



GCSE FRENCH



Ofsted said: "Relationships between teachers and pupils are excellent."

February 2022

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EXAM BOARD: AQA GCSE French (Specification code 8658)

Should my child study French?

With around 300 million speakers across five continents, 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:

In addition to in-lesson exposure, we run a monthly after-school French cinema club for KS3 and KS4 pupils, showing films in French with English subtitles to support students' understanding of the language, the culture and the GCSE themes.

We plan also to run a bi-annual residential trip to Paris offering an authentic opportunity to use their language skills whilst experiencing the culture and atmosphere that the city has to offer.

What can my child do with a language qualification?

An official language in 29 countries, French is one of the fastest growing world languages. Indeed, about half of all French speakers live in Africa and we are proud to highlight history, life and culture in francophone Africa in lessons, as well as that of European countries.

The ability to speak a foreign language is a highly useful skill in today's global-facing, multicultural world. Traditionally sought in fields, such as journalism, law, civil service, engineering, tourism and teaching, languages are now increasingly valued by employers in more modern domains, such as digital marketing, social media, sales and sport and leisure.

Furthermore, there is evidence that acquiring a second language can improve your memory, attention span, decision-making and problem-solving skills. Your child will develop communication, presentation and soft skills that will help them connect with their audience and boost confidence

Choosing to study a language at GCSE will enable students to achieve the English Baccalaureate. 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).

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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