

Why study French?

French is one of the most widely-spoken languages in the world—spoken in over 40 countries around the world—and one of the other official language of international institutions such as the UN and the Olympics. As such it is a key language in international relations and trade. France itself is also historically one of the most important countries in Europe, and its language, culture and society has influenced the development of other societies around the world.

Learning a language at A-Level helps you really become an independent, confident language speaker. It is challenging, but speaking a language at this level will be a huge asset to you in whatever path you follow. Speaking another language well is exciting and will help you see the world in a new light.

What will you be learning?

A-level covers a wide range of interesting topics involving language, culture, history, art and politics. These varied topics will offer you the chance to learn more about France and what it means to be French in the modern world. To help further your understanding of France and the French identity, we will be studying a classic modern film – *Les Intouchables* – in Year 12 and a classic of French literature in Year 13.

Alongside what you will learn about the country and the culture, we will be focusing on developing your language skills so you become a confident and competent language speaker. To help in this you will also have a half-hour spoken language session with a French native speaker once a week.

Assessment:

We will be taking all of our exams at the end of the two years. These will consist of:

One Reading, Listening and Translation paper covering all of the topics from the two years.

One Written paper. You write two essays on the film and book you have studied, as well as doing some English to French translation.

One oral exam in which you discuss the topics you have been learning about, as well as your independent research which you will undertake over the course of the two years.

What are lessons like?

In lessons you will come across a wide range of activities which will test your developing language skills. You might give presentations; take part in debates and role plays as well as more complex

listening and reading texts. Often you will be looking at how issues relate to society in France or the French-speaking world.

In addition to lessons you will also have one half-hour of spoken French class per week.

In 6th form you will be taking more initiative in organising your own studies and you will be often asked to research information or work on areas of language yourself. A key part of becoming a proficient linguist is having the confidence to read and listen widely in the target language, and this is something you will be encouraged to do regularly.

What can it lead to?

An A-level in French is vital if you want to go on and study French at university, but having an A-level in a language shows you as a competent linguist and can serve as a basis for studying almost any language at University. Starting a new language from scratch at University is already very common, and having an A-level in a language shows you have the ability and knowledge to pick up other languages too.

Language skills and the confidence they give you in communicating with others are amongst the most sought-after skills in a working environment. Languages are an enabling skill and people with high-level language skills go on to be successful in a very wide range of careers - from Journalism to Business, from the Armed Forces to Teaching and almost everything in between.

It is more than just a qualification though, and we hope that becoming a confident French speaker will be the catalyst for exploring the language, culture and history of the French-speaking world and to starting a life-long love of the country and language.

Want to know more?

To find out more about the course and discuss your suitability please contact s.green@qes.org.uk