FRENCH

« Vouloir c'est Pouvoir »

Current Teaching Staff:
Mrs P Smedley-Mathé
Mrs R Stacey

Examination board and syllabus:
Edexcel Level 3 A-Level (9FR0)

Entrance requirement:
French GCSE Grade 6 or above or other background in speaking French may be considered.

Why study French at A-Level?
French is:

- Spoken by more than 220 million people in over 43 countries in five continents. French-speaking Africa is larger than the entirety of the U.S.A.
- The second most influential language in the world and on the internet.
- The official language of the: UN; EU; UNESCO; NATO; Olympics committee; the Red Cross and Médecins sans Frontières. If you want to work in these fields, make sure that you have French!
- The largest language donor to English making French easier to learn.
- The international language for cooking, fashion, theatre, the visual arts, dance and architecture.
- A great base to go on and learn other 'Romance' languages - Spanish, Portuguese, Italian and Romanian.
- Considered a 'facilitating subject', subjects that many universities, notably Oxbridge and the Russell Groups universities expect you to have for at least two of your A-Levels subjects.

The course outline:
The main themes of the course are as follows and the number in brackets indicates the year in which they are covered:

1. Theme 1: Current trends and changes within French society (Y12);
2. Theme 2: Political and Artistic culture in the French-speaking world, including music, cinema and festivals (Y12);
3. Theme 3: Immigration, integration and the rise of the extreme right-wing in France (Y13);
4. Theme 4: France during Nazi occupation, including the French resistance (Y13);

Film unit: La Haine (Director Mathieu Kassovitz) (Y13)
Literature : No et moi (Author: Delphine de Vigan) (Y12)

Due to its breadth and scope, A level French represents the ideal subject to complement any programme of study at sixth form. Whether you are looking for an additional arts subject or a contrasting subject alongside science A levels, A level French will provide you with transferable skills, a deep understanding of one of Europe's most significant political players and a meaningful level of fluency in a language highly sought after by employers.

As you can see from the range of topics studied, A level French includes elements of history, geography, ecology, sociology, economics, music, literature, media studies and film studies. These broad areas encapsulate many interesting sub-themes such as: gender equality; cyber-society; francophone music; marginalised populations and the treatment of specific ethnic groups. Students find that choosing A level French actually deepens their understanding of their other subjects and allows them to pursue areas of individual interest, particularly through the Independent Research Project (IRP), which they would otherwise have left behind after GCSE. All of this is what makes French such an invaluable facilitating subject.

The course assessment:

Number of Unit	% of A2	Coursework / Examination	Length	Timing
Paper 1	40%	Listening, reading & translation (into English) paper.	2 hours	Summer of Y13
Paper 2	30%	Written response to the book and film. Translation into French	2 hours 40 mins	Summer of Y13
Paper 3	30%	Discussion of one of the themes & IRP	21 -23 mins	Summer of Y13

CAREERS

Law, Finance, Journalism, International jobs in business and industry, translation work, teaching – due to the high level of transferable skills and the breadth of the topic areas, a languages A level provides a great foundation for any career or degree study as well as opening up the possibility of working and studying abroad.

Our teachers are highly experienced A-Level teachers. All four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) are progressed simultaneously through use of the target language in class and a broad variety of activities and resources. There is a textbook, but this is supplemented with 'real' resources from the internet, magazines or newspapers. As part of the course, we revisit all necessary grammar to ensure that you have a solid understanding of and ability to manipulate the French language in much greater depth than at GCSE in order to increase your complexity of language. In Year 12, we study the novel Un Sac de Billes, which allows you to gain an understanding of life in France during the Second World War in readiness to study this in more detail in Year 13 as part of Theme 4. In Year 13, we study the film La Haine which allows you to have a deep understanding of cinematic techniques and links in with the theme of immigration and integration which is also studied in Year 13 as part of Theme 3. In the second year, students also carry out an independent research task where they have completely free rein to choose an area of relevance to the French speaking world about which they are truly passionate. Our students relish the challenge of this exciting A level and we offer a wide range of support both inside and outside of lessons to help students to succeed.

A-level French is a fantastic qualification which is considered a real asset in the modern workplace. In order to thrive in this subject, students must have a real love of French and a desire to work consistently and diligently throughout the year. Students who are well organised, willing to work independently, keen to contribute, participate and share their ideas and eager to improve through questioning are the students who excel. N'oubliez pas: « impossible n'est pas français! »