. Learning is supported by textbooks, authentic materials (music/film/articles) and on-line activities as well as tailor-made resources. Speaking is a key feature of lessons and pupils are given the opportunity to attend speaking sessions in smaller groups.

How will my work be assessed?

There are regular half-termly assessments which test the key skills. Not all skills are tested in an assessment. You will be informed of all assessments at the start of the academic year. In Year 12 these assessments make up 70% of the final UCAS grade awarded in July. These assessments do **NOT** go towards the actual A-level grade.

| Paper | Skills | Content | Weighting | Question styles | Timing |
|-------|--|---|----------------------|--|---|
| 1 | -Listening -Reading -Translation Spanish to English and English to Spanish | -Aspects of French-speaking society : current trends -Artistic culture in the French-speaking world -Aspects of French - speaking society: current issues - Aspects of Political Life in the French-speaking world -Grammar | 50% 100 marks | -Multiple choice -True/False -Extended answers in English and Spanish -Summary (Listening and Reading) -Synonym gap-fill | 2 hours 30 |
| 2 | -Writing | Entre les Murs (film) -Un sac de billes (text) | 20% 80 marks | -1 essay in French on a film -1 essay in French on a book. | 2 hours |
| 3 | -Speaking | - Individual Research Project One of four themes: -Aspects of French-speaking society : current trends -Artistic culture in the French-speaking world -Aspects of French - speaking society: current issues | 30% 60 marks | -1 stimulus card based conversation -Discussion of the Individual research project | 21-23 minutes (including 5 mins preparation time) |

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| | | - Aspects of Political Life in the French-speaking world | | | |
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