



# GCSE FRENCH



*Ofsted said: "Pupils feel a sense of belonging at Goldington Academy and, consequently, they are well placed to learn and achieve." June 2016*

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**EXAM BOARD:** AQA GCSE French (Specification code 8658)

## Should my child study French?

With over 120 million speakers worldwide, French is among the most widely spoken modern languages in the world. The ability to speak French not only facilitates opportunities for travel and leisure; it also increases employability and opens doors to a world of exciting career opportunities.

### Course outline:

The course is made up of topic areas within the following three themes:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

Each topic area enables students to develop the four key skills in learning a language - listening, speaking, reading and writing. As well as this, students will gain a broad understanding of the culture of France and other French-speaking countries.

### Assessment:

Students will have final examinations at the end of Year 11 in each of the four key skills. The papers are all weighted equally:

25% - Listening exam

25% - Speaking exam

25% - Reading exam

25% - Writing exam and translation

Students will either sit their exams at Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) or at Higher Tier (grades 4-9). They will be advised as to which tier would be most suitable for them.

## **Supporting trips and activities:**

Students will have the opportunity to watch films in French (with English subtitles) throughout their GCSE course to support their understanding of the language, culture and themes covered. We are currently in the process of organising a residential visit to France for Year 10 students. Please ask a member of the MFL Department for further information about this.

## **What can my child do with a language qualification?**

Languages are valued by employers and are particularly sought after in fields such as journalism and media, law, engineering, business and marketing, sport and leisure, travel and tourism, civil service, banking and teaching (UK and abroad).

Choosing to study a language at GCSE will enable students to achieve the Ebacc. For students hoping to go to university, it is worth considering that many universities now require a GCSE in a modern foreign language as part of their entry requirements (even if not immediately relevant to the course of study being applied for).

Employers recognise that other skills and personal qualities are gained if you speak a second language. Excellent communication skills, brilliant listening skills, determination and an exceptional ability to perform well under pressure are only but a few and will make you really stand out! There is even evidence to show that acquiring a second language can improve your memory, attention span, decision-making and problem-solving skills!

In short, a language qualification will always be useful, no matter what you do. From going on holiday to working abroad, a language is not just a skill for school; it is a skill for life!

## Further reading / suggested revision materials:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8658>  
Studio AQA GCSE French Vocabulary Book  
Studio AQA GCSE Grammar and Translation Workbook

**For further information, please contact:**

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