

French at Pre-U Level

“Choosing French Pre-U was one of the best decisions I made at school.” ~ Sixth Form pupil

“Inspirational teaching. I loved all the hours spent discussing language, culture and everything in between”

~ Sixth Form pupil

BOARD

CIE Pre-U certificate

OVERVIEW

French at Pre-U is an exciting and dynamic course for pupils wishing to develop their language skills in the Sixth Form and beyond. A radical departure from GCSE, the syllabus offers prospective pupils the opportunity to learn about French history and culture and to keep abreast of contemporary social and cultural developments in French-speaking countries. Teachers place an emphasis on using the target language in authentic contexts and on exploring France’s world-renowned artistic tradition. One-to-one weekly lessons with a language assistant ensure pupils have the necessary oral skills, not just to excel in the exam, but also to communicate meaningfully with native speakers when they go abroad. Pupils will engage with authentic media, from press articles and podcasts to film and literary texts, and will move on to university with lifelong skills that will serve them in good stead whatever path they choose.

EXAMINATION ARRANGEMENTS AND COURSE CONTENT

Paper 1: Speaking (25%)

Externally assessed speaking test conducted by a visiting examiner, approximately 16 minutes. Pupils are expected to understand and respond to texts written in the target language, drawn from a wide range of sources such as magazines, newspapers, reports, books and other forms of extended written and spoken material. Pupils present a research project based on a topic of their choice.

Paper 2: Reading and Listening (25%)

A series of reading and listening exercises, 135 minutes. Pupils are expected to manipulate the target language accurately in spoken and written forms to demonstrate an ability to choose appropriate examples of vocabulary and structures.

Paper 3: Writing and Usage (25%)

Discursive Essay in the target language and three grammar usage exercises, 135 minutes. Topics covered in preparation for the discursive essay include human relationships, the generation gap, the media, law and order, equality of opportunity, travel and tourism, war and peace, scientific and technological innovation, religion and belief. Pupils are expected to select and present information, and to organise their arguments and ideas logically.

Paper 4: Topics and Texts (25%)

Two extended answers, one in French based on a theme and one English commentary or essay on a variety of texts and films, 150 minutes. Topics include friendship and brotherhood, World War II, the representation of women. Texts include works by Moliere, Beaumarchais and Rostand. Pupils will also discuss current events and learn about French history and politics.