

A-level French

Exam board: AQA

Entry requirement: French GCSE grade 6

Why study French?

Do you hope to one day work abroad or speak a language fluently? Are you interested in an academically challenging course with a strong practical application? If so, then studying a Modern Language like French to A-level could be for you.

The French course will develop your language skills, cultural and international understanding, and lifelong communication, analytical and research skills which can be applied at work or for leisure purposes.

At GCSE you learn the basics with reference to yourself. At A-level you build on the basics in the context of the French speaking world – you gain a real insight into what life is like in France and how perceptions might differ.

What can I do with French after A-Level?

Many students follow this course with a languages degree, which usually involves learning two languages alongside literature and/or linguistics. However, languages also complement any other subject, and are often combined with popular degree courses such as Law, Business, Marketing, History and Engineering. Language graduates are in high demand by employers in the UK and abroad.

Previous Burgate students have gone on to study languages at Oxford, Durham, York and Cambridge Universities.

What will I study?

There are 4 core topic areas at A-level.

Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends

Artistic culture in the French-speaking world

Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues

Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world

In addition, you will study a film and a literary text.

Within Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends you will look at:

- La famille en voie de changement
- La « cyber-société
- Le rôle du bénévolat



Within Artistic culture in the French-speaking world you will study:

- Une culture fière de son patrimoine
- La musique francophone contemporaine
- Cinéma : le septième art

Within Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues you will look at:

- Les aspects positifs d'une société diverse
- Quelle vie pour les marginalisés?
- Comment on traite les criminels

And within Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world life you will study:

- Les ados, le droit de vote et l'engagement politique
- Manifestations, grèves – à qui le pouvoir ?
- La politique et l'immigration

There are 3 exams:

• **Paper 1:** listening, reading & translation into both English & French (2 hr 30 mins, 100 marks) 50% Students will have individual control of the listening recording. Questions in French to be answered with nonverbal responses or in French for both reading (50 marks) & listening (30 marks).

• **Paper 2:** writing – literature and film essays (2 hrs, 80 marks) 20% Two essays to be written from choice of 2 possible titles on *Kiffe kiffe demain* and *400 coups* of approximately 300 words. These require a critical appreciation of the concepts and issues covered in the work and a critical and analytical response to features such as the form and the technique of presentation, as appropriate to the works studied.

• **Paper 3:** speaking (16-18 minutes + 5 minutes preparation time, 60 marks) 30% Discussion of a sub-theme with the discussion based on a stimulus card (5 – 6 minutes, 25 marks), followed by a presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9 – 10 minutes) of an individual research project (35 marks).

The Individual Research Project (IRP) offers you the opportunity to look in greater depth at an aspect of French speaking society that really interests you, this could be anything from the French Revolution to a French comedian, the Corsican mafia to young people's use of slang.