

RMGS

MODERN LANGUAGES - FRENCH

A LEVEL (AQA)

What are the aims of the course?

To enable students to understand a wide variety of spoken and written French and to communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in French in both speaking and writing.
To find out about, research and develop opinions about the society, culture and heritage of countries and communities where French is spoken.
Most importantly, to **enjoy** listening to, speaking, reading and writing French!

What does it involve?

Students will practise the four areas of language learning by:

- **listening** to recordings and watching extracts from films and TV in French
- **reading** a range of materials, from short extracts to more in-depth articles on a range of topics
- **speaking** in class activities and during a regular lesson with the French Assistant
- revising and extending their knowledge of grammar, **writing** essays of up to 300 words in length, and translating longer passages between French and English
- having the opportunity to **visit** France during the course

How is it assessed?

- **Paper 1 – Listening, Reading and Writing** (2 hours 30 minutes) – questions will be based on current issues and trends, artistic culture, and aspects of political life where the language is spoken. Students' grammatical knowledge will also be assessed. 40% of A level.
- **Paper 2 – Writing** (2 hours) – An essay paper where students are asked to write two 300-word essays based on a set text and a set film which they have studied during the course. 30% of A level.
- **Paper 3 – Speaking** (21 to 23 minutes, including 5 minutes' preparation time) – the student is asked to debate an aspect of French society for 5-6 minutes, and this is followed by a presentation of 2 minutes and a discussion for a further 9-10 minutes based on the student's individual research project. 30% of A level.

Are there any specific entry requirements?

Students who wish to take French in the sixth form should have **gained at least a Level 7** in their French GCSE. Students with a Level 6 may be considered at the discretion of the Head of Subject.

Why is it a useful qualification?

An A level qualification in a modern language is extremely well regarded by the top universities and by employers in almost any field. During the course, students develop important communication and interpersonal skills, as well as techniques for language learning which they can apply to the study of further languages. An A level in French would fit in with any Arts or Humanities subject, but would also give students of STEM subjects the breadth of study which many universities and employers consider so desirable.