

French A level



Hertswood

Why take this subject?

Studying the French language for A level is when the real fun starts. This is when the students have enough understanding of the language to play with, to do creative writing, to discover more about the culture and to go beyond the grammar into the realm of literature, films, sociology, history and more. A level language study is tailored to fit the student. They usually love having a say in their education and feel more involved. Thus it makes them more engaged and responsible for their own progress. A level teachers are passionate about their subject so they are happy to go the extra mile to support your children in their studies. A-level language studies are about culture, communication, social skills and globalisation.

What do I need to have studied in year 11?

- You must have at least 5 GCSEs at grades 9-5 including English and Maths
- At least a Grade 6 in French.

What will we study?

Over two academic years the course blends all four language skills (speaking, reading, listening and writing) into the lessons and will be taught in the target language to ensure full immersion in French. Here are some of the fascinating themes covered that students enjoy learning about.

Year 1

1. Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends

- The changing nature of family : Grandparents, parents and children - worries and problems; Single parenthood and blended families; Couple life - new trends
- The "cyber-society" : Who are cybernauts?; How technology makes everyday life easier; What dangers does "cyber-society" pose?
- The place of voluntary work: Who are and what do volunteers do?; Volunteering - what value for those who are helped?; Volunteering - what value for those who help?

2. Artistic culture in the French-speaking world

- A culture proud of its heritage (Une culture fière de son patrimoine): Heritage at national, regional and local level; How heritage reflects culture; Heritage and tourism
- Contemporary francophone music: The diversity of contemporary French-speaking music; Who listens to and appreciates this music?; How to save this music heritage?
- Cinema: the 7th form of art : Why the seventh form of art?; Cinema - a national passion?; Evolution of cinema - the major milestones.

Year 2

3. Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues

- Positive features of a diverse society : Enrichment from ethnic diversity; Diversity, tolerance and respect; Diversity - a lifelong learning
- Life for the marginalised: Who are the marginalised?; What help for the marginalised?; What are the attitudes towards the marginalised?
- How criminals are treated: What attitudes towards crime?; Prison - failure or success?; Other penalties

4. Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world

- Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment : For or against the right to vote?; Teens and political engagement - motivated or demotivated?; What future for politics?

- Demonstrations, strikes - who holds the power?: The power of unions; Protests and strikes - are they effective?; Different attitudes towards these political tensions
- Politics and immigration: Political solutions to the issue of immigration; Immigration and political parties; Political commitment among immigrants.

How will I be examined?

Unit	Assessment	Weighting
Paper 1. Listening, reading and writing.	Aspects of French-speaking Society: Current trends. Aspects of French-speaking Society: Current issues. Artistic culture in the Francophone world. Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world. Grammar.	Written exam: 2hrs 30 minutes. 100 marks in total. 50% of A-level.
Paper 2 Writing	One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification. Grammar	Written exam: 2hrs 80 marks in total 20% of A-level
Paper 3 Speaking	Individual research project One of four themes (Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends, Aspects of Francophone society: Current issues, Artistic culture in the French-Speaking world, Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world.	Oral exam; 21-33 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time). 60 Marks in total. 30% of A-level.

What super curricular opportunities will be available to me?

Trips abroad to France and Francophone countries. We also organise and participate in conferences with other French schools in order to interact with other MFL students. The ALL is a language association which we are members of, it offers many opportunities for teachers and students to collaborate with other linguistic students in the UK. A cinema club and a book club are also set up for the students who want to deepen their grasp of the language they are studying.

What can this subject lead to?

In an ever evolving global landscape, A-Level qualification gives formal recognition of linguistic skills, an invaluable asset and the key differentiator between CVs. Learning a language can also lead to applying for a course in a university abroad. It opens up many opportunities. The British Council also offers language courses abroad and jobs as language assistants. Spending a year in France as a British assistant is a wonderful occasion to travel and receive a salary to do so. French is spoken in African, North America, South-East Asian and Australasia (Papua New Guinea). Most Language A levels students travel around the globe and are able to select jobs they want to pursue. Some pack up their bags and settle in France or even Canada. There is no limit to the potential of being bilingual. For financial reasons, studying abroad can also end up being way cheaper than studying in the UK with university fees as well as living costs being much more affordable. Many banks are moving their headquarters back to the continent following Brexit. Paris and Germany are becoming financial hubs. It is even more important to ensure that your child is equipped with the skills to find a job in a globalised market.

Subject Specification

This qualification is linear. This means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course.