



Queen Elizabeth Grammar School
Wakefield

Technical Information

A-level

| A-level Course Title | Unit Code | Awarding Body |
|----------------------|-----------|---------------|
| French | 7652 | AQA |

A-level Examinations:

| Name | Method of Assessment | |
|---------|--------------------------------|-----|
| Paper 1 | Listening, reading and writing | 50% |
| Paper 2 | Writing | 20% |
| Paper 3 | Speaking | 30% |

QEGS Senior School

(Boys 11-18 years)
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Course Guide

A-level French

French

Background Knowledge and Qualifications

- Are you predicted to achieve a good grade in your French GCSE?
- Do you enjoy being able to communicate in another language?
- Do you enjoy getting to grips with new language structures?
- Would you like to find out more about the culture and society of French-speaking countries?
- Are you planning to study languages at University?
- Would you like to study a foreign language alongside another area of interest?
- Will offering another European language increase your future job prospects?

Course Description

As well as improving your mastery of the language, all aspects of the course focus on the society, culture and history of French-speaking countries. You will finish the course not only as a proficient speaker of the language, but also as a young adult going out into the diverse environment of Higher Education or employment with a greater understanding of the world around you. Furthermore, you will have developed a range of transferable skills including communication, research skills, critical thinking and creativity.

Course Content

Aspects of French-speaking society

- The changing nature of the family
- The 'cyber-society'
- The place of voluntary work

Multiculturalism in French-speaking society

- Positive features of a diverse society
- Life for the marginalised
- How criminals are treated

Artistic culture in the French-speaking world

- A culture proud of its heritage
- Contemporary francophone music
- Cinema: the 7th art form

Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world

- Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment
- Demonstrations, strikes – who holds the power?
- Politics and immigration?

The course content provides the context for honing the four language skills of Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing. In addition, students in both years will study the grammatical system and structure of French. You will also build on your translation skills into and out of French.

A-level students will study two set texts, or one book and one film over the two years.

French A-level provides the opportunity to carry out individual research pursuing a subject of personal interest, relating to the French-speaking world. You will find that developing research skills is a valuable preparation for university study. You might wish to explore the history and role of rugby in France, the contribution made to science by Marie Curie, the origins and legacy of French impressionism, or perhaps focus your research on a particular musician or artist, for example.

Our experienced teaching staff will inform, encourage and guide you to facilitate your learning. Authentic sources from the media and the internet will support your studies as your curiosity about the culture of French-speaking countries grows. You will use the two language laboratories to practise your language skills and will have access to literature and films in the school library. You will participate in regular conversation classes, in small groups and on a one-to-one basis, with our French assistant. There may also be the opportunity to participate in a work experience or language-study trip. There is no coursework at A-level.

Use of Course and Qualification

French can combine with any other A-level subjects. It would suit those wishing to study a language at university or those looking to combine French with another subject. Law, Business Studies, Marketing, Accountancy, Sciences, Journalism, Engineering or Architecture all complement the study of French. Indeed, with its transferable skills, universities have offered places to our linguists on a wide range of courses, including Medicine, Dentistry and Psychology.

What do modern language graduates do?

Almost two-thirds of modern languages graduates enter employment within six months of graduation. Popular areas of work include translating, writing, advertising and marketing, personnel and HR, sales accounts and business development management, business sales, and finance and investment analysis and advice.

Studying a language increases your employability in many ways. Studying language teaches you all the skills that employers look for: an analytical mind; good thought processes; amazing memory capacity; fantastic cultural and intercultural awareness; good communication; great team player...to name but a few.

Why is French an important modern foreign language?

French is spoken by more than 220 million people on the five continents. It is the only language, alongside English, taught in every country in the world. It is the international language of cooking, fashion, theatre, the visual arts, dance and architecture. Studying French will open your eyes to the world of French cinema, music and literature, which has been so influential in our society.

Student Testimonial

Year 13 student
Proposed University Course: English Law with French law

French stimulates an active and spontaneous mind and is thoroughly enjoyable dealing with all aspects of communication. Lessons are lively involving exploration of concepts beyond the basic course content and debating skills which help you to learn the language relevant to the course.

