

# A Level French

Exam Board: AQA

This recently revised A Level course in French is to enable students to communicate competently and accurately in French, both orally and in writing, and to understand the written and spoken word. The teaching also seeks to foster a positive interest in the language, culture and society of France. French A Level develops a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity. Good linguistic skills are nurtured and the course is designed to be academically challenging and enjoyable as well as practical. French AS Level is available at the end of Year 12 for those students doing just AS.

The course is taught by two members of the Department in order to give both variety and a balanced approach. We also have the help of a French assistant. In order to study a foreign language at this level, students should normally have acquired the knowledge, understanding and skills for GCSE at higher tier (or iGCSE) french.

## Content

This is a linear qualification which incorporates the topic areas:

- Current trends in French-speaking society (family, cyber-society, voluntary work)
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking world (music, cinema, national heritage)
- Current issues in French-speaking society (diversity, marginalization, criminality)
- Political life in the French-speaking world (teenagers' right to vote and political commitment, demonstrations, strikes, immigration)
- Students will also be expected to study one literary text and one film or two literary texts over the course of the two years.
- In the second year of study, students also undertake an independent research task in which they identify one subject or key question which is of interest and which relates to a francophone country. This research task may be linked to one of the A Level topics or a literary work or a film.

## Assessment

The French A Level assesses students in three examinations:

- Paper 1 (listening and reading tasks and short translations to and from the target language).
- Paper 2 (two essays in the target language requiring a critical appreciation of the set texts and/or film).
- The oral consists of a discussion of one of the topic areas based on a stimulus card in addition to a presentation and discussion of the student's individual research project.

## General

We offer students a broad range of further language opportunities ranging from our annual MFL Quiz, visits to theatres, galleries and cinemas to smaller social activities. Students are strongly encouraged to undertake a period of study or work experience in the target country at some stage during the A Level course. The department has a wide range of learning resources available, including a range of online sites, DVDs, books, magazines and games.

