

FRENCH

AT ADVANCED LEVEL (A/S AND A2)

Our Course: New AQA Specification

Summary of Subject Content

The new specification builds on the skills already established at GCSE and provides a relevant, interesting and contemporary course for post-16 students. The new topic areas encourage students to develop their enthusiasm for language learning and enable them to communicate confidently and effectively in the foreign language.

Candidates who have followed the AS/A2 specification will be well prepared to use the language for practical communication, for further study and/or for employment.

Year 12 (AS)

We study 4 topics, each covering 3 sub-topics:

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|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Media | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Television- Advertising- Communication Technology |
| Popular Culture | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Cinema- Music- Fashion / trends |
| Healthy Living / Lifestyle | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Sport / exercise- Health and well-being- Holidays |
| Family / Relationships | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Relationships with the family- Friendships- Marriage / partnerships |

The AS course is assessed via 2 units at the end of Year 12:

Unit 1: Listening (30 minutes), Reading (45 minutes), Writing (45 minutes)
(candidates write one essay based on one of the AS topics)

Unit 2: Stimulus card (5 minutes), Conversation (10 minutes)
(plus 20 minutes prep. time)

Year 13 (A2)

We study 3 topics, each covering 3 sub-topics:

Environment

- Pollution
- Energy
- Protecting the Planet

The Multicultural Society

- Immigration
- Integration
- Racism

Contemporary Social Issues

- Wealth and Poverty
- Law and Order
- Impact of scientific and technological progress

plus

Two Cultural Topics

- Study of a French-speaking region
- Study of a period of 20th century history from a French-speaking country
- Study of a novelist, dramatist or poet from a French-speaking country **or**
- Study of a director, architect, musician or painter From a French-speaking country

The A2 course is assessed via 2 units at the end of Year 13:

Unit 3: Listening (30 minutes), Reading (70 minutes), Writing (50 minutes)
(candidates write one essay from a choice of two, based on each of The four A2 Cultural topics)

Unit 4: Stimulus card (5 minutes), Conversation (10 minutes)
(plus 20 minutes prep. time)

Aptitudes, skills or qualities you will need:-

Students should have achieved at least a grade B at GCSE. They should essentially enjoy studying foreign languages and be willing to spend time learning and extending their vocabulary.

Homework and Coursework

Students will be expected to learn all new vocabulary as a matter of course. In addition, approximately four hours of homework will be set per week. This may be in the form of reading, grammar exercises, preparing a text, listening, etc.

Students will also be expected to broaden their vocabulary via regular use of recommended websites.

There is no coursework at either AS or A2 level.

Value of the subject for higher education and future careers:-

There are many types of degree courses on offer, some combined with a second language, some combined with other subjects, e.g. French and History, French and Economics, French and Business Management etc. Foreign languages at AS and A Level also equip the student with a high level of communication skills now essential to many professions, e.g. Marketing, PR, Media, etc.