

French

Why study French?

Studying French at A Level is a significant advantage in today's international world. French is a widely spoken language, with millions of speakers across the globe. It is also a language of culture, business and international relations. During the course, you will explore a range of topics, including cultural and social issues in French-speaking countries, and will develop much greater fluency in the language.

Entry requirements

You need a minimum Grade 7 in GCSE French, though a Grade 8 or 9 is preferable. Enjoying all aspects of language learning, including speaking and writing is essential.

Course content

The course involves studying various themes and topics, including:

- Theme one, Year 12: Aspects of French speaking society: current trends (The changing nature of family; The 'cyber society'; The place of voluntary work.)
- Theme two, Year 12: Artistic culture in the French-speaking world (A culture proud of its heritage; Contemporary francophone music; Cinema: the 7th art form.)
- Theme three, Year 13: Aspects of French speaking society: current issues (Positive features of a diverse society; Life for the marginalised; How criminals are treated.)
- Theme four, Year 13: Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world (Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment; Demonstrations, strikes – who holds the power?; Politics and immigration.)

You will also study a literary text and a film, and you will complete an individual research project.

Relevance

An A Level in French will go well with any combination of subjects, whatever university course you are considering, whether in the UK or abroad, thanks to the skills you develop on the course. Many students choose to study a language-related degree, either studying French on its own or in combination with another subject. The course links particularly well to subjects like Politics and History. Having an A Level in French can also make you stand out in the job market, with skills highly sought after by potential employers.

Career versatility

By studying A Level French, you will open yourself up to a wide range of career opportunities, as the skills you develop are highly prized by employers across various industries, from translation and interpreting services to international business and finance, and from journalism and broadcasting to education and environmental conservation. French is an official language for a huge number of

international organisations, such as the UN, the International Red Cross and the Olympic Committee. Additionally, having an A Level in French can give you a competitive edge in the job market, as speaking multiple languages can increase your salary potential and provide opportunities for travel or living abroad.

Academic flexibility and skills developed:

Through this course, you will develop a broad range of skills that will serve you well in both academic and professional pursuits. As you become increasingly proficient in French, you will find that your communication skills improve dramatically, enabling you to express yourself with confidence and nuance in a variety of contexts. Additionally, you will cultivate valuable research skills, independence, and cultural awareness, as well as critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, all of which will be highly beneficial as you progress through your academic career and beyond.