

French

Awarding Body: Students follow the AQA French Advanced Subsidiary and Advanced GCE courses.

Course Aims

The course involves an expansion and deepening of the student's knowledge of the French language, its grammatical structure, idiom and vocabulary. The aims of the course are to enable the students to:

- Develop an interest in, and enthusiasm for, language learning.
- Develop understanding of the language in a variety of contexts and genres.
- Communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in the language.
- Develop awareness and understanding of the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of the countries or communities where the language is spoken.

Course Content

The content of the course is extremely varied and topics studied include:

AS level

- The role and influence of the media – television, advertising, communication technology.
- Popular culture - cinema, music, fashion / trends.
- Healthy living – sport / exercise, health and well-being, holidays.
- Family / relationships – relationships with the family, friendships, marriage / partnerships.

A2 level

- The environment – pollution, energy, protecting the planet.
- The multicultural society – immigration, integration, racism.
- Contemporary social issues – wealth and poverty, law and order, impact of scientific and technological progress.
- Cultural topics – the study of a period of 20th century history from a target language-speaking country / community and the study of an author / director / painter from a target language speaking country.

Discussion in French will be an essential part of the course and students will be encouraged to express their personal response to the material studied. Pupils will also be required to organise ideas, facts and opinions and to transfer meaning from one language to another. Students will regularly access the internet in order to enable them to retrieve up to date material from French speaking countries. In addition to the work studied in class, students will be required to develop their listening and reading skills through independent study undertaken in their own time. Possible enrichment activities offered with this course include: a student conference to London in year 12, a study visit to Paris in year 13, cinema / theatre visits and timetabled lessons with the Foreign Language Assistant.

Examinations

Year 12	Year 13
AS Level Units	A2 Units leading to full Advanced GCE
Unit 1 Listening, Reading and Writing 2 hours, 110 marks, 70% of AS, 35% of A Level Texts are drawn from topics studied during the course.	Unit 3 Listening, Reading and Writing 2 1/2 hours, 110 marks, 35% of A Level Texts are drawn from topics studied during the course.
Unit 2 Speaking Test 15 mins, 50 marks, 30% of AS, 15% of A Level Part 1: Discussion of a stimulus card based on one of the AS topics. Part 2: Conversation – covering 3 AS topics.	Unit 4 Speaking Test 15 mins, 50 marks, 15% of A Level Part 1: Discussion of a stimulus card based on A2 topics. Part 2: Conversation on 2 cultural topics covered at A2.

Comparison with GCSE

To study a foreign language at this level, a student should have acquired the knowledge, understanding and skills specified for the higher tier at GCSE and achieved at least a good grade B, in order to meet the demands of this academically challenging course.

Relevance to Further Studies and Careers

AS level French will be accepted for entry to certain university courses where the language forms part of the course of study, but is not the main focus, while the Advanced GCE is the main qualification for entry to degree courses in French. A Modern Foreign Language can often be part of a combined degree course with many subjects, including law, accountancy, engineering, business and management etc.

Both AS and Advanced GCE French are valued highly by prospective employers, thanks to Britain's participation in the European Union, and offer evidence of a significant level of achievement in all language skills as well as a knowledge and understanding of another culture. Students with an ability to communicate confidently and effectively in a modern language will be able to use their skills in the commercial, financial, tourist and legal sectors, in addition to translation work and teaching, not only in this country but also abroad.

Further Information: Mr M. Flores
Mrs S. Ward
Mrs F. Collins