

French

Examination Board: AQA (2650)

GCSE Required:

French Grade B

Skills:

Flair for the language

Further details to be found by scanning this QR code:



What is covered in the course:

i) Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends - Year 12

- a) Family and relationships (marriage, partnerships, what is a 'perfect parent?')
- b) New Technology (how does technology help your life? Could you survive without the internet? Risks and dangers of our 'cyber society')
- c) Volunteering (Why help out? What's in it for the volunteer?)

ii) Aspects of French-speaking world - Year 12

- a) France and its culture - a country proud of its heritage)
- b) Contemporary music in France (how can we protect authentic French music? Why listen to French rap, rock and pop, Rn'B, dance?)
- c) Cinema - the '7th art' (the importance of French cinema in the global world. What makes a great French film?)

iii) Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends - Year 13

- a) The positive aspects of a diverse society. (How can we encourage tolerance and mutual respect in an ethnically diverse society?)
- b) Marginalised (who are the most marginalised in French society? The poor, the homeless, the unemployed? How can we help them?)
- c) Law and Order (Is prison a success or failure? Treatment of criminals; other possible sanctions)

iv) Artistic culture in the French-speaking world: Year 13

- a) Changing society through politics. (What can I do to change society? Should 16 year olds have the right to vote and protest?)
- b) Demonstrations and the right to strike. (Who has the 'real power' in society? Do demonstrations and strikes work? Different attitudes towards political pressure groups)
- c) Immigration (Living in harmony with my neighbour; how can we overcome racism?)

In addition you will need to study a specific modern French film and book during the course.

How will the subject be taught:

The students will have the opportunity to improve their ability in all four language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) and will gain access to the language through a variety of authentic media, including newspapers, magazines, satellite TV and the internet. Teaching will be split between two teachers and students will be expected to participate in study sessions through note-taking, text analysis, debate, presentation and self-supported study. In addition, a foreign language assistant has an hour's conversation class with each group on a weekly basis to support their preparation for the speaking exam.

All students have online access to Nelson Thornes (Kerboodle) with vocabulary sheets, listening and reading materials, exam-type questions, grammar exercises and video clips. In addition we provide them with examples of practice listening and reading papers as well as a week by week plan for grammar teaching, topic work and key assessments. Students can make use of the satellite facilities in the Sixth Form Centre to view foreign-language DVDs or TV channels to support with independent study or for research purposes.

There are listening, reading/writing/translation and speaking exams at the end of each course, but students can choose a specific topic area for the speaking and written exams.

What opportunities come with this subject:

The wider opportunities for students with a language at Advanced Level are immense. Linguists have a skill that can be applied in innumerable professional, commercial and social contexts. Linguists are trained to analyse stimulus material in detail and after advanced level learning will have outstanding knowledge of other cultures and societies, which serves them as adults with a well-rounded education.

Higher Education/Career Implications:

Universities are continually looking to recruit students with a language at A-Level to support other subject areas and frequently offer international placements to the best linguists.

- In an increasingly globalised marketplace, students with a language can often demand higher salaries, travel more widely on business and build friendships across the globe.
- There is also strong evidence that universities will use language qualifications to differentiate applicants with the same A-Level grades.
- In recent years many of the former A2 cohort have continued to study languages at undergraduate level, including at Cambridge and a number of Russell Group universities.
- In French we have had 100% A*-C success rate in the last few years.