

AQA A-Level French

Why study A-level languages?

- Languages are all around us; they are used in so many situations whether at work, on holiday or just casually in day-to-day life - we live in a multilingual global society.
- Choosing an A-level language is a really smart move if you want a fascinating subject that offers you a range of career possibilities at the end and are a lot of fun along the way. A-level language courses are interesting and varied and provide a broad range of knowledge and skills.
- Learning a language is a never-ending process; languages are constantly changing, bringing in new words and getting rid of old ones.
- The skills and qualifications that you gain from studying a language at A-level are incredibly important tools to have under your belt.

Aims of A-level Modern Language courses

- The topics covered are really varied so you not only greatly improve your language conversation skills, use of grammar, different tenses, and range of vocabulary - but you'll also learn about culture, history, literature, society, the environment and lifestyle.
- The aim of the A-level modern language course is to help you to develop an interest in speaking a foreign language, to gain awareness of the need to speak foreign languages, to appreciate the nature and diversity of different cultures and people and to acquire knowledge, skills and understanding for practical use, further study and employment.

AQA A-level French overview

- The AQA A-Level French course enables you to study the French language, as well as technological and social change, and the multicultural nature of French-speaking society. You will study highlights of French-speaking artistic culture, how the French political landscape was formed and will explore the influence of the past on present-day French-speaking communities.
- You will also study texts and films and will have the opportunity to carry out independent research on an area of your choice.

2-Year course outline

In **year 12** the course will cover:

Aspects of French speaking society

Artistic culture in the French-speaking world

Grammar

A literary text or film.

In **year 13** the course will cover:

Social issues and trends

Political and artistic culture

Grammar

Literary texts and films

How will students be assessed?

A-level paper 1: Listening, Reading & Writing (50% of A –level, 2hours 30 minutes)

Candidates will answer a range of questions based on listening material and on a selection of written stimulus texts about aspects of French speaking society, artistic culture in the French-speaking world and aspects of political life in the French speaking society. Candidates will also complete a translation into English and a translation into French.

A-Level paper 2: Writing (20% of A-level, 2hours)

Candidates will answer one question in French on a set text + one question in French on a set film or 2 questions on set texts (approximately 300 words per essay).

A-level paper 3: Speaking (30% of A-Level, 21-23 minutes, including preparation time)

Candidates will discuss a sub-theme based on a stimulus card (5-6 minutes) and give a presentation with a discussion (9-10 minutes) on an individual research project.

What other courses does it complement?

- A modern language complements a whole variety of other subjects. You may need languages for all sorts of career destinations- doctors, psychologists and physiotherapists need language skills to communicate effectively with patients whether they work in the UK or overseas; businessmen, bankers and entrepreneurs all need language skills to make deals and sell products on the global market. Politicians, historians, geographers and holiday reps all need language skills to get to know the people and area that they are passionate about.
- A foreign language A-Level will complement and enhance your other studies to no end.

What GCSE grade do I need?

- If you're looking to study this subject as one of your A Levels, we strongly advise you only to do so if you are predicted at least a grade 6 at GCSE.

What can I do afterwards?

- Languages are an invaluable skill to have and can increase your salary by up to 20%.
- A language qualification gives you a head start on other potential employees, as by speaking another language you're vital to any company with international business links.
- A language is also a pre-requisite for many uni courses so it's something to consider if you're thinking about uni in the future.
- Languages are key to the exciting multinational world we live in!