

Modern Foreign Language

French (Two-year course)-Code: 8658



This is a new course for first teaching in September 2016.

Exam board: AQA Single award

During this course you will build upon and extend the language skills acquired during Key Stage 3 (year 7, 8, 9) and develop the ability to use French effectively and for practical communication. A residential to Paris will be organised for you to be able to practise the skills learnt.

You will be required to do the following exams:

NB- No possibilities to mix tiers (Higher or/and foundation)-Only one tier can be picked throughout the skills (listening, speaking, reading, writing). GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9).

Exams and controlled assessments

****Paper 1: Listening** **25% of GCSE** **Final exam in May 2018**

Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier)

40 marks (Foundation Tier), 50 marks (Higher Tier)

Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally

Section B – questions in French, to be answered in French or non-verbally

Paper 2: Speaking **25% of GCSE** **Non-exam assessment**

7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + preparation time

10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) + preparation time

60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)

Paper 3: Reading **25% of GCSE** **Final exam in May 2018**

Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour (Higher Tier)

60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)

Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally

Section B – questions in French, to be answered in French or non-verbally

Section C – translation from French into English (a minimum of 35 words for Foundation Tier and 50 words for Higher Tier)

Written exam: 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier)

50 marks at Foundation Tier and 60 marks at Higher Tier

Foundation Tier

Question 1 – message (student produces four sentences in response to a photo) – 8 marks

Question 2 – short passage (student writes a piece of continuous text in response to four brief bullet points, approximately 40 words in total) – 16 marks

Question 3 – translation from English into French (minimum 35 words) – 10 marks

Question 4 – structured writing task (student responds to four compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 90 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 16 marks

Higher Tier

Question 1 – structured writing task (student responds to four compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 90 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 16 marks

Question 2 – open-ended writing task (student responds to two compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 150 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 32 marks

Question 3 – translation from English into French (minimum 50 words) – 12 marks

You will study the following topics throughout the two-years:

- **Theme 1: Identity and culture**

Topic 1: Me, my family and friends (Relationships with family and friends, Marriage/partnership)

Topic 2: Technology in everyday life (Social media, Mobile technology)

Topic 3: Free-time activities (Music, Cinema and TV, Food and eating out, Sport)

Topic 4: Customs and festivals in French-speaking countries/communities

- **Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest**

Topic 1: Home, town, neighbourhood and region

Topic 2: Social issues (Charity/voluntary work, Healthy/unhealthy living)

Topic 3: Global issues (The environment, Poverty/homelessness)

Topic 4: Travel and tourism

- **Theme 3: Current and future study and employment**

Topic 1: My studies

Topic 2: Life at school/college

Topic 3: Education post-16

Topic 4: Jobs, career choices and ambitions

Revision resources:

Intervention sessions will be available every fortnight and a pack of resources will always be made available to you to help you with your assessments.

You will be able to develop the following skills:

- Communicating and writing in French
- Developing the ability to work with others, taking part in debates
- Independent study skills
- Translating from French to English

Careers and further study

French is a useful subject if you are thinking of working in any of a variety of areas including travel and tourism, transport and distribution, importing and exporting, education, media, publishing, finance and banking, marketing and sales, local and central government, recruitment, social services, library and information services, the armed forces and retail/wholesale sectors.

Most employers look for generic skills such as communication, interpersonal, customer-focus and the ability to work in and contribute to a team – all of which are evident in studies of French at GCSE level and beyond.

A language could help you with your university course, and could improve your chances of studying at a good university, whether you need it or not for your future career.

Europe is a growing market for job opportunities. There is a wide choice of jobs for graduates with languages. **By choosing languages, you are not limiting your career options. Language graduates have a whole range of career opportunities open to them, for example:**

Acting	E-Business	International Organisations	Science, For Work And Research
Agricultural Agencies	Education	Journalism	Speech And Language Therapy
Architecture	Engineering	Law	Teaching
Armed Services	European Multinational Companies	Local Government	Translation And Interpreting
Banking And Finance	European Union Institutions	Manufacturing	Transport And Communications
Business	Environmental Agencies	Ministry Of Defence	Wholesale And Retail Sales
Catering	Fashion	Pilots and Air Steward/ess	
Charities And Aid Agencies	Food Industry	Public Administration	
Civil Service	Health And Social Work	Public Relations	
Customs And Excise	Historical Careers	Research	
Diplomatic Service	Hotels And Restaurants	Retail	

Employability

- ✓ A foreign language stands out on application forms.
- ✓ A language is a USP (unique selling point).
- ✓ Language skills are viewed as an asset for initial job applicants.
- ✓ A language is an unusual qualification that employers respect.
- ✓ Some companies will only take graduate entrants on fast-track programmes that have languages.
- ✓ Questions about language skills are common at interview and may even be used as a tie breaker in a final shortlist.
- ✓ A language gives you more opportunities in terms of job location and communication worldwide.
- ✓ Increasingly, people find themselves working in a multilingual or multicultural environment locally.
- ✓ Learning a second language can boost an average worker's lifetime earnings by as much as £145,000.

Find out more

<http://www.lang.ltsn.soton.ac.uk/700reasons/700reasons.aspx>

<http://www.cilt.org.uk/he/languages.pdf>