

## FRENCH (COURSE CODE FR)

Head of Modern Foreign Languages: Mrs J Hopper BA (Hons) MBA

AS Level French: AQA specification (7651)

A Level French: AQA specification (7652)

**Course Entry Requirements: Grade 7 at French GCSE**

### Introduction

The French A level specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It enables students to enhance their linguistic skills and promote and develop their capacity for critical thinking on the basis of their knowledge and understanding of the language, culture and society of the countries where French is spoken. Students will become increasingly confident, accurate and independent users of the language as they develop their communication skills for both practical and intellectual purposes.

Their study will be supported by regular access to authentic up-to-date resources, including online media, focussed teaching of core skills to enable pupils to manipulate the language with more confidence, and regular weekly conversation sessions with a native French language assistant.

The new specification requires students to be able to translate to and from French and to engage critically with intellectually stimulating texts, films and other material in French, so that they develop an appreciation of sophisticated and creative uses of language and a thorough understanding of their cultural and social context.

### Course content

In the first year of the course (the AS level) the following topic areas will be studied, together with one book or film:

- Social issues and trends - the evolving society in France, including changing family structures, changes arising from the digital revolution, role of charity work, fund-raising and supporting others
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking world- culture and heritage in francophone countries, to include music, cinema, festivals and traditions

During the second year (A Level), an additional book is studied and the topic areas expanded to include:

- Current issues in French-speaking societies, - Immigration and the French multicultural society, integration and multiculturalism, marginalised sections of society, attitudes towards crime and punishment
- Aspects of political life - politics of immigration, political involvement of young people, right to vote, rationale for strikes and protests and their effects

A demanding but very rewarding feature of the new A Level specification is the chance to undertake independent research in French (with teacher support) on topics of specific interest to the student, within the cultural and social context of French.

### Course Breakdown

AS and A Level each have 3 externally marked assessed papers. The AS qualification is standalone and does not count towards A Level.

#### AS Level breakdown

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation from French to English -	45% of qualification
Paper 2: Written response to set work and translation from English to French	25% of qualification
Paper 3: Speaking: discussion on 2 themes from specification (AS)	30% of qualification

#### A Level breakdown

Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation from French to English and English to French	50% of qualification
Paper 2: Written response to set works	20% of qualification
Paper 3: Speaking: discussion on 2 themes from specification (AS) Discussion on one theme and presentation and discussion on independent research (A2)	30% of qualification

### **Enrichment Opportunities**

Students are actively encouraged to read widely as part of their course, including regular listening and reading of French news articles. Additional support classes are run in late Year 12 and early Year 13 for any candidates considering Oxbridge applications, in which the department has a strong record. We also encourage regular attendance at showings or new French Language films at Norden Farm in Maidenhead as well as French plays performed by professionals from our French twin town and London theatre performances of French works in the native language or in translation.

There are opportunities to undertake one or two-week work experience placements in France in Year 12, and an exchange visit with Montpellier for Years 12 and 13 is also available.

### **University and Careers**

There are many benefits to studying French to A level, not least of which is the increasing demand for foreign language skills in the international employment market. (Knowledge of French is sought after in Europe, North America, Africa and Asia). French can be studied either on its own or in combination with a full range of other subjects at university, and sits equally well with arts, humanities and sciences. Many large research, engineering, construction and cultural projects are undertaken with French partners, and knowledge of the language can be an important distinguishing factor in the job market.

### **Equipment and Expenses**

#### **Essential**

Course textbook and grammar books - £35 - 50

#### **Optional**

Participation in exchange - £350

Work experience - £500

Theatre trips where relevant - £30

Cinema trips where relevant - £6 - 10

(Nov 2018)