

French A level Student Guide

Is this the right subject for me?

If you enjoy meeting and talking to people from other countries, finding out about their cultures and learning how language works, then studying French is an excellent choice for you!

Why should I study a language?

Learning languages encourages you to:

- Meet people from different countries and find out more about them
- Learn many skills which are useful in a wide range of careers, such as the ability to communicate clearly, be confident about speaking in public, use problem solving strategies and write coherently
- Add an international dimension to your choice of subjects, which is something many employers and higher education providers want
- Have greater opportunities to work and/or study abroad, or work for companies in the UK with international links
- Learn more about countries where the language is spoken, and the people who speak it
- Read books and watch films in their original language
- Spend time abroad (e.g. at university or on a work placement).

What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?

If you already have knowledge of a variety of topics, and can express your opinions, you are ready to build on this at A level.

You will learn about different aspects of French culture, literature or film, and be able to use more complex grammar and more vocabulary.

What can I do after I've completed the course?

People with language skills and knowledge usually have an advantage over people without them. They stand out as talented and successful people, with broad and exciting horizons. Success at A level French means you will:

- Add an extra international dimension to your personal skills profile which will impress people who read your CV
- Be in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links

- Be able to work or study in a French-speaking country in later life
- Find it easier to learn other languages later if you want to
- Add a useful skill if your main subjects are not languages: languages support careers in a range of areas including management, business, science and tourism.

Year 1 of A Level French

What will I learn?

Topics include work, education and evolving society in France, and music, the media and festivals in French-speaking countries. The book or film you study may link to the topics, giving you further insight into French culture. You will also learn new grammar and vocabulary and you will be able to translate into and out of French.

How will I be assessed?

You will take three internal exams which make up the total marks available. Paper 1 is 40% of the total marks; Paper 2 is 30% and Paper 3 is 30%. Your performance in this exam will determine if you can carry on with French in year 2.

Paper 1 Listening, reading and translation

In the listening section of this paper, you will answer multiple choice and comprehension questions in French on a variety of recordings. In the reading section, you will also answer multiple choice and comprehension questions in French, based on a variety of written passages. You will also translate a passage from French into English.

Paper 2 Written response to works, grammar and translation

In this paper you will write about a book or a film that you have studied throughout the year. There will also be a translation of a passage from English into French.

Paper 3 Speaking

Before this exam you will have 5 minutes to read a text on the topic of Evolving French Society. You will then discuss the text with your examiner, who is usually your teacher. You'll also discuss an aspect of political and/or artistic culture in a French-speaking country based on a mini research project that you have completed.

A Level French

What will I learn?

A level French helps you explore a wide range of topics, which will add to your understanding of the language and country. As well as the topics studied in year 1, you will also study immigration and multiculturalism in France; the Occupation and Resistance.

How will I be assessed?

You will take three exams which make up the total marks available. Paper 1 is 40% of the total marks; Paper 2 is 30% and Paper 3 is 30%. You will be given a certificate with a grade between E and A* with A* being the highest.

Paper 1 Listening, reading and translation

In the listening section of this paper, you will answer multiple choice and comprehension questions in French on a variety of recordings. In the reading section, you will also answer multiple choice and comprehension questions in French, based on a variety of written passages. You will also translate a passage from French into English.

Paper 2 Written response to works, grammar and translation

In this paper you will write about a book and a film that you have studied throughout the year. There will also be a translation of a passage from English into French.

Paper 3 Speaking

Before this exam you will have 5 minutes to prepare a discussion based on a stimulus card you are given. You will then discuss the topic of the card with your examiner, who is often your teacher. You'll also give a presentation on an independent research project you will have conducted on a topic you will have chosen