French A Level

Course Description:

The course will appeal to students who enjoy learning and using French for its own sake. French is a primary European language, spoken by 75 million worldwide, so speaking French will be an asset to any chosen career. The integration of practical French themes with other subjects will be of interest to students who wish to develop their foreign language skills and enhance their career potential. Students taking the French programme will have the opportunity to create valuable language skills and learn about aspects of life and culture in France and French-speaking regions of the world. The course is taught using a wide range of resources, including textbooks, interactive and authentic materials.

Qualifications required:

Minimum entry requirements apply. Grade 5 in French.

Aims of the course:

- Develop a detailed understanding of how the French language works.
- Improve fluency and accuracy when communicating opinions and ideas in French.
- Research and discuss an aspect of Hispanic culture that appeals to you.
- Foster a range of transferable skills, including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity.

Future Prospects:

You can progress on to:

- French or European language degree courses
- A wide range of careers, including translating, interpreting, international business, sales, and teaching

A language is an excellent addition to a wide range of subjects, from medicine to business, and will enhance your employability.

Student Feedback:

'I enjoy learning about a different culture and seeing the differences between customs.'

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Features of the Course:

- Promotes grammatical understanding and awareness
- Provides a logical progression from GCSE
- Focuses on the development of all language skills
- Rewards advanced research and reading skills
- Facilitates film and literary study
- Acknowledges the importance of knowledge and understanding of French-language culture

A-level Units

Unit 1: Social issues and trends

- The changing nature of family
- The 'cyber-society'
- The place of voluntary work
- Positive features of a diverse society
- Life for the marginalised
- How criminals are treated

Unit 2: Political and artistic culture

- A culture proud of its heritage
- Contemporary francophone music
- Cinema: the 7th art form
- Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment
- Demonstrations, strikes – who holds the power?
- Politics and immigration

Unit 3: Grammar

Unit 4: Text and Film

Students study a text and a film in French from a set list.

Unit 5: Individual research project

Students must identify a subject or key question that interests them and relates to a country or countries where French is spoken. They must select relevant information in French from a range of sources, including the internet. The research project aims to develop research skills. Students will demonstrate their ability to initiate and conduct individual research by analysing and summarising their findings to present and discuss them in the speaking assessment.

Methods of Assessment:

AS (one-year only course):
Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing – 1hr45 (45%)
Paper 2: Writing – 1hr30 (25%) one text or one film from the list
Paper 3: Speaking exam – 12-14 minutes (30%)
A level (Linear course):
Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing – 2hr30 (50%)
Paper 2: Writing – 2hr (20%) one text and one film from the list
Paper 3: Speaking exam – 21 -23 minutes (30%) including discussion of research project