

French

AQA Specification



General information:

This French course aims to develop communication and grammar skills to a high level, enabling students to become competent and confident speakers of French. The A Level course covers a whole range of social, political and ethical issues, giving students insight into the cultural richness and social obstacles faced by France and French-speaking countries.

Course content:

In Year 12, the course covers topics such as: Family, Cyberspace, Volunteering, Cultural Heritage, Music and Cinema. In addition, students will study a modern French film (*La Haine*) and a classic book (*Un Sac de Billes*).

In Year 13, the course covers Diversity, Law and Order, Politics, Trade Unions and Immigration. In Year 13, students will also embark on an Independent Research Project, where they will research and analyse the topic of their choice.

How is the course taught and assessed?

French is taught by two teachers over eight periods per week. Students have an additional 2 periods per week of Supervised Study which are dedicated to their French studies. French is assessed at the end of the two-year course by three examinations: Paper 1 is a Listening, Reading and Writing examination, lasting 2 hours and 30 minutes, with a raw mark of 100. This paper consists of listening comprehension, reading comprehension, translation into English and translation into French. Paper 2 is a Writing paper, lasting 2 hours with a raw mark of 80. In this examination, students will write an essay about the film '*La Haine*' and an essay about the book '*Un Sac de Billes*'. Finally, students have a Speaking examination, where they will discuss their Independent Research Project, and discuss two themes from the A Level course.

Entry requirements:

In addition to the general entry requirements for BWS, a grade 7 in GCSE French.

Results information:

In 2025 77% of students achieved A* to B grades at A level.

Top destinations for students:

Students have gone on to Oxford /Cambridge to study French, as well as Nottingham, Exeter, and other Russell Group universities.

Beyond the curriculum:

Students will dedicate time to practising their French with a native speaker, they will have the chance to attend study days, and we will look to organise a study visit to France, after doing so for the first time in December 2024.