

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 L'étranger).

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

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.

Current affairs research task (bring to the first lesson in September)

Research one article in French that interests you on each of the following two general areas:

1. **The world of work in France:** Strike action, equality of the sexes, unemployment in France.
2. **Music, culture and film:** A profile (or story) on a French musician, film, actor, writer or sports person.

These are broad areas, and you should find one aspect of each that interests you and find an article related to it and be prepared to share it with the class in September.

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.