

A Level French

Exam Board: **AQA**

Description:

An A-Level in French is always highly regarded by top universities and employers, particularly as there are 300 million people in the world who speak French every day, and it is an official language of many institutions including the UN, NATO, World Trade Organisation and the International Olympic Committee. The French course emphasises the integration of the four language skills: listening, reading, writing and speaking and the study of “contemporary society” with reference to countries where French is spoken. Resources include recorded television programmes, magazine and newspaper articles downloaded from the Internet as well as text books. We also offer a residential trip to Paris and a day trip to the BFI in London for lectures on *La Haine* and New Wave French cinema.

We believe that in order to speak the language and understand the culture you need to experience life in France and we encourage all A level students to participate in both trips. In addition pupils are allocated 1:1 speaking practice sessions with our native French assistant as part of their timetable.

Assessment:

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

- Listening and responding to spoken passages from a range of contexts and sources covering different registers and adapted as necessary
- Studio recordings will be used and students will have individual control of the recording
- Reading and responding to a variety of texts written for different purposes, drawn from a range of authentic sources and adapted as necessary
- Translation into English; a passage of minimum 100 words
- Translation into French; a passage of minimum 100 words
- No access to a dictionary during the assessment

Paper 2: Writing

- Two essays: one on a film, studied as part of the course and one on a novel, studied as part of the course.
- Pupils must give a critical and analytical response to features such as the form and the technique of presentation, as appropriate to the work studied (for example, the effect of narrative voice in a prose text or camera work in a film). No access to texts or films during the assessment

Paper 3: Speaking

- Individual research project: presentation and follow up questions
- Discussion of a sub-theme with the discussion based on a stimulus card
- The student studies the card for 5 minutes at the start of the test
- No access to a dictionary during the assessment

Admission Requirements:

A minimum of a grade 6 at GCSE is needed to study A level French.