

FRENCH (AQA)



Our French department is one of the most successful in the country with **75%** of our students achieving A* in 2022 and **43%** of the students who gained a place for Medicine this year studied French at A level and gained A* in this subject. French is seen as a facilitating subject by Russell Group Universities and it makes your application stand out if you apply to top universities in fields such as Medicine, Law or Science, therefore your career possibilities are extremely wide if you choose to study it at A level.

In addition, it hasn't been a more exciting time to deepen your knowledge of French. It is estimated that the total number of French speakers will be approximately 500 million people in 2025 and 700 million people by 2050, according to the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (around one tenth of the estimated world population). Nevertheless, the value of learning a language cannot be reduced to numbers, French language is one of the many expressions of the cultures and societies it relates to and it makes us want to learn more about it.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

You will need to have achieved at least a Grade 7 in your French GCSE exam. It will lead you to a linear A level exam.

SPECIFICATION FOR AQA

The A Level specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE and constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society: how French-speaking society has been shaped, socially and culturally, and how it continues to change. It fosters a range of transferable skills, including communication, critical thinking, strong research skills and creativity. The course is divided in 4 main themes and sub-themes and you must in addition study one text and one film which will be chosen by the department. You will also have to carry an individual research project which will be assessed as part of your speaking examination.

Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends

- The changing nature of the family (La famille en voie de changement)
- The 'cyber-society' (La « cyber-société »)
- The place of voluntary work (Le rôle du bénévolat)

Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues

- Positive features of a diverse society (Les aspects positifs d'une société diverse)
- Life for the marginalised (Quelle vie pour les marginalisés ?)
- How criminals are treated (Comment on traite les criminels)

ST MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world

- Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment (Les ados, le droit de vote et l'engagement politique)
- Demonstrations, strikes – who holds the power? (Manifestations, grèves – à qui le pouvoir ?)
- Politics and immigration (La politique et l'immigration)

Artistic culture in the French-speaking world

- A culture proud of its heritage (Une culture fière de son patrimoine)
- Contemporary francophone music (La musique francophone contemporaine)
- Cinema: the 7th art form (Cinéma : le septième art).

ASSESSMENT

The exam consists of three papers:

- **Paper 1:** Listening, reading, translation into English and French (100 words min per passage). 2 hours 30 minutes. 40% of your exam.
- **Paper 2:** Writing on one text and one film or two texts. 2 hours, 300 words per essay. 30% of your exam.
- **Paper 3:** Speaking. 16-18 minutes + 5minutes prep. Respond to 1 stimulation cards from 1 sub-theme. 2 minutes presentation and 10 min discussion on individual research project. 30% of your exam.

KEY SKILLS

In order to be successful in your study of French at A level, you will need to show great organisational skills, flexibility and curiosity of mind, passion and the ability to lead independent research.

CAREER POSSIBILITIES

As said before, French is seen as a facilitating subject by Russell Group Universities and it makes your application stand out in fields such as Medicine, Law or Science, therefore your career possibilities are extremely wide if you choose to study it at A level.

Please find below more specialised career opportunities.

Business: Banking, Finance, International relations Consultant, Foreign Correspondent, Importer/Exporter, International Account Manager, International Banking Officer.....

Government: National Security Agent, Immigration Officer, Court Interpreter, Cultural Attaché, UNESCO Official, Translator/Interpreter, Foreign Diplomat, Foreign Service Officer.

Culture/Tourism: Cultural Events Coordinator, Travel Agent, Translator/Interpreter.