

## AQA A Level French

### Why study French at The Sixth Form at Ridgewood?

- At a time when fewer students are studying languages, French will make you stand out to universities
- The course offers a huge amount of variety. It will teach you not only about the language itself, but also about the history and culture of France
- You will study a range of different topics – from music and art to politics, criminality and immigration
- Benefit from small class sizes
- Build confidence and communication skills through learning to express your views in a different language
- The MFL team is a small, friendly team who will go above and beyond to support you in any way we can. If you need extra support, we will be happy to offer it to you at any point, including offering extra sessions after-school.

### What topics will I study in this subject?

Topic	What this means
Current trends in French speaking society	You will study topics that are affecting life in France and other French-speaking countries through a wide range of different sources. Using news reports, videos and literature you will look at the changing role of family, technology, the treatment of criminals, the place of voluntary work and the experiences of the marginalised in French society
Artistic culture	You will look at the heritage of France and how it has affected its culture today. In particular, you will study its music and cinema and see how these have evolved over the years
Political life in the French speaking world	This sub-theme takes a closer look at the role that young people play in politics today and debates topics such as the right to vote, immigration, the role of unions and the power of demonstrations and strikes
Literature and film module	You will read a well-known French novel and watch a film and analyse the characters and themes within them. This module links directly to the writing exam, where you will have to use quotes and techniques from the two to support your arguments

### What skills will I need in this subject?

Skill	What this skill involves in this subject
Essay writing	You will need to be able to write short essays in French, analysing themes in a novel and film. These will be studied in depth in class time and we will examine how these relate to French culture
Communication	It is important to be able to communicate clearly in French, both orally and in written form. Speaking lessons will form a core part of your study and we will work on being able to use the language spontaneously
Presenting and debating	You will need to have your own views, and be able to justify them clearly on a range of topics, as well as recognising the arguments for and against these opinions.

## What will my lessons involve?

- Studying French culture, society, history and politics
- Taking an in-depth look at a French film and novel
- Lessons dedicated to speaking in French on a variety of topics. This could be through debates, presentations and conversation
- Carrying out independent research on topics of French culture that interest you
- Reading and listening to authentic resources (songs/newspaper articles/literature) and answering questions based on your understanding of them

## What will my independent study involve?

- Translation tasks, both from English and into English
- Learning words for weekly vocabulary tests
- Revising grammar points
- Listening to extracts and summarising them in French
- Preparing for speaking lessons by putting together presentations or arguments for a debate
- Reading texts to test your comprehension of more complex French

## How will I be assessed?

Percentage exam assessment: 100%	Percentage coursework assessment: 0%
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Assessment	Details of assessment
Paper 1: Reading, writing and listening	Exam taken in summer of Year 13. A 2 hour 30 minute exam worth 50% of the final grade Students will listen to and read extended texts based on the topics covered in the course, and will have to answer questions on them and summarise them in French. There will also be two translation tasks of at least 100 words, one from French to English and one from English to French.
Paper 2: Writing	Exam taken in summer of Year 13. A 2 hour exam worth 20% of the final grade Students will answer an essay question in French on one of each of works studied (a film and a book). These will be around 300 words each and you will have a choice of the question you answer.
Paper 3: Speaking	Exam taken in summer of Year 13. A 21-23 minute exam (including five minutes preparation time) with your class teacher, worth 30% of the final grade Part 1: A discussion of a theme studied during the course, based on a photo card. Students will have a choice of two and this will last around 5-6 minutes Part 2: Students will give a presentation of about two minutes on a topic of their choice, followed by a discussion of about 9-10 minutes on the topic

## How do I know this is the right course for me?

- A level French is a challenging but rewarding course. You need to have a secure grasp of basic grammar and a good memory for vocabulary. It is also important that you are not afraid to make mistakes when speaking out loud in the language.
- Current students enjoy the variety that the course offers and the fact that they are learning about a range of different topics, many of which then support their knowledge in other studies.
- There is quite a big step up from GCSE in terms of the exam questions, especially in listening.
- French uses similar skills to English, Politics and History, in that you need to be confident understanding sources and writing essays. Students studying sciences and Maths have told us that they feel the contrast of subjects shows universities that they are able to display a variety of skills.
- Due to the level of independent study needed, you need to be passionate about the French language and enjoy watching French films and listening to French music in order to immerse themselves in the language and improve their vocabulary.