

# Learn a language and stand out from the crowd



AQA French 'A' level (7652)

Being able to speak a foreign language is a **UNIQUE SELLING POINT** for employers and universities alike.

Many employers appreciate the fact that applicants have mastered a second language at a more advanced level. With much of Britain's trade now being done within the European Community, 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 the boss' 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.

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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.

French can be the springboard to broadening horizons through travel.

From those first few hours in Le Touquet, via the Paris trip, through to the A Level Study Trip, studying French leads the learner to discover in ever-increasing detail the pleasure to be derived from visiting France and experiencing first hand its people and their culture. It provides an opportunity to develop an understanding of different ways of life and an international perspective.

Life-long learning.

Learning to learn! 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.

# Studying 'A' Level French.

**The exam stuff...**

## **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)**

To prepare for this part of the examination we will study either two books or one book and one film. Currently, candidates study the novel *Kiffe kiffe demain* by Faïza Guène and the film *Au revoir les enfants*.

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.

Lessons are tailored to meet the individual needs of students, whilst moving through the essential topics in the syllabus. Students rapidly increase their confidence with grammar and broaden their knowledge of vocabulary.

**What you can expect to be  
doing both in and beyond  
the classroom.**

There is a programme of independent learning to reinforce and extend your learning. Through the internet and particularly Kerboodle, the dedicated on-line resource, you can maximise your exposure to French.

With a balance between serious grammatical explanation, interactive exercises and language games, lessons are both stimulating and fun. Careful attention is paid to student feedback and lessons are adapted to ensure that progress is quick. Opportunities for examination practice are frequent.