

# Clarendon Academy Sixth Form: Subject Essentials - French

Exam Board: AQA Specification: French (7652)

Fascinating French fact:

Paula Radcliffe, J. K. Rowling and Kate Beckinsale all have degrees in French!

## What topics will I study?

You will look at a range of themes and topics relating specifically to life in French-speaking cultures and societies, such as social and political issues, current trends, as well as artistic culture through in-depth study of at least one book and one film.

## How am I examined in this subject?

French A Level is assessed through three exams – two written and one spoken:

- **Paper 1 – Listening, Reading and Writing (50% of final overall grade):** this exam is marked out of 100, lasts for two and a half hours and consists of three sections: a listening test, which is worth 30 marks, a reading test, which is worth 50 marks, and a written test, consisting of two translation exercises, one from English-French, and the other from French-English, each worth ten marks.
- **Paper 2 – Writing (20% of final overall grade):** this exam lasts for two hours and is marked out of 80. In this exam, you will write two essays of approximately 300 words each, one on a book and the other on a film (both studied during the course) or on two books (again, studied during the course). These essays will explore your understanding of the concepts and issues portrayed by the writer / director, in addition to the form and techniques employed in their creation. Your grammar will also be assessed in this paper.
- **Paper 3 – Speaking (30% of final overall grade):** prior to this exam, marked out of 60, you will undertake an individual research project and then present in the exam on your chosen theme, selected from one of four themes relating to a French-speaking culture or society. This will include your response to a stimulus card (5-6 minutes, 25 marks), and presentation and discussion about your project (11-12 minutes total, 35 marks).

## How are my responses assessed?

- **AO1 – understand and respond (20%):** this assesses how effectively you can respond orally and on paper to spoken language stimuli.
- **AO2 – understand and respond (30%):** this assesses how effectively you can respond orally and on paper to written language stimuli.
- **AO3 – manipulation of language (30%):** this assesses how effectively and accurately you can manipulate the language in spoken and written forms.
- **AO4 – knowledge and understanding of culture and society (20%):** this assesses your knowledge, understanding and critical analysis of aspects of French-speaking cultures and societies.

## How could this subject support my future education or career?

An A Level in French will develop a wide range of skills that are applicable to many careers, for example in translating, interpreting, journalism and teaching. Learning a language to this level will above all develop your ability to communicate, a quality highly valued in many professions.

### How do we support students who are aiming for A/A\* grades?

- We encourage our most able students to read widely around the topics that we are studying in class. A folder of reading resources is available on the Sixth Form VLE, which contains a number of thought-provoking articles from academic and journalistic sources. Students are encouraged to read and make notes on these articles in their Supported Study sessions, and to further their own understanding through independent research on the topics.
- We organise one-to-one sessions with students who would like additional support in improving their essays or their coursework drafts.
- Students are also encouraged to make the most of live, internet-based sources of knowledge and understanding of French and French-speaking cultures and societies, such as TV and radio news channels and online journals. These provide unrivalled opportunities to further embed listening and reading comprehension skills needed to achieve the highest grades.

### How do we support students who are finding this subject difficult?

- We organise one-to-one sessions with students who are struggling with specific texts or skills in our subject.
- We can provide printed versions of the PowerPoint presentations and other notes we use in lessons for students who experience difficulties with the pace of lessons.
- We provide detailed and helpful feedback on the work that students submit to use and give them the opportunity to improve their work at regular opportunities.
- We model answers and exam-style responses needed to ensure that sufficient understanding of what is required is secured at all grades.
- Grammar support is crucial and secured through use of a course-specific grammar text book. This enables students to practice key, basic elements of linguistic structures needed to gain marks at all grade boundaries, especially at the lower end of the range.

### Who can I contact if I want to find out more?

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