



French A Level



Exam Board: Edexcel

Entry requirements: Minimum expectation Grade 7 at GCSE French

Intent

Structure

Throughout the course, students will use complex language to explore modern culture of Francophone countries. Students develop confident, effective communication skills in the French language and a thorough understanding of the culture of countries where French is spoken. Students will develop language learning skills, the ability to write and speak in French with accurate grammar and syntax and to understand written and spoken French in a variety of contexts and genres.

As well as language and subject related skills A Level French develops rich inter-personal, inter-cultural, cognitive and transferable skills.

During the course students will study the following topics:

Social Issues and Trends

Changes to family life & society
The digital world
The role of the charity sector & volunteering

Artistic Culture in the French Speaking World

Cultural and physical heritage
Contemporary Francophone music
Cinema: the 7th art

Aspects of Current Society

Diversity
Marginalisation
Criminal Justice

Aspects of Political Life

Young people and political engagement
Protests, strikes and power
Politics and immigration

In addition, students will study a French film and a literary text.

Implementation

Content & Sequencing

Throughout French A Level students engage with complex subject matter requiring sophisticated analytical skills and the ability to express opinions clearly and concisely. They are taught to read, listen for detail and to interpret a wide variety of texts, in the process developing higher level writing skills and the ability to translate from French to English and vice versa. Students have the opportunity to study a modern French film and novel which adds further depth to their understanding of the cultural context of modern Francophone countries.

As part of the course students must complete an Independent Research Project on a subject of their choosing but that is rooted in the culture of France or another French speaking country. This allows students to develop their research skills and find out more about an aspect of society/ culture that they are particularly interested in thereby developing skills that will be of great benefit to either higher study or future employment.

Assessment Methods

French A Level is assessed through three examinations.

Paper 1 is Listening, Reading and Writing (50%)

Paper 2 is Writing (20%)

Paper 2 is Speaking (30%)

Impact

Onward Progression

A Language A Level is well regarded by all universities and develops the skills considered desirable for a range of higher education courses. Students may choose to continue studying languages in a higher education context either as part of a Modern Languages degree or as part of a combined course, for example Law with French; German and Engineering; Spanish with Economics.

Many employers recognise competence in a foreign language as a desirable skill, giving an advantage in a wide range of areas including sales, business, import/export, logistics, IT, marketing, journalism, advertising, law, tourism, customer services and many more.

Reed employment agency cites language ability as one of the most sought after skills by prospective employers and French as the second most in demand language:

<https://www.reed.co.uk/career-advice/five-languages-you-should-be-learning-right-now/>

Further information contact

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