

A Level French

“Choosing French for A Level 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

AQA

OVERVIEW

French at A Level is an exciting and dynamic course for pupils wishing to develop their language skills in the Sixth Form and beyond. A significant 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. Exam results are excellent year on year, and many pupils go on to read French at university, including at Oxford and Cambridge.

COURSE CONTENT

Topics covered on the course include:

- Trends in French-speaking society (e.g. the changing nature of family, the digital world)
- Current issues in French-speaking society (e.g. diversity, the marginalised, crime and punishment)
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking world (e.g. heritage, Francophone music, French cinema)
- Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world (voting rights, immigration, racism)

You will also study the cult film *La Haine* as well as the classic novel *Élise ou la vraie vie*.

Our weekly *salon littéraire* is open to pupils applying for Oxbridge, and sessions are held on a weekly basis.

EXAM ARRANGEMENTS:

Paper 1: Listening, reading & writing (2hrs 30mins, 100 marks, 50% of A-Level)

Paper 2: Writing on film & text (2 hours, 80 marks, 20% of A-Level)

Paper 3: Speaking (21-23 minutes including 5 min preparation time, 60 marks, 30% of A-Level)