
French

The A-level French specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and society. The content is suitable for students who wish to progress to employment or further study, including a modern languages degree.

The approach is a focus on how French-speaking society has been shaped, socially and culturally, and how it continues to change. In the first year, aspects of the social context are studied, together with aspects of the artistic life of French-speaking countries. In the second year further aspects of the social background are covered, this time focusing on issues such as life for those on the margins of French-speaking society as well as looking at the positive influences that diversity

brings. Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of themes relating to the culture and society of countries where French is spoken, and their language skills. They will do this by using authentic spoken and written sources in French.

The choice of works (literary texts and films) offers opportunities to link with the themes so that for example Life for the marginalised could be studied in conjunction with the book *No et moi* whilst aspects of Politics are reflected in the book *Kiffe kiffe demain* and in the films *La Haine* and *Entre les murs*.

In addition, students following this specification will:

- develop research skills in French, demonstrating the ability to initiate and conduct individual research on a subject of personal interest, relating to the country or countries where French is spoken

- identify a key question or subject of interest and select relevant information in French from a range of authentic sources, including the internet
- use information to illustrate knowledge and understanding of the research subject
- analyse and summarise research findings, elaborating on key points of interest, as appropriate, through oral presentation and discussion.

Subject content areas:

- Social issues and trends
- Political and artistic culture
- Grammar
- Works
- Individual research project