

## What is French?

French is a Romance language of the Indo-European family. More than 220 million people speak French on all the five continents. French is a major language of international communication. It is the second most widely learned language after English and the sixth most widely spoken language in the world. France is often considered the language of culture. A French lesson is a cultural journey into the worlds of fashion, gastronomy, the arts, architecture and science. Learning French also offers access to the works of great French writers such as Victor Hugo or Marcel Proust and famous poets like Charles Baudelaire or Jacques Prévert, in the original text.

## Why students choose this course

This course is ideal for students who have studied the language at GCSE. The course will develop your confidence and language skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing. Topics include the changing nature of the family, music and cinema in the French speaking world and aspects of French political life and society.

The study of a Modern Foreign Language at A level is highly flexible and well suited to almost all subject combinations. Studying French A level will allow you to gain an appreciation of a different culture as well as challenging you to think from a different perspective.

## What the course covers

Students study 3 modules of core content and 1 optional module

Core content

- Social issues and trends
- Political and artistic culture
- Grammar

Optional content

- 4. Works: Literary texts and films

Throughout your studies, you will learn the language, paying attention to the social issues and artistic life of France. You will study social change, looking at the multicultural nature of French society, and learning about past political events of France. To succeed in the exams, you will be exposed to the language at all times, and engage in a wide variety of activities aimed at the development of skills in listening, speaking, reading and writing.

The cultural component plays an important part in the specification, so students study films such as “La Haine” and “L’etranger”.

Students have a free choice of theme for their individual research project for their oral exam.

**The complete specification can be viewed on the AQA website. [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)**

## What students can do with this course

Students will find that career prospects are enhanced by the possession of one or more foreign languages. Many degree courses can also be studied jointly with French. But more than that, French, as with any other language, provides a skill that students will take with them beyond A-Levels and university. It will provide them with an array of new opportunities, and will develop their ability to engage with and understand other cultures..

### How this course is assessed

100% Examination; three exams at the end of the course. Paper 1 assesses listening, reading and writing - a 2½ hour written exam. Paper 2 assesses writing – a 2 hour paper. Paper 3 is an aural examination that assesses your individual research project and oracy in French.

## Entry requirements

All our course entry requirements are detailed in the Entry Requirements document located in the admissions section of our website.

## Further Reading

Try reading the news regularly in French to develop your language skills and awareness of cultural issues in France [www.lemonde.fr](http://www.lemonde.fr)