

French

French is a global language, spoken by millions worldwide and used in international organisations like the United Nations, the EU, and the International Red Cross. A Level French can open doors to careers in diplomacy, international business, journalism, translation and tourism. Beyond its practical use, French boasts a rich literary heritage, featuring the works of iconic authors such as Molière, Proust and Sartre, alongside contemporary writers like Lévy and Le Clézio. In cinema, French directors like Pagnol, Truffaut and Cocteau, have made profound contributions to global cinematography, offering insightful reflections on French society. France is our nearest neighbour in Europe and the one with which our history is most closely tied. Studying French is not only a gateway to understanding a different culture but also a lens through which we can explore our own. By examining French culture, we illuminate both the parallels and the distinctions between our nation, France and the French-speaking world.

Content of Course

AQA A level French

Year 12 - This is taught through listening, speaking, reading and writing skills and covers the following contemporary topics:

- Aspects of French-speaking society (current trends): the changing nature of family, the 'cyber-society' and the place of voluntary work
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking world: a culture proud of its heritage, contemporary francophone music and cinema: the 7th art form
- Grammar and translation
- Works: Literary text or film

Year 13 - This is again delivered through listening, speaking, reading and writing skills and embraces the following current social issues:

- Aspects of French-speaking society (current issues): Positive features of a diverse society, life for the marginalised, how criminals are treated
- Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world: Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment; demonstrations and strikes; politics and immigration
- Grammar and translation
- Works: Literary text and film
- Individual Research Project

Specific Requirements and Skills Required

- A strong drive to communicate clearly and effectively
- The confidence to engage in oral work
- A fascination for the French and francophone cultures
- An inquisitive and curious mind
- A high standard of literacy
- Highly self-motivated
- The willingness to take risks and make mistakes as part of the learning process
- An ability to manage time effectively and meet deadlines
- Confidence using and manipulating a range of different grammatical structures and tenses
- An ability to use reference materials effectively
- GCSE French (7)

Progression

Studying French demonstrates intellectual rigour, analytical thinking, and problem-solving abilities, all of which can enhance your university applications and career prospects. Most universities offer French, and the subject can be studied either on its own or together with a range of other disciplines.