

FRENCH (AQA: A-Level 7652)

The A-Level in French builds on the skills and knowledge acquired at GCSE. The aim of this course is to enable students to communicate confidently in both spoken and written French, as well as to provide an insight into the culture of French-speaking countries, while developing positive attitudes to language learning. The content of A-Level in modern languages provides depth of knowledge, understanding and intercultural competence and fosters a range of transferable skills such as communication skills, critical thinking, autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, and linguistic, cultural and cognitive flexibility; all of which are of value to the individual, to wider society, to higher education and to employers.

Students explore and develop aspects of the society and culture of France, using the four skills of Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing. They also learn to understand and apply the grammatical system and a wide range of structures appropriate to the tasks. All source material is taken from French magazines, newspapers and websites.

Independent study is most important and students must be prepared to read and listen to the language extensively and regularly during the course. For this purpose, the department is well resourced with films, books and subscriptions to magazines. Pupils are provided with other materials and have access to online resources that complement the course to improve their listening and reading skills through independent study. We encourage them to join the French clubs offered as co-curricular activities. The school fosters an interest in the country of the language studied by encouraging students to take part in study visits (going on cultural visits and language events in London). The objectives of the French A-Level exam are to understand and respond in speech to spoken language including face-to-face interaction, but also to understand and respond in speech and in writing to written language drawn from a variety of sources.

Content of the course:

Aspects of French-speaking society

- Family in the process of change (La famille en voie de changement)
- Cyber society (La cyber-société)
- The role of volunteers (Le rôle du bénévolat)

Artistic culture in the French-speaking world

- A culture proud of its heritage (Une culture fière de son patrimoine)
- Contemporary francophone music (La musique francophone contemporaine)
- Cinema (Le septième art)

Literature and film

- L'étranger (Albert Camus)
- La haine (Mathieu Kassovitz)

Current issue in the French-speaking society

- A diverse society (Les aspects positifs d'une société diverse)
- Marginalised groups (Quelle vie pour les marginalisés?)
- Crime and punishment (Comment on traite les criminels)

Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world

- Youngsters and politics (Les ados, le droit de vote et l'engagement politique)
- Demonstrations (Manifestations, grèves – à qui le pouvoir?)
- Politics and immigration (La politique de l'immigration)



WHERE NEXT?

Elizabeth Ross

French and Italian at the University of Bristol

Studied French, Italian, English Literature and Religious Studies