

FRENCH

Advanced General Certificate of Education (A level)

The A-level course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and society. The content is suitable for students who wish to progress to employment or further study, including a modern languages degree. The approach is a focus on how French-speaking society has been shaped, socially and culturally, and how it continues to change.

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In the first year, aspects of the social context are studied, together with aspects of the artistic life of French-speaking countries.

In the second year further aspects of the social background are covered, this time focusing on issues, such as life for those on the margins of French-speaking society as well as looking at the positive influences that diversity brings.

Students must study the themes and sub-themes below in relation to at least one French-speaking country.

Course Content:

A-LEVEL: FRENCH (7652) AQA

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes • 160 marks in total • 40% of A-level

Paper 2: Writing

- Written exam: 2 hours • 90 marks in total • 30% of A-level

Paper 3: Speaking

- Oral exam: 21–23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time)
- 60 marks in total • 30% of A-level

Core content:

Social issues and trends of French-speaking Society

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

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)

Political and 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) • 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)

Grammar

A-level students will be expected to have studied the grammatical system and structures of the language during their course. Knowledge of the grammar and structures specified for GCSE is assumed. In the exam students will be required to use, actively and accurately, grammar and structures appropriate to the tasks set.

Works: Literary texts and films

KEW HOUSE SCHOOL SIXTH FORM

Students must study either one text and one film or two texts from the list below.

Texts

- Molière Le Tartuffe
- Voltaire Candide
- Maupassant Boule de suif et autres contes de la guerre
- Camus L'étranger
- Françoise Sagan Bonjour tristesse
- Claire Etcherelli Elise ou la vraie vie
- Joseph Joffo Un sac de billes
- Faïza Guène Kiffe kiffe demain
- Philippe Grimbert Un secret
- Delphine de Vigan No et moi

Films

- Au revoir les enfants
- La Haine
- L'auberge espagnole
- Un long dimanche de fiançailles
- Entre les murs
- Les 400 coups

Individual research project

Students must identify a subject or a key question which is of interest to them and which relates to a country or countries where French is spoken. They must select relevant information in French from a range of sources including the internet. The aim of the research project is to develop research skills. Students will demonstrate their ability to initiate and conduct individual research by analysing and summarising their findings, in order to present and discuss them in the speaking assessment.