

French AS level Student Guide

Is this the right subject for me?

If you enjoy meeting and talking to people from other countries, finding out about their cultures and learning how language works, then studying AS level French is an excellent choice for you!

Why should I study a language?

Learning languages encourages you to:

- Meet people from different countries and find out more about them
- Learn many skills which are useful in a wide range of careers, such as the ability to communicate clearly, be confident about speaking in public, use problem solving strategies and write coherently
- Develop critical thinking, creativity and independence
- Add an international dimension to your choice of AS level subjects, which is something many employers and higher education providers want
- Have greater opportunities to work and/or study abroad, or work for companies in the UK with international links
- Discuss interests, ideas and opinions with other people who speak the language
- Learn more about countries where the language is spoken, and the people who speak it
- Read books and watch films in their original language
- Spend time abroad (e.g. at university or on a work placement).

What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?

If you already have knowledge of a variety of topics, and can express your opinions, you are ready to build on this at AS level, though you can also start from scratch. You will learn about different aspects of French culture, literature or film, and be able to use more complex grammar and more vocabulary. This enables you to really develop an understanding of the language, the countries where it is spoken and the people who speak it.

What can I do after I've completed the course?

People with language skills and knowledge usually have an advantage over people without them. They stand out as talented and successful people, with broad and exciting horizons.

Success at AS level French means you will:

- Add an extra international dimension to your personal skills profile which will impress people who read your CV
- Be in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links
- Be able to work or study in a French-speaking country in later life
- Progress to study A level French to further your knowledge of the language and culture
- Find it easier to learn other languages later if you want to
- Add a useful skill if your main subjects are not languages: languages support careers in a range of areas including management, business, science and tourism.

What will I learn?

AS level French helps you explore a wide range of topics, which will add to your understanding of the language and country. Topics include work, education and evolving society in France, and music, the media and festivals in French-speaking countries. The book or film you study may link to the topics, giving you further insight into French culture. You will also learn new grammar and vocabulary and you will be able to translate into and out of French. You will

develop your critical thinking, creativity and independence and also develop skills to be able to learn other languages.

How will I be assessed?

You will take three exams which make up the total available. Paper 1 is 40% of the total marks; Paper 2 is 30% and Paper 3 is 30%. You will be given a certificate with a grade between E and A with A being the highest.

Paper 1 Listening, reading and translation	Paper 2 Written response to works and translation	Paper 3 Speaking
In the listening section of this paper, you will answer multiple-choice and comprehension questions in French on a variety of recordings. In the reading section, you will also answer multiple-choice and comprehension questions in French, based on a variety of written texts. You will also translate a passage from French into English.	In this paper you will write about a book or a film that you have studied throughout the year. There will also be a translation of a passage from English into French.	Before this exam you will have 15 minutes to read two short texts on the topic of Evolving French Society. You will then discuss the texts with your examiner, who is usually your teacher. You will also discuss an aspect of political and/or artistic culture in a French-speaking country.

Example questions

An example of a multiple choice question

Tous les 21 juin, la Fête de la musique, grande manifestation populaire et gratuite ouverte à tous les participants amateurs et professionnels, envahit les rues et les places de nos villes et de nos villages, mêlant pendant une nuit tous les genres musicaux et s'adressant à tous les publics.

Question : Choisissez la bonne fin pour les phrases. Cochez la bonne fin pour les phrases

La participation à la Fête de la musique ...

<input type="checkbox"/>	A est réservée aux musiciens de grand talent.
<input type="checkbox"/>	B n'est ouverte qu'à certaines générations.
<input type="checkbox"/>	C est uniquement pour les habitants des grandes villes françaises.
<input type="checkbox"/>	D ne coûte rien pour les spectateurs.

Answer: D

An example of a comprehension question

Avec des millions de spectateurs au bord des routes, une retransmission télévisée dans 186 pays, une caravane publicitaire de 250 véhicules représentant 40 grandes marques, chaque mois de juillet, le Tour de France est l'épreuve sportive annuelle la plus suivie.

Question: Comment est-ce que les entreprises de grandes marques peuvent bénéficier du Tour de France ?

Answer: Elles reçoivent la publicité.

Next steps

Talk to your teacher about taking AS level French.

Visit the Edexcel website (www.edexcel.com/alevel2016) for more information about what you will be studying and how you will be assessed.