

French

General Information

"People who have learned languages are articulate, flexible and adaptable. Employers value their communication skills very highly and, as a result, languages graduates in the UK have the lowest unemployment rate other than medicine and education."
(Guardian Education)

Languages are regarded as some of the most academic subjects, so universities as well as employers value them. Fluency in French can allow you to work or study in France or other French speaking countries, during your studies or later in life. In addition, A level offers you the chance to find out more about French culture and society and develops your capacity to see the world through other people's eyes and understand their point of view. Therefore, in today's global economy, there's never been a better time to study French!

Entry requirements

The normal minimum entry requirement is a grade 5 in French at GCSE and an average GCSE score of 5 or above. However, a formal entry qualification is not always required:

- Those who have spent time living in France will be considered for direct entry to the course
- Those who have not had the opportunity to study French at school, but who are good linguists or who have a strong GCSE profile, may be accepted.

You should also meet the general college entry requirements for advanced level study. Please refer to the current Prospectus - advanced programmes, entry requirements.

In this subject, particular skills and aptitudes will be required, many of which will be demonstrated by students' GCSE profiles.

Entry requirements might be changed in light of curriculum reform.

French

Course content

The purpose of studying French at A level is to develop your skills beyond GCSE so that you can use and understand a much wider range of language, as well as improving your ability to write and speak with greater accuracy and confidence. At advanced level you learn to expand your language so that you can talk about things that are happening in the world and learn more about life in countries where French is spoken. Studying French also develops your understanding of how languages, including English, work and improves your attention to detail.

■ 1ST YEAR

Topics include youth trends and issues, regional culture in France and French speaking countries, education & careers, French film and music.

■ 2ND YEAR

Topics include cultural identity and social issues, some modern French history, a more in-depth look at the French film *Intouchables* and the short text *Le Silence de la Mer*. There will also be a study topic of individual choice to prepare for the oral exam.

In parallel to this you will revise and expand your knowledge of grammar, so that you can handle the language with confidence and adapt what you know to new situations.

There is also one lesson a week with the Assistant (a native French speaker) - an excellent opportunity to improve your spoken French and confidence.

Useful / common subject combinations

French goes well with any subject combination, as it is the perfect way to broaden your skills portfolio, especially if you are studying two similar subjects, such as science or maths. It is a popular choice with other languages, Law, Travel & Tourism, Business and Arts subjects. Any student contemplating applying to Oxbridge for Languages is advised to take English Literature alongside French.

Advanced Level

(Exam board – Eduqas French A Level)



Examination details

Assessed by :

1. A speaking exam (30%) where you present an independent research project and do a task card.
2. A reading, listening & translation exam (50%).
3. A writing exam – 1 essay on the film *Intouchables*; 1 essay on *Le Silence de la Mer* short novel.

Advanced Level

How it is taught

A thematic approach is taken to language teaching in covering the above topics. In lessons we use a variety of methods to promote learning and you will do individual, pair and group work, writing and reading tasks, listening activities, presentations, role-plays and translation from English into French and French into English. It will play a part in your learning for listening, grammar practice and topic research.

Authentic materials from the Internet, television and films will be used, alongside textbooks, workbooks and on-line study platforms (Dynamic Learning and Moodle). Our students tell us that this all leads to a very positive and interesting learning experience!

The French department also runs trips to University study days, film seminars and a very popular homestay visit to Paris or Lille.

QE is your best choice for French because you will be working in a closely knit department, which will give tailored support and encouragement throughout the course. Our teaching team is highly specialised, really friendly and approachable, enabling you to achieve the best grade possible in your advanced level studies.

Careers / HE information

Modern Languages graduates have some of the lowest unemployment rates and are highly sought after by large companies. They also earn, on average, 8% more than other graduates! Our students realise this, and many continue studying a language at university - often with subjects like International Business or Law. A language is needed to allow students to compete on an equal footing with our mainland European counterparts whose level of English is often as good as our own!

Our students choose a wide variety of universities, with particular success at Russell group establishments, but all comment on how well prepared they feel when they start their languages course. They go on to a huge range of careers, both at home and abroad

Other relevant information

Text books are provided. You may find it useful to have a large French/English dictionary (eg Collins Robert). The College Library, Dynamic Learning and Moodle are stocked full of virtual and paper based resources, as well as our excellent collection of French films.