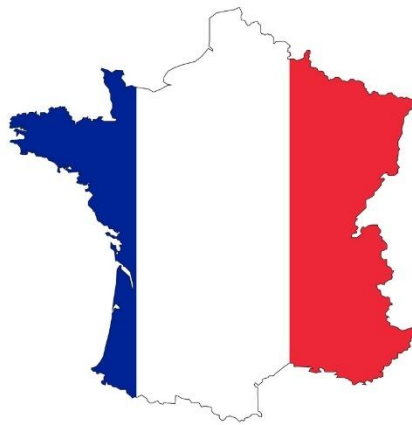


A Level French Transition Booklet



Bienvenue!

Congratulations on choosing to study A Level French. You have opened the door of opportunity! Studying French will enrich your life, giving you opportunities to travel abroad and to learn about different cultures and different ways of life.

French is one of the most influential languages in the world and is spoken as a native language in more than two dozen countries. It is estimated that French is spoken by 300 million people across five continents.

Studying A Level French will not only enable you to learn the French language but will also allow you to gain in-depth insight into the cultural, social, political and artistic aspects of the French speaking countries you will study.

Studying a language will also enhance your life chances, as universities and employers recognise the value of language learning. Languages are seen to be intellectually demanding and therefore considered as a facilitating subject. Learning a language to A Level hones skills which are much sought after by employers: communicating, presenting, analysing, applying knowledge to different contexts, developing an acute awareness of other cultures etc.

Did you know that linguists are better communicators, writers and have a better understanding of their own language too? Learning a language will also improve the functionality of your brain and your memory skills.

This booklet will help you make the jump from GCSE to A Level. It's a big jump but don't be daunted, just get started!

Bonne Chance et à bientôt !

What to expect

The course will be taught by **Mrs Smedley and Ms Stacey** and you will have 10 lessons a fortnight.

You will be expected to be **an active, engaged and independent learner**.

This means **taking part fully in lessons, completing preparatory and consolidation work**. You will be required to complete work to the best of your ability, checking vocabulary, spelling and grammar using a bilingual dictionary and grammatical notes.

As an active learner, you should be ready to recognise your strengths but also to use your initiative to review work or to seek help when necessary.

Learning more complex vocabulary regularly will be part of your routine and we encourage curiosity towards the language. Curiosity is an important condition for language learning and plays a significant role in learner engagement. People are better at learning information they are curious about, as curiosity prepares the brain for learning and makes subsequent learning more enjoyable and rewarding.

This means that we encourage you to read / listen to the French news but mostly to look up things you are most interested in.

Studying a language is more than exams, it should be about enjoying the discovery of another language and culture.

The course

Please familiarise yourself with the **exam specifications and past papers** so you know what to expect using the following link:

[Edexcel A level French \(2016\) | Pearson qualifications](#)

Themes

Theme 1: Les changements dans la société française

- Les structures familiales
- L'éducation
- Le monde du travail

Theme 2: La culture politique et artistique dans les pays francophones

- La musique
- Les médias
- Les festivals et les traditions

Theme 3: L'immigration et la société multiculturelle française

- L'impact positif de l'immigration en France
- Les défis de l'immigration et de l'intégration en France
- L'extrême droite

Theme 4: L'occupation et la résistance

- La France occupée
- Le régime de Vichy
- La Résistance

 Start thinking about vocabulary you already know and be curious! If you see anything relating to these topics, start saving the information.

In **Year 12**, you will also study **the book No et Moi** (by Delphine de Vigan)

In **Year 13**, you will also study **the film: La Haine** (by Mathieu Kassovitz)

Please do NOT watch the film yet.

You will also have an **Independent Research Project**:

- Opportunity to conduct in-depth independent research into an aspect of francophone culture or life which you are particularly interested in
- Must not be based on literature or film studied in class – could look at another of this creator's works
- Can relate to themes but must go beyond what is studied in class
- Question or statement to investigate
- Must refer to at least 2 written francophone sources – keep a record of wider reading
- 2 minute presentation and follow-up questions

The Assessment

Exam	Skills	Contents	Percentage of grade	Time allowed
Paper 1	Listening, reading & translation	Themes 1, 2, 3 & 4	40%	2 hours
Paper 2	Writing & translation	Literature/film study	30%	2 hours 40 mins
Paper 3	Speaking	Themes 1, 2, 3 & 4, + Independent Research Project	30%	21-23 mins

Explore French!

In terms of transition work, the thing we'd really like you to do is get interested about culture of France and the French speaking world, so there are some ideas below to get you going:



SOMETHING TO READ

Website: www.1jour1actu.com

Articles related to key news stories in France, designed for French children but many relating to the A Level topics, particularly politics, culture and issues in society.

French newspapers:

[Le Monde.fr](http://LeMonde.fr) - *Actualités et Infos en France et dans le monde*

[Libération](http://Libération.fr) - *Actualité en direct, infos en France et dans le monde*

[Le Figaro](http://LeFigaro.fr) - *Actualité en direct et informations en continu*

Short Stories in French by Olly Richards/Richard Simcott

A great introduction to literary texts and expanding your vocabulary through reading fiction.

Or you can pick books from the set list from Edexcel.



SOMETHING TO LISTEN TO

Music: find songs in French which are particularly good for French learners and give you a flavour of different genres of music in French.

Podcast: Duolingo French Podcast. Half in French, half in English. Some random but interesting topics covered! You can download the transcripts online.

Podcast: <https://coffeebreaklanguages.com/coffeebreakfrench/>

Podcast: [News in Slow French - French Podcast](#). Current news in French that has been slowed down!

Podcast: [LanguaTalk Slow French: Learn French With Gaëlle | French podcast for A2 & above](#)



SOMETHING TO WATCH

Tv5monde: [TV5MONDE Europe: TV channel \(Cinema, series, documentaries, lifestyle\)](#) (You can download the app and watch French films and series for free.)

Current affairs: [Lumni | Des vidéos, quiz et jeux gratuits pour réviser tes cours et progresser](#) (Short video clips and animations on culture and news headlines from around the world. Not all of them are available in England)

Netflix: You can find many popular French-speaking films and series such as *Lupin* or *Dix pour cents*. Just search 'French' and you'll find lots of films and series to watch!

Other recommended films: *Les Choristes*, *Intouchables*, *Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis*, *La Famille Bélier*

SOMETHING TO FOLLOW



You could follow some of these accounts to keep informed

@lemondefr

@franceinfo

@NetflixFr

@hugodecrypte

@french24