

The aim of the A-level French course is to help students develop confident, effective communication skills in French as well as a thorough understanding of the culture of countries and communities where it is spoken.

At A Level, the following **four themes** and sub-themes are studied:

- **Changes in French Society**
  - Family life in France
  - Education and student concerns
  - The world of work, the right to strike and equality in the workplace
- **Political and artistic culture in French society**
  - Music
  - The media and the internet
  - Festivals and traditions
- **Immigration and multiculturalism**
  - Integration and multiculturalism: origins, advantages and disadvantages
  - The rise of the extreme right
- **Occupation and Resistance in WWII**
  - Nazi occupation
  - The Resistance movement, Jean Moulin and Charles de Gaulle

Alongside these core themes, you will also study **both a text and film** in the French language (Intouchables and Le Gone du Chaâba).

You will be assessed through three papers:

**Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing (40% of A Level)**

This is listening, reading and translation all in one paper. You will have to manage your own time so that all questions are answered in the given time. You will have control over your listening tracks and can listen to them as many times as you want. In both the listening and reading sections, there are questions which require you to summarise information you have heard or read in French in no more than 90 words. All questions are in French and require an answer in French, unless otherwise stated.

In detail, this is a 2 hour paper that is separated into two sections:

**Section A – Listening and writing (30 marks)**

You will respond to comprehension questions based on a variety of contexts and sources.

**Section B – Reading and writing (30 marks)**

A reading assessment based on a variety of text types and genres where students will have to respond to comprehension questions.

**Section C – Translation (20 marks)**

One translation task from French into English

**Paper 2: Writing (30% of A Level)**

This exam has a total of 120 marks, and is split into 3 sections:

**Section A – Translation (English into French) (20 marks)**

**Section B – Written response to literary texts studied (50 marks)**

**Section C – Written response to films (50 marks)**

*In sections B and C you will have a choice from 2 questions.*

	<p><b>Paper 3: Speaking (30% of A Level)</b> The speaking exam is separated into two parts:</p> <p><b>Part 1 (5-6mins) Discussion of one theme</b> Students discuss one Theme from the specification based on a stimulus containing two different statements.</p> <p><b>Part 2 (2min presentation and 9-10min discussion)</b> Part 1 (independent research presentation) Students present a summary of at least two of the written sources they have used for their research and give a personal response to what they have read. Part 2 (discussion on independent research) Students answer questions on their presentation and then have a wider discussion on their research.</p>
<p><b>Useful websites</b></p>	<p><a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/">http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/french/</a> Provides a variety of useful language resources including links to online French language</p> <p><a href="http://www.liberation.fr">www.liberation.fr</a> <a href="http://www.lemonde.fr">www.lemonde.fr</a> 2 French newspapers.</p> <p><a href="http://www.1jour1actu.com">www.1jour1actu.com</a> Digital newspaper with videos and sound files.</p> <p><a href="http://www.radiofrance.fr">www.radiofrance.fr</a> Radio France: current affairs information in addition to programming</p> <p><a href="http://www.radiofrance.fr/chaines/france-info">www.radiofrance.fr/chaines/france-info</a> Online audio news archive with search available by topic</p> <p><a href="http://fr.euronews.com/">http://fr.euronews.com/</a> Online news videos with transcripts</p> <p><a href="https://www.lawlessfrench.com/">https://www.lawlessfrench.com/</a> A range of source materials, grammar exercises and other French related</p> <p><a href="https://apprendre.tv5monde.com/fr">https://apprendre.tv5monde.com/fr</a> Different reading and listenings on a range of cultural themes and ideas.</p>
<p><b>Essential text books and reading list</b></p>	<p>TBC in September</p>
<p><b>Summer task</b></p>	<p>Get <u>one very large ring binder</u> with <u>17 dividers</u>. Bring to school on the first lesson back <b>labelled</b> as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Les changements dans les structures familiales</li> <li>2. L'éducation</li> <li>3. Le monde du travail</li> <li>4. La musique</li> <li>5. Les médias</li> <li>6. Les festivals et les traditions</li> <li>7. L'impact positif de l'immigration sur la société française</li> <li>8. Répondre aux défis de l'immigration et l'intégration en France</li> <li>9. L'extrême droite</li> <li>10. La France occupée</li> <li>11. Le régime de Vichy</li> <li>12. La Résistance</li> <li>13. <b>Grammar</b></li> <li>14. <b>Vocabulary</b></li> <li>15. <b>Literary Text</b></li> <li>16. <b>Film</b></li> <li>17. <b>Research for speaking presentation</b></li> </ol>

Get one smaller ring binder in which you will keep the work from the last 2 weeks' lessons and any work that you have to hand in that week. After 2 weeks, all work is filed in the large ring binder at home. This will be checked by your teacher every half term.

**Grammar Revision Task to complete – this is not optional.**

Go to <http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/Index.htm> or <http://www.laits.utexas.edu/tex/>

Complete the sections on:

1. The Present tense
2. Modals
3. The Perfect Tense
4. The Perfect Tense 2
5. The Imperfect
6. Le Futur Proche
7. The Future Tense
8. The Conditional Tense
9. Adjectives
10. Using negatives

For each section:

1. Read the introduction notes thoroughly.
2. Complete the exercises for that section.
3. Check your answers and make sure that you understand what you did wrong.
4. Screen shot/photograph evidence of your work, file in the grammar section of your folder and bring to the first lesson back in September.

**Introduction to the Independent Research Project**

Research two articles on any element of French speaking culture you like – a famous person, a movement (art, fashion, music, film etc.), a French TV show or film, a sports team or issue, a period in history, a French novel... anything (as long as it's based in France or French speaking places.

Summarise the articles into English, and give a brief opinion as to their usefulness (and why).

**Why take French?**

You will extend and develop your knowledge of the grammar and vocabulary of French through reading and listening to authentic foreign language materials, ranging from magazines and video clips to films and novels, and you will study aspects of the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of France which will enable you to develop your understanding of European and worldwide current affairs. You will develop critical thinking skills around interesting and contemporary issues including LGBTQ rights, equality, race and immigration and a variety of other fascinating and current topics.