

## French – Linear A Level

### IMPORTANCE OF A LANGUAGE AT A MORE ADVANCED LEVEL

Being able to speak a foreign language is a UNIQUE SELLING POINT for employers and universities alike. Many people at work (and not just specialist linguists) are finding they need to put their skills into practice. Businesses often pay higher salaries to employees who can phone or e-mail a firm abroad, book hotel accommodation for a trip to Paris, read an order from a French client or a press release from a Belgian competitor. Language skills give you the edge in a very competitive employment market. French combines well with other subjects. There are direct links to the study of English, through essay writing skills and literature, Humanities through the study of immigration and Fine Art and Performing Arts through an understanding of French culture. French can be used to extend the study of Sciences to give an international dimension to later study and career choices.

### FIRST YEAR CONTENT

Aspects of society (the changing family, cyber society and volunteering)

Artistic culture (heritage, music, and cinema)

Study of a film (Au revoir les enfants).

### SECOND YEAR CONTENT

Aspect of society (diversity, marginalisation, criminality)

Aspect of political life (the right to vote and political commitment, protests and strikes, politics and immigration)

Study of a book (Kiffe kiffe demain by Faïza Guène)

### ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

100% exam.

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing (50% of 'A' Level).** The examination covers aspect of social, cultural and political life in France. The examination lasts 2½ hours. In the listening part, students have control of the recordings. Listening task types include multiple choice, matching the beginning and end of sentences and spotting true and false statements. In the Reading section, there are similar task types as well as questions requiring responses in French. Both the listening and the reading texts are chosen from authentic sources and cover a range of interesting topics and a variety of styles. There are also two short translation passages (French to English and vice versa).

**Paper 2: Writing (20% of 'A' Level).** The examination lasts for 2 hours. Students write an essay about each of the works studied. For each work, there is a choice of two questions. The expectation is for students to write about 300 words per essay.

**Paper 3: Speaking (30% of 'A' Level).** The speaking test lasts about 20 minutes. In part 1, students answer questions based on a stimulus card (selected by the student from a choice of two cards). The students have five minutes to prepare their responses to the card and can refer to their notes and the card as they are speaking. In part 2, students give a presentation (two minutes) on their Individual Research Project before answering questions on this project.

### MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENT

French GCSE (grade 7)

### LIFE-LONG LEARNING

You may well have to learn another language in the course of your working life. Through further study in French you will acquire advanced linguistic skills and a more thorough understanding of how languages work.

### LEADING TO CAREERS IN:

Journalism, politics, financial sector, Education, Interpreting.