

French

Awarding body: Assessment and Qualifications Alliance (AQA)

Qualification: A Level

Method of assessment: Examination

Course entry requirement: GCSE grade 6 in French

Course description and what it will be like: A Level French aims to develop the knowledge and skills acquired at GCSE level and use the language learned in a wide range of different contexts. Students will be able to gain a useful insight into another culture and reflect upon aspects of contemporary society. Through studying A Level French, students will have the opportunity to enhance their employment prospects, facilitate foreign travel and experience the enjoyment and motivation of improving their linguistic abilities.

Study for the A level course is based on 4 broad themes; Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends, Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues, Artistic culture in the French-speaking world and Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world. At A level the speaking assessment is a discussion on one of the A level themes and the presentation and discussion on an individual research project. Students will also study a book and film or two books from a set texts/works list and analyse these on the writing paper.

Students will follow a course book and will also use authentic and up to date material from the media (internet, newspapers, radio, television). Knowledge and application of grammar will be examined on all papers.

Units of Study	Assessment	% of Total A Level marks
Paper 1: Listening, Reading & Writing	Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes	50%
Paper 2: Writing	Written exam: 2 hours	20%
Paper 3: Speaking	Oral exam: 21–23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time)	30%

Opportunities for Progression and Career Prospects:

As part of the Global Community the opportunities to live, study, work and travel are many and varied. French is spoken around the world, with 'Le Monde Francophone' comprising of 40 countries. Speaking another language is a huge factor in how successful we are in the future. Graduates with languages are very employable as employers recognise linguists' skills beyond pure language ability, such as communication, organisation, cultural awareness and independence. In fact, graduates with knowledge of a foreign language are likely to earn more than graduates from other sectors.

At higher education level, it is possible to study a degree purely in languages or you can opt to combine a language with a different subject. Both options will involve spending a period of time abroad, either working or studying.

Choosing a language as part of your course will not only develop your expertise and linguistic ability, but you will also have some great experiences along the way!

Languages are not just required for careers in translation and interpreting or teaching. They can also be used in a wide variety of jobs sectors, such as media, event management, health and social care, law, manufacturing, retail, travel and tourism, marketing, technology and computer gaming.

For more information on careers with languages, visit the website [**www.languageswork.org.uk**](http://www.languageswork.org.uk).