

A Level French

What is A Level French?

This course is for students who wish to build on the language skills gained at GCSE and on their knowledge of the societies and cultures of French-speaking countries.

Why study French?

In addition to general study skills, you will learn to communicate at a higher level in the language. You will learn much more about a wide range of aspects of the societies in which the language is spoken. French is spoken in many parts of the world and has a long history as an international language of commerce, diplomacy, literature and science. It is an official language of many international organisations including the United Nations and the European Union.

To study this course, what qualifications will I need?

Students will normally have achieved at least the equivalent of GCSE grade 5 in French. Successful students make French a part of their lives, developing an interest in French culture, film, music, current affairs, and establishing personal connections in their own time.

What is the structure of the course?

A Level topics	
Being a young person in French-speaking society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Families and citizenship <i>Changing family structures; the changing nature of marriage and partnership; being a good citizen</i> Youth trends and personal identity <i>Fashion; modern technology; relationships, peer pressure</i> Education and employment opportunities <i>The education system issues; work and travel</i> 	Understanding the French-speaking world <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional culture and heritage in France, French-speaking countries and communities <i>Festivals; customs and traditions; historical sites; museums and galleries</i> Media, art, film and music in the French-speaking world <i>Trends in media and art; film and music in the lives of young people</i>
Diversity and difference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Migration and integration Cultural identity and marginalisation Cultural enrichment and celebrating difference Discrimination and diversity 	France 1940-1950: The Occupation and post-war years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> June 1940–May 1945 <i>Life in occupied France; the French Resistance</i> The cultural dimension in occupied France <i>The political context of theatre and cinema productions</i> 1945-1950: <i>Rebuilding and restructuring society</i>

Assessment
Component 1: Speaking - non-exam assessment: 21-23 mins incl. 5 mins preparation (30% of qualification) Task 1: (a) presentation of independent research project (b) discussion on the content of the research project Task 2: discussion based on a stimulus card relating to one of the themes studied
Component 2: Listening, Reading and Translation - written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes (50% of qualification)
Component 3: Critical and analytical response in writing - written examination: 2 hours (20% of qualification) Two essays – one based on a literary work and the second on an additional literary work or film

What kind of career does this course prepare me for?

A language at A Level will improve your employability, in particular with companies with international branches. The course would appeal to those interested in language and communication, other cultures and ways of life, business, travel, literature, journalism, the media and international affairs. Many opportunities will be open to you, where you can continue to use and develop your language skills. Some students go on to a degree course in languages, literature and/or applied languages (translating, interpreting); others pursue a course in another subject, for example Law or Business Studies, but study a language alongside it. Young people from the UK are increasingly opting to study abroad.