



St Mary Redcliffe  
and Temple School

# French



# French

Exam board: AQA

Specification no.: 7651 (AS) / 7652 (A Level)

**This is a two year linear A level course** - The AS content forms the first half of the A level content and can be assessed at the end of Year 12 to provide an AS Level qualification if the student is dropping the subject and believes they can get a strong grade. Otherwise the two years of content are assessed at the end of Year 13 to give the A level grade.

## AS level – at a glance

Unit	Skills	Content may include
1a	Listening Reading Translation	Aspects of a French-speaking culture Artistic culture of a French country Grammar
2a	Writing	One text/one film from specified list Grammar
3 12-14 mins (15 mins)	Speaking	Covering content from 1a

## A level – at a glance

1b	Listening Reading Translation	Aspects of a French Speaking country Artistic culture of a French country Multiculturalism Aspects of political life Grammar
2b	Writing	One text & one film from specified list Grammar
3 21-23 mins (5 mins)	Speaking	Covering content from 1a and 1b

## Course Delivery:

Work in class involves mainly listening and reading activities leading to oral discussion. Written work is developed in class as well as part of homework.

Students need to be prepared to take an active part in lessons whether in pairs, group work or whole-class work. Their ability to communicate ideas accurately in written French is developed by means of a comprehensive grammar programme. In order to develop confidence and fluency in speaking the language, additional sessions are arranged with the French Assistant. Students are expected to learn and revise vocabulary and undertake additional reading and research in their own time.

## Course Content: The course may include the following themes:

Current trends in French-speaking society. (AS & A level)	Family, Cyber Society, Voluntary Work
Artistic Culture in French-speaking world. (AS & A level)	Contemporary francophone music, cinema, patriotism
Current issues in society (A level)	Diverse Society, Life for the marginalised, Crime
Political life (A level)	Teenagers, the right to vote, demonstrations, strikes, Politics and Immigration
Film (AS – either 1 film/text) (A level – 1 text & 1 film / 2 texts)	One of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Au revoir les enfants</i></li><li>- <i>La Haine</i></li><li>- <i>L'auberge espagnole</i></li><li>- <i>Un long dimanche de fiançailles</i></li><li>- <i>Entre les murs</i></li><li>- <i>Les 400 coups</i></li></ul>
Literary texts	One/two of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Molière <i>Le Tartuffe</i></li><li>- Voltaire <i>Candide</i></li><li>- Maupassant <i>Boule de suif et autres contes de la guerre</i></li><li>- Camus <i>L'étranger</i></li><li>- Françoise Sagan <i>Bonjour tristesse</i></li><li>- Claire Etcherelli <i>Elise ou la vraie vie</i></li><li>- Joseph Joffo <i>Un sac de billes</i></li><li>- Faïza Guène <i>Kiffe kiffe demain</i></li><li>- Philippe Grimbert <i>Un secret</i></li><li>- Delphine de Vigan <i>No et moi</i></li></ul>
Individual Research Project (A level)	Students must identify a subject or a key question which is of interest to them and which relates to a country or countries where French is spoken. Students will demonstrate their ability to initiate and conduct individual research by analysing and summarising their findings, in order to present and discuss them in the speaking assessment.

## **Entry requirements:**

6 Grade in French is required in addition to normal entry requirements.

## **Skills & personal qualities developed by course:**

By the end of the course you will be able to

- Understand authentic spoken and written French
- Discuss a variety of issues in French
- Speak and write French with a high level of accuracy
- Research and present important aspects of French society
- Feel confident in the ability to converse on a variety of topic areas in the target language

## **Visits/resources/other selling points:**

- We use a variety of up-to-date resources including the internet, film, books, newspaper articles to engage students. We encourage students to participate in exchange programmes (Bristol, Bordeaux) or to undertake a visit period of work-experience in France.

## **Recommended reading/websites:**

- Try to read as much French as possible. How about looking at the following website to get a flavour of the language you will use at AS and A level [www.france24.com](http://www.france24.com) . How about changing the language on your favourite programme or DVD to French? This will help improve your comprehension skills greatly.



Watch this [video](#) explaining why French is such a useful language



## Why Study French?



## What is the course really like?

We use two textbooks to help support your learning of A Level French:

[Hodder AQA A Level French + online package](#)

[Oxford University Press AQA A Level French Year 1 and Year 2](#)

We also currently study *La Haine* in Year 12 and *Un Sac de Billes* in Year 13. Watch the trailers below to get a flavour of the works and the themes that arise from them.



Here are some examples of the things you will study across the two year course:



### **Debates**

Within each unit we will discuss and debate different attitudes and opinions across the Francophone world. For example, we look at the rights of homosexual couples in France and the attitudes towards the PACS.

## Research

We will regularly research and discuss social and global issues, such as racism, immigration, youth rights. Our small group sizes allow for plenty of discussion to explore solutions to these issues. SOS Racisme is one of the many charities that we will research during our course. Your research will give you an insight into the opportunities surrounding international charity work.



## Cultural awareness

Over the two year course we will be building on your prior knowledge of Francophone culture and what it means to be French in different parts of the world. We will learn about the impacts of tourism on heritage sites and unpick the intangible cultural heritage of which France is so proud. By the end of the course you will have learnt about francophone music, cinema, history,

literature, language, politics, and current social issues.



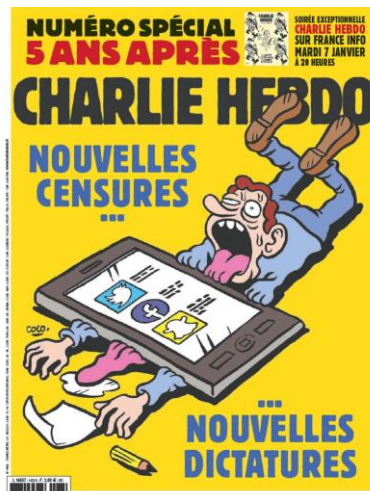
## News

As part of the course you will be expected to keep up-to-date with the news and current affairs in the Francophone world. You can watch French news online for free using [www.France24.com/fr](http://www.France24.com/fr) . You can also set your home

page to a French newspaper such as Le Figaro or La Libération.

## Individual Research Project

In Year 13 you will choose a topic to research that interests you. It must be a topic related to the Francophone world. For example, you might choose to research a part of French history, such as the Occupation of France during the Second World War. Or, you might like to study a famous French person such as Coco Chanel. Previous projects have focused on a range of topics from sport to art, from freedom of the press to “do the French really hate Parisians”. Your research will form the basis of a 10 minute discussion in your speaking exam and is your opportunity to lead on something you feel confident with.



## Not just a language



The A Level French course is one of a kind. You will not only be studying the language and grammar so that you can speak and write fluently, you will also be studying a range of other subjects within the course; History, Politics, Geography, Literature, Art, Music, Media, Sociology. How many other A Level courses offer such a wide range of topics?

## Frequently Asked Questions

### *How much homework is there?*

For each hour of lesson time you will be given approximately 1 hour of homework to match. This will involve a range of activities from learning vocab on Quizlet for a vocab test to writing a practise essay. You may also have listening activities to complete at home along with grammar worksheets to reinforce what you have been learning in lesson.



### ***Do we have a language assistant?***

Yes. You will have one hour a fortnight in small groups to work with a French language assistant. This is a compulsory hour of A level languages.

### ***What else can I do outside of class to help me with my French?***

Lots. Watch French tv shows, listen to French music, redo the listening activities we do in class and at home, learn the vocabulary, use Quizlet and Memrise to help with this. Read! Read as much as you can, online newspapers, online magazines, blogs, whatever interests you, read about it in French. Attend all of your language assistant sessions.

### ***Top tips for grammar?***

Practise, practise, practise. Drills are the most effective way of learning grammar. A quick google search will provide 1000s of webpages that will support with this. For example if you google 'present subjunctive French exercises' you will find more than enough good webpages that will keep you busy.

### ***Is it really difficult?***

No, however it does require time, effort and dedication. You need to be organised and eager to learn. Your French teachers are very supportive and will be there to help you every step of the way.

### ***Is there a trip abroad?***

We don't organise a trip abroad but we do recommend a work experience trip abroad with Halsbury Travel. This is a great opportunity to meet other A Level French students from across the country and put your French language to good use in a work environment. You can find more information [here](#).

For further information: Contact Ms S Miles, Head of MFL

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