

# A Level French

Examination Board: AQA

Specification Code: 7652 – A Level

## Why French?

Forensic anthropologist in Québec? Conservationist in Réunion? Accountant in Paris?

Described by the students as “an immensely rewarding subject”, A Level French is fun! Challenging and demanding great commitment, yes, but definitely worth it. You will be able to get to know not just the language but also the culture of France and the Francophone world, and examine a range of interesting social issues such as “crime and punishment”, “the media”, or “family and relationships”. During the lessons, you will study texts in the target language, analyse news articles, study extracts of TV programmes and, above all, gain the ability to discuss any topic in French.

## Entry Requirements

QEHS standard entry requirements will apply and in addition, students will be expected to have a grade 6 or above in GCSE French. However, a grade 7 or better makes for an easier transition from GCSE to A Level. Students will be expected to have a solid comprehension of grammar from Key Stage 4.

## Course Content

### Speaking (30%)

You will perform one role-play on a theme covered during the course (see below), and you will discuss a topic of your choice relating to Francophone society with the examiner, which you will research in advance.

### Listening and Reading (50%)

You will complete listening and reading tasks with some non-verbal and some French responses to spoken/written passages including factual and abstract content with questions targeting the main points. Topics covered will include social issues and trends, political and artistic culture, multiculturalism in Francophone society and aspects of technology. You will complete translation activities into both English and French, practising the grammar skills you will have acquired during the course.

### Writing (20%)

You will write an extended essay on a cultural (film/literary) topic of your choice that you will have studied as part of your course.

## How does learning differ from Pre-16 study?

Following the government’s recent changes to A Levels, 2017 will be the second year of the new two year course leading to an A Level qualification. There will still be an AS Level in French but this will be examined as a separate entity and results will not contribute to the full A Level.

In A Level French we build on the key GCSE skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing and help you develop the language and intellectual skills you require to tackle real issues. You will use a wealth of real life resources from all parts of the Francophone world. We want you to expand your vocabulary and comprehension further to give you the skills to converse more naturally in French. We encourage you to listen to or read items of personal interest on the Internet in French and you will have a study slot each week with a native speaker to help your skills and confidence grow.

## Prospects

The study of French at A Level forms part of a well-rounded education and gives students valuable language skills, regarded very favourably by potential employers. These can give candidates the edge in the job market, particularly in more competitive sectors. Language-specific jobs such as translating or interpreting necessitate a very high order of skills in the relevant languages, but even a working knowledge, when combined with a business or professional qualification, can open many career doors. As an intellectual discipline in their own right, languages provide a rigorous challenge and develop skills of analysis and sound argument. These are amongst the intellectual abilities highly sought after by university admission tutors as well as employers. In recent years several of our students have been accepted on university courses combining French and another subject, including Oxford and Cambridge.

## Contacts

Please contact Mrs. R. Robinson, Head of French, if you wish to discuss this qualification further.