



# FRENCH GCSE



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

*February 2022*

## **GCSE FRENCH**

**EXAM BOARD:** EDEXCEL

### **Should my child study French?**

With around 320 million speakers across five continents, French is among the most widely spoken languages in the world. The ability to speak French not only facilitates opportunities for travel and leisure, it also increases employability and opens exciting career opportunities.

### **Course outline:**

The course is made up of topics which fall under the following six broad thematic areas:

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

The thematic areas reflect the world our students live in and in which language is fundamental and evolving. Within those themes students will develop the four key skills of 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: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. The four skill-based papers are all weighted equally, i.e., worth 25% each.

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 to French-language television and films on a termly basis, 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 run a bi-annual residential trip to Paris (in October) offering an authentic opportunity to use language skills whilst experiencing the culture and atmosphere that the city has to offer: from the Tour Eiffel and Sacre Coeur to shopping at French markets and around the cool vintage shops near the Centre Pompidou.

## **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, so we are proud to highlight the history, life and culture in francophone Africa, as well as that of European countries.

The ability to speak a foreign language is a highly useful skill in today's global and multicultural world. Traditionally sought in fields, such as journalism, law, civil service, teaching and tourism, languages are now increasingly valued by employers in 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 those hoping to go to university, it is worth considering that many require a GCSE in a modern foreign language as part of their entry requirements (even if not immediately relevant to the course 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:**

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/french-2024.html>

Studio Edexcel GCSE French Vocabulary Book

Studio Edexcel GCSE Grammar and Translation Workbook

**For further information, please contact:**

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