

French

GCE Student Guide

GCE French will give you a fascinating insight into the French language and culture. Whilst developing the ability to communicate confidently and effectively in French in both speaking and writing, you will also learn about the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of French-speaking countries and communities.

The study of French will significantly contribute to your personal development, will help you gain skills through independent study and research and widen your career opportunities.



Why study French?

If you have an interest and a desire to learn about and experience the world around you then you will be well suited to this course. The AS units can be taken on their own as a stand-alone AS qualification which will provide you with a wealth of knowledge and competence in French for use in employment and leisure and travel; however, if you wish to continue to specialise in French at degree level or an equivalent, then you should continue with the A2 units and obtain the full A level French qualification.

We live in an interconnected world where international and cross-cultural working relationships are commonplace and a key aspect of the global workplace. Being able to speak another language, understand other cultures and empathise with colleagues who are working in a different language are valuable skills for students and will broaden the range of possible career plans open to you.

Learning a language also gives students opportunities to develop confidence, independence, communication skills, presentation techniques and IT competence, as well as skills in research, evaluation and analysis that colleges, universities and employers value highly.

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What will I study?

Unit	Areas of Study
AS 1: Speaking	AS themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationships; and • Culture and Lifestyle.
AS 2: Section A – Listening Section B – Reading Section C – Use of Language	AS themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationships; and • Culture and Lifestyle.
AS 3: Extended writing	One of the following: Film Berri: <i>Manon des sources</i> Truffaut: <i>Les 400 coups</i> Literature Camus: <i>L'Etranger</i> Vigan: <i>No et moi</i>
A2 1: Speaking	Introduction and discussion based on an individual research project Options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A cultural aspect of a French-speaking country or community; or • An historical period [twentieth-century] of a French-speaking country or community; or • A specific region of a French-speaking country or community. Conversation based on A2 themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young People in Society; and • Our Place in a Changing World. AS themes may be included as appropriate.
A2 2: Section A – Listening Section B – Reading	A2 themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young People in Society; and • Our Place in a Changing World.
A2 3: Extended writing	One of the following literary texts: Mauriac: <i>Thérèse Desqueyroux</i> Pagnol: <i>La Gloire de mon Père</i> Prévert: <i>A Selection of poems</i> Sartre: <i>Les Mains Sales</i>

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How will I be assessed?

Unit	Assessment Description	Weighting
AS 1: Speaking	This is made up of a presentation [3 minutes] which you will prepare in advance followed by a conversation [8 minutes]. It will be conducted by an External Examiner. The speaking test will last approximately 11 minutes. Available in Summer only	30% of AS level 12% of A level
AS 2: Listening, Reading and Use of Language	Section A: Listening The listening test will consist of two sets of questions based on two passages recorded on disk. It will last approximately 40 minutes. Section B: Reading One set of questions in French based on one passage and one translation from French into English Section C: Use of Language Five questions with grammatical and lexical exercises and the translation of sentences from English into French Sections B and C are combined into one paper which will last 1 hour 20 minutes. Available in Summer only	40% of AS level 16% of A level
AS 3: Extended Writing	The test will consist of one extended writing response chosen from a range of questions. This will last 1 hour. Available in Summer only	30% of AS level 12% of A level AS: 40% of A level
A2 1: Speaking	This is made up of an introduction [1 minute] which you will prepare in advance followed by a discussion [5 minutes] and then a conversation [9 minutes]. It will be conducted by an External Examiner. The speaking test will last approximately 15 minutes. Available in Summer only	18% of A level
A2 2: Listening and Reading	Section A: Listening The listening test will consist of two sets of questions based on two passages recorded on disk with answers in French and in English. It will last approximately 45 minutes. Section B: Reading The reading test will consist of two sets of questions in French based on two passages, one summary exercise and one translation from English into French. It will last 2 hours. Available in Summer only	24% of A level
A2 3: Extended Writing	The test will consist of one extended writing response chosen from a range of questions. This will last 1 hour. Available in Summer only	18% of A level A2: 60% of A level

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What can I do with a qualification in French?

Learning a language will give you a wide range of skills and attributes. Not only will you be able to communicate in another language but you will have opportunities to improve communication and interpersonal skills which are highly sought after by employers, colleges and universities.

There are opportunities to study abroad through Erasmus+, Da Vinci or other international programmes. A qualification in GCE French will enable you to consider a range of employment opportunities such as teaching, tourism, broadcasting, marketing, enterprise and business. GCE French will also benefit you in areas such as financial services, information technology, journalism, engineering, international non-governmental organisations and government bodies.

To find out more, visit the **CCEA Website** for the latest support and updates for this subject.

