

FRENCH A LEVEL

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

The A Level course in French builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. The approach is a focus on how French speaking society has been shaped, socially and culturally, and how it continues to change.

In the first year, aspects of the social context are studied together with aspects of the artistic life of French-speaking countries: how family has changed, being a good citizen, fashion trends, cyber society, customs and traditions, trends in media and art, music and cinema in the francophone world, education and employment opportunities.

In the second year, further aspects of the social background are covered, this time focusing on issues such as cultural identity and marginalisation as well as looking at the positive influences that diversity brings. Students also study aspects of political landscape in a French speaking country, looking at immigration and integration. Finally, we explore one part of history in France: June 1940 - May 1945, looking at life in occupied France and the reconstruction of its society after the War. Over the two years, students will also study a literary text and a film.

The AS exam is a free-standing qualification and the exam consists of three components: a) Listening, Reading and translation (2 hours 30 minutes), b) Writing (one essay on film studied – 1.15 hour) and c) Speaking (two discussions based on a stimulus cards) the second year

exam follows the same pattern but the content covers aspects of the two-year syllabus and the writing consists of 2 essays, one of each of the works studied. The speaking will have a stimulus card but and an exposé on a topic the students have researched - 21 to 23 minutes in total).

WHAT NEXT?

A key course for students planning to study or work in a French speaking country, or continue on to university to study languages and related subjects. It also provides a strong grounding for those wishing to pursue many other subject areas at degree level.

ASSESSMENT

Exam (100%) Oral and written papers combining speaking, listening, reading, translation and writing.

DURATION

2 years

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Standard entry requirements, plus GCSE 5 in French or a similar level of competence.

EXAM BOARD

OCR

COSTS

£30 for textbooks and practice exam papers, plus optional field trips and visits.