

GCSE Course Description

The GCSE course is based on use of the language in authentic situations.

Theme 1: Identity and culture

You will study topics such as family and friends, marriage and partnership, social media, mobile technology, free-time activities and customs and festivals.

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

You will study home town, region, social issues, charity/voluntary work, healthy/unhealthy living, global issues, the environment, poverty, and tourism.

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

You will study topics such as your studies, life at school, career choices and ambitions.

Access to online learning resources such as Kerboodle and Vocabexpress will enable you to develop your language skills to the full by supporting the work that you do in the classroom.

Assessment

The French GCSE language course is based on the four linguistic skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier; each is worth 25% of the GCSE.

Paper 1, Listening

A written exam of 35 minutes (Foundation) or 45 minutes (Higher).

Paper 2, Speaking

Non-exam assessment of 7–9 minutes (Foundation) or 10–12 minutes (Higher).

Paper 3, Reading

A written exam of 45 minutes (Foundation) or 1 hour (Higher) including translation from French into English.

Paper 4, Writing

A written exam of 1 hour (Foundation) or 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher) including translation from English into French. This GCSE will be graded on the new 9-1 scale.

A-Level: Key Stage 5

The first year of the course will focus on how French-speaking society has been shaped socially and culturally and how it continues to change. You will develop your language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing through the study of a range of contemporary topics such as the changing nature of the family, the 'cyber-society', the place of voluntary work, culture, contemporary francophone music and cinema. Your course will include an in-depth study of grammar with translation to and from French. You will also study a French film. You will write critical and analytical essays about the film that you study.

In the second year of the course further aspects of the social background of French-speaking countries are covered as well as studying aspects of the political landscape. You will continue to develop your language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing through the study of a range of topics such as the positive features of a diverse society, life for the marginalised, the treatment of criminals, political engagement of young people, the role of demonstrations and strikes and politics and immigration. You will also continue to study a French film as well as a literary text in French. Activities will include listening to a range of spoken texts and reading a wide variety of texts, in-depth study of more advanced grammar with translation to and from French, pair and class discussion as well as writing critical and analytical essays on the film and the text that you have studied.

Assessment:

Paper One will assess listening, reading and writing. For the listening component you will have individual control of the recording. The reading section will comprise of texts written for different purposes with comprehension questions that will target main points, gist and detail. You will also have to translate a passage into English and another into French.

Paper Two will assess your writing skills and you will be expected to write two critical, analytical essays on the text and the film that you have studied.

Paper Three will assess speaking. There will be a discussion of a sub-theme that you have studied with the discussion based on a stimulus card. You will also present and discuss your individual research project.

In Year 12 your mock exam in reading and listening will be based on the topics covered in the first year of the course. The speaking exam will just consist of the two stimulus cards and the writing exam will just be based on the film.

Qualification required:

GCSE grade 5 in French.

