A LEVEL FRENCH
Exam Board: AQA

Sixth Form

Where do I start from?
For this subject you will need a minimum Grade 7 in GCSE French. You will also require at Grade 5 in English Language or English Literature and Grade 4 in Maths. You must enjoy communicating in French and all things French.

What will I study?
Apart from consolidating and developing your present skills in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing, you will learn about France and cover topics exploring social issues and trends as well as political life and artistic culture. You will also study grammar in depth and a literary text (***Un secret* by Philippe Grimbert**) and a film ***(Au revoir les enfants* by Louis Malle).** The A Level specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and society. The content is suitable for students who wish to progress to employment or to further study, including a Modern Languages degree.

How will I be assessed?
There are termly assessments and internal examinations throughout the course. The final examination tests the skills mentioned above in multi-skilled tests.

Listening and Reading (& translation)
What's assessed:
- Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking world
- Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues
- Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world
- Grammar

How it's assessed:
- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 100 marks in total
- 50% of A-level

Writing
What's assessed:
One text and one film (see above).

How it's assessed:
- Written exam: 2 hours
- 80 marks in total
- 20% of A-level

Speaking
What's assessed:
- Individual research project
- One of four sub-themes:

Aspects of French- speaking society (current trends), Artistic culture in the French-speaking world, Aspects of French-speaking society (current issues) or Aspects of political life in French-speaking world.

How it's assessed:
- Oral exam: 21–23 minutes (including 5 min. preparation time)
- 60 marks in total
- 30% of A-level

How will I study?
A Level is more than study. To do well at French it should become a hobby - a pleasure! You will take part in role-plays and discussions in class, do translations and write essays at home and learn plenty of grammar and vocabulary. We watch French films and TV programmes and use the IT suite for listening activities. We expect you to read current affairs magazines and newspapers in French (available in the library). You may want to spend some time abroad. This is the best way of learning a foreign language.

What does the subject combine well with?
The beauty of French and languages generally, is that they are desirable for most jobs, and they can be combined with anything. This is especially true at university level. Many Science and Engineering courses, for example, include language study and many universities send their students abroad for a year to study their chosen specialised subject and develop their language skills as well.

UK businesses suffer on an international level due to a lack of personnel with language skills. With an A Level in a language you will be a more attractive prospect both for universities and employers, and ultimately you could increase your earning potential.

Bienvenue !