French

COURSE OVERVIEW

French is the second most learnt language after English which makes it a valuable language to learn, providing opportunities for further education and employment. This course does not only improve the language skills but will give an insight into the culture, history and beliefs that shape the countries where French is spoken.
The topics covered in this course include:

- Family, cybersociety, volunteering,
- Current issues: ethnic diversity, the marginalised, how to deal with criminals.
- National heritage, music, and cinema.
- Political involvement and young people, demonstrations and strikes, politics and immigration.
- The study of a book and a film

There is also the opportunity to study any topic of interest relating to one of the French-speaking countries to present during the speaking exam.

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS DEVELOPED

This A Level builds on the skills learnt at GCSE. It also offers the opportunity to study the society of French-speaking countries.

Language specific skills:

- Use language spontaneously, develop arguments, analyse, and evaluate in writing and speaking.
- Applying knowledge of pronunciation.
- listening and responding to a variety of authentic texts and sources.
- Inferring meaning from complex spoken and written texts.
- Translating both ways.

Transferable skills:

- Developing research skills in French, demonstrating the ability to initiate and conduct individual research on a subject of personal interest.
- Using information to illustrate knowledge and understanding.
- Analysing and summarise research findings, and presenting finding through oral presentation, debate, and discussion.
- Critical thinking

Qualification: A-Level

Awarding Body: AQA

ASSESSMENT METHOD

French A-Level is assessed through three papers:

Paper 1: listening, reading, and writing 60% (2.5 hours, 100 marks)

Paper 2: Writing exam on the book or film studied. 20% (2 hours, 30 marks)

Paper 3: Speaking exam 30% (21-23 minutes, 60 marks)

OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

With our world becoming more globalised by the day, the ability to speak another language, even if only to A-Level, can open many doors in your career and academic life. You could go on to a specialist language degree, but universities and employers are always keen on finding candidates who have a language qualification at any level. Employers like taking on graduates who have a second or even a third language and their salary can be higher by 8 to 20%. Here are only a few examples of careers where languages are needed or useful:

International law and government
Management and Marketing
Travel and Tourism
Translation
Engineering
Teaching
Medicine

"I chose French A Level because I would like to study languages at Oxford university. I have a passion for languages and French was my favourite subjects at GCSE so it made sense to carry on studying it at A Level. Moreover, universities love applicants with a language at A Level so it was an obvious choice for me."