



FRENCH

Modern languages are highly valued by employers. French is therefore a good combination with almost any AS or A-level subject. As a university subject, it can be taken on its own or with all kinds of other subjects. You will have the opportunity to spend some time in France and to enjoy the company of French people more.

A-level French is very different from GCSE French because:

- It provides a better understanding of the language and how it works
- It makes you a problem-solver who can, at a glance, get the message and reply appropriately
- It gives you an insight into another country and culture, which, although geographically close and similar in many ways, is also very different. The old entente cordiale is wonderful, but it does not explain the quintessential differences between our two cultures

The course

Year 12

At AS level, the course has been designed to take into account the likely linguistic knowledge of students who have only recently completed a French GCSE. It is envisaged that the topics studied will stimulate their interest and engage and motivate them. The end of Year 12 examination will take the form of a formal assessment to consider a student's ability for further study in Year 13. The course will cover:

Theme 1: Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends – marriage and family, the cyber-

society and technology, the role of voluntary and charitable work in society.

Theme 2: Artistic culture in the French-speaking world – notion of heritage and culture; contemporary French music; cinema as the seventh art form

Study of a film – *Au Revoir les Enfants*, a film which is set in the context of the French Occupation. As well as studying the main themes and characters, the historic context of the film allows students to explore major events that shaped the occupation and thereby French society.

Year 13

The second year of the A-level course is designed to build on the knowledge acquired and consolidated at AS level, with more challenging grammar and the introduction of literature alongside an independent research project. The course will cover:

Theme 3: Aspects of French-speaking society – positive aspects of a diverse society, what life is like in France for those marginalised, how to treat criminals

Theme 4: Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world – adolescents, the right to vote and political engagement, demonstrations and strikes – who has the power, politics and immigration

Independent research task (cultural topic: research author, art movement, historical period, current trend or political issue) – in Year 13 students will be researching a theme independently with a view to presenting the topic for two minutes with a follow up discussion for a further nine to 10 minutes.

French A-level and beyond

A degree in Modern Languages will open many doors for you. It will give you the edge over many of your competitors for jobs in the City and also in fields such as engineering, journalism, sales and retail, tourism and many more. There is currently a shortage of language skills and demand is therefore very high. A language can also be combined very usefully with a degree subject such as Law; for example, Law with French is a very popular university choice.