

French

A Level



Overview

Studying French at A Level will develop students' speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. They will gain confidence in communicating in the target language, and learn more about France and other French speaking countries.

Students have the opportunity to practise their language skills in the College's well-resourced classrooms, enjoying access to the latest multimedia technology.

In addition, language students have timetabled lessons with a Foreign Language Assistant to help them become more competent and confident speakers.

All French students have the opportunity to take part in a study trip to France, where they will further improve their speaking skills and understanding of French culture.

What goes well with this course?

Languages combine well with any subject. As well as offering pure language degrees, virtually all universities offer the chance to continue studying a language alongside another subject as part of a joint degree, or as a subsidiary.

Progression

In the workplace language skills are highly valued.

In Higher Education a single or joint honours degree in one or more languages, or in another subject plus a language, leads to greater employability – and the opportunity to perhaps work abroad.

Course Content

The course covers a wide variety of current issues over the two years. As well as revising and extending some of the topics studied at GCSE, students will learn about social and cultural themes within the Francophone society, including social values, equality and multiculturalism, regional identity and the influence of heritage, as well as studying aspects of politics and history. In addition, students will study in depth both a film and a work of literature. Grammar and language skills are integrated into the topic areas.

Educational Experiences

Course Specific Trips, Visits & Experiences

French A Level students have the opportunity to take part in a variety of course related experiences. In recent years, these have included:

- a trip to Montpellier where students stayed with host families, attended classes and took part in trips and visits
- a Reigate Twinning Association weekend visit to Brunoy which included a trip to Paris in the spring
- the chance to visit universities for specific language events

Assessment

The exam board for this A Level is AQA. The exam is taken in May/June and consists of 3 papers, all externally assessed:

A speaking examination lasting approximately 18 minutes, a listening, reading and writing paper (2 hours 30 minutes), and an additional written paper including an essay and translation (2 hours).

Entry Requirements

All students need to have at least five GCSEs at Grade 4 or above (and a satisfactory school reference) in order to be accepted on an A Level/BTEC Level 3 Programme.

In addition, students should meet the following minimum GCSE requirements:

- Grade 6 in French and Grade 4 in English Language

This course is of interest to students who:

- enjoy communicating with others through speaking and writing
- have an enquiring mind and an interest in the culture of the French speaking world
- are thinking of travelling, taking a gap year, or working abroad