

FRENCH

A Level Subject Information



French A level

This specification enables learners to develop and build upon knowledge, understanding and cultural appreciation by using authentic spoken and written sources through a stimulating course of study.

Subject content

The Examination Board is EDUQAS

This A level French specification offers learners a rich and detailed insight into the social issues and trends, political, intellectual and artistic culture of the countries and communities where French is spoken.

Learners are expected to access authentic written and spoken material in French including from online media, in their course of their language study.

The following topics areas are studied during the 2 Year A level course:

Social issues and trends	Political, intellectual and artistic culture
<p>Being a young person in French-speaking society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families and citizenship Changing family structures; the changing nature of marriage and partnership; being a good citizen • Youth trends and personal identity Trends in fashion; how young people respond to modern technology; relationships with others and peer pressure • Education and employment opportunities The education system and student issues; work and travel opportunities and the changing work scene 	<p>Understanding the French-speaking world</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional culture and heritage in France, French-speaking countries and communities Festivals; customs and traditions; historical sites; museums and galleries • Media, art, film and music in the French-speaking world Trends in media and art; film and music in the lives of young people
<p>Diversity and difference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Migration and integration Reasons for migration; factors which make migration/integration easy/difficult • Cultural identity and marginalisation Reasons for marginalisation; ways to eliminate marginalisation • Cultural enrichment and celebrating difference The positive aspects of a diverse society • Discrimination and diversity Life for those who are discriminated against. 	<p>France 1940-1950: The Occupation and post-war years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 1940–May 1945 Life in occupied France; the French Resistance • The cultural dimension in occupied France The political context of theatre and cinema productions • 1945-1950 Rebuilding and restructuring society in post-war years

Assessment information

The final examination is made up of three components covering two years' work:

1. Speaking assessment
2. Listening, reading and translation paper.
3. Critical and analytical response in writing

Component	Form of Assessment	Length of Exam	% of Marks Overall
1	Speaking	21 - 23 minutes	30%
2	Listening, Reading and Translation	2 hours, 30 minutes	50%
3	Critical and analytical response in writing (closed book)	2 hours	20%

The independent research project

The independent research project forms an important part of the speaking assessment at A level. It provides learners with the opportunity to choose an area of personal interest for independent study through which they will be encouraged to broaden their knowledge and appreciation of the countries or communities where French is spoken.

This component gives opportunities for learners to select an aspect of study that interests them related to the countries or communities where French is spoken,

French A level results at NHGS

	A* - B	A* - C	A* - E
2019	100%	100%	100%
2018	80%	100%	100%

Extra- curricular activities for French A level Students

In recent years, French A level students from NHGS have had the opportunity to:

- Visit / work in Paris.
- Participate in national and international competitions
- Attend workshops and conferences
- Mentor younger students at NHGS
- Attend 6th form French film trips

What qualities do you need to be successful?

To succeed in the subject, a number of skills are needed. Most basic of these is the enjoyment of using words. A capable student will find genuine interest in producing complex sentences and will analyse closely the various links with English, or alternatively the areas where the languages differ. In addition to having an interest in words and expressions, the successful student will show a willingness to undertake learning of the details. The vocabulary of A Level goes beyond basic ideas, extending into politics, sociology, character study and many areas of culture and the willingness to learn, for example, the technical vocabulary associated with the environment. As an extension to this point, students do need social awareness and the ability to argue and develop ideas of everyday concern. Underlying all these abilities is attention to detail, in particular, having the precision which makes ideas and expressions clearly understandable.

What career opportunities can the subject lead to?

The study of a language at A. level is highly valued by employers. In its own right, it has very good academic standing and provides evidence of intellectual stamina and clear thinking.

According to a recent skills survey by the Confederation of British Industries (**CBI**), almost two thirds of businesses want to employ people with skills in a foreign language and French remains one of the most sought after languages for organizations and businesses who want to remain competitive on an international level. For example, a marketing professional in a global firm is likely to be much more successful if they are able to communicate with foreign companies in their own language; a journalist much more able to write an effective article if they are able to interview people in their own language and have some understanding of their culture.

Exciting technological advances are occurring in cutting-edge industries where French is commonly used to communicate. Knowing the language is a huge asset for a career in nuclear energy, civil engineering, hydro-electric power research and production, medical research and aeronautics

There is increasing demand for language skills in jobs involving all kinds of customer service. The UK has a shortage of people who can combine language skills with other specialisms. Employers often say they don't just want specialist linguists, but people with skills such as engineering, law, chemistry etc. who also can speak a foreign language.

How can you find out more?

Further information is available from **Mrs Berry, Miss Rigby** or any other member of the Modern Languages Department.