



Introduction

Languages are a key component of education at Runnymede College, with all students studying French up to IGCSE in Year 11 and a large number continuing in the Sixth Form. The study of French provides students with a lifelong skill in communicating in a widely spoken language of continued global importance, and the experience of doing so opens students up to a different culture and gives them the tools necessary to learn other languages in the future.

At A level the examination specifications demand that students use their language skills to respond to the world around them in a far more analytical way than previously. New structures and a more advanced vocabulary are required to support the more nuanced style of communication needed to express ideas clearly and subtly. Far greater use is made of authentic materials and students study history, literature and film to give them a broader sense of French culture and to give real context to their studies. Students have weekly sessions with the language assistant to practise their speaking.

French is a popular subject at A level, combining effectively with all subjects to offer additional breadth in the humanities or a contrasting skill with the sciences and, very importantly, a life skill with real personal and professional value. As well as the A level students prepare and sit the C1 qualification which is recognised as part of the European language framework and gives access to university courses taught in French.

Students often go on to study French at university either alongside a new language or as an element of a business course.

Content

The AQA A level covers the following topic areas in Year 12:

- The changing nature of family
- The 'cyber-society'
- The place of voluntary work
- A culture proud of its heritage
- Contemporary francophone music
- Cinema: the 7th art form

In Year 12 we also study the set film, Louis Malle's *Au revoir les enfants*.

The AQA A level covers the following topic areas in Year 13:

- Positive features of a diverse society
- Life for the marginalised
- How criminals are treated
- Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment
- Demonstrations, strikes – who holds the power?
- Politics and immigration

In Year 13 we also study the set text, Delphine de Vigan's *No et moi*, and revise all of the topics covered in Year 12.

The full list of grammatical content is long but it is principally a deepening understanding of concepts covered further down the school. The main exception to this is the use of the subjunctive, which is taught as new material to all students.

C1 content is taught once a week.

Skills

At A level students are expected to develop advanced language skills.

Students should be able to deal with complex, authentic written texts and recorded material to understand broad meaning and to pick out specific details. They will develop the grammatical range and accuracy to produce fluent French in both a written and spoken context that communicates nuanced ideas effectively. Students are expected to develop their own research skills to collate evidence for their own arguments that they are then able to present themselves, in front of the class and then in essay form.

Homework

Students are given tasks (comprehension work, essay writing, preparation of presentations, grammar exercises) after most lessons to consolidate their knowledge and assess their progress, but they are additionally expected to dedicated a substantial amount of time to their French outside of lessons. This will involve independent research on specific topics and directed reading of relevant articles, but students are also required to develop their own interests exploring French language literature, cinema and music, and to discover other sources of French that interest them. Only a broad and disciplined approach is likely to allow the attainment of a level of French good enough to succeed at A level and at C1.

Assessment

The AQA French A level is assessed across 3 papers:

- Paper 1 (50%): Listening and reading comprehension, summary writing and translation
- Paper 2 (20%): Essays (in French) on set film and set text
- Paper 3 (30%): Speaking about set topics and an area of interest prepared independently by the candidate

Regular testing and assessment of knowledge and skills takes place each week and each unit is finished with a test using Paper 1 exam style questions. There is an exam in the summer term of Year 12.

C1 is examined externally in February of Year 13.

Resources and Materials

Textbook: AQA A level Year 1 French

Pupils use Google Classroom to access resources, homework tasks and online assessment. Revision advice and suggested websites and videos are also posted here.

Pupils frequently use Pages and Keynote to produce written work and Voice Record for speaking assignments. For collaborative tasks pupils use Google Docs, Slides and Forms.

We make frequent use of the following additional online resources:

- Digital version of textbook: <https://www.kerboodle.com/>
- Departmental website: <https://relevantideas.weebly.com/>
- Language work: <https://wordwall.net/>
- Vocabulary revision: <https://quizlet.com/>
- Online quizzes: <https://www.blooket.com/>
- Online quizzes: <https://kahoot.com/>
- Online dictionary: <https://www.wordreference.com/>
- Video resources: <https://www.youtube.com/>
- Video resources: <https://vimeo.com/>
- News website: <https://www.francetvinfo.fr/>
- Newspaper: <https://www.lemonde.fr/>
- Newspaper: <https://www.courrierinternational.com/>