

Warlingham
Sixth Form College

Year 11 > Year 12 Transition
Summer Term
A Level French

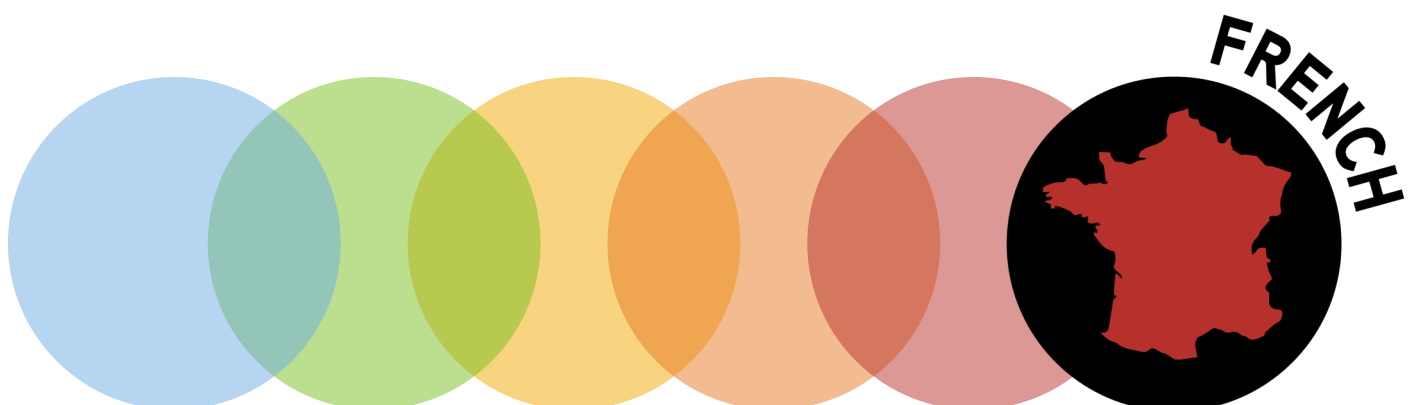












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COURSE OVERVIEW

Course Title: AQA A Level French (7652)

Why study a language for A Level?

There are many good reasons to study languages at A Level, including the skills you'll learn, the travel opportunities, the career paths you can take and the business advantages. Do you have a curiosity about other cultures? Are you good at grasping grammar? Come and consider studying languages at A Level! Speaking more than one language, even if only to A Level, can open doors for both study and work opportunities, and it's seen as a valuable asset to many companies.

A Level French is also a **facilitating subject** for University entrance. (Facilitating subjects are the subjects most commonly required or preferred by universities to get on to a range of degree courses. They help you keep your options open when choosing a degree, and many of the top universities will ask you to have at least one A Level in a facilitating subject when you apply).

What skills will you gain from studying an A Level in French?

An A Level in French will enable students to:

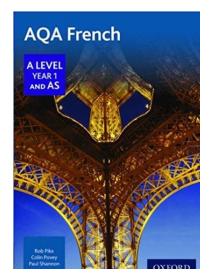
- Enhance their linguistic skills and promote and develop their capacity for critical thinking
- Develop their confidence and ability to interact effectively, developing communication strategies
- Engage critically with intellectually stimulating texts, films and other materials in the original language
- Develop knowledge about matters central to the society and culture of French speaking countries
- Foster their ability to learn other languages
- Equip themselves with transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, critical and analytical thinking
- Develop as independent researchers

Course entry requirements: Grade 6 or above at GCSE

Which topics will you study?

In Year 1 (Year 12) you will study the following topics:

1. Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends
 - Family in the process of changing
 - "Cyber-society"
 - The role of voluntary work





COURSE OVERVIEW

Which topics will you study (cont'd)?

2. Artistic culture in the French-speaking world

- A culture proud of its heritage
- Contemporary Francophone music
- The seventh art

Year 2 (Year 13)

1. Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues

- Positive aspects of a diverse society
- What life for the marginalised?
- How criminals are treated

2. Aspects of the political life in the French-speaking world

- Teenagers, the right to vote and political engagement
- Demonstrations, strikes, who has the power?
- Politics and immigration



Assessment Scheme

Paper 1: listening, reading and writing (2hrs 30mins) – 50%

Questions in French to be answered in French

Translation from French to English and from English to French

Paper 2: writing (2hrs) – 20%

Questions on texts and films

Paper 3: speaking (21-23 mins) – 30%

Discussion on a prepared stimulus card (5-6 mins)

Presentation on individual research project (9-10 mins)

What did our current students choose to study?

They chose:

- The film “**La Haine**” by Matthiew Kassovitz
- The book “**Un sac de billes**” by Joseph Joffo





OUR EXPECTATIONS

College Expectations for Academic Success

The College will work closely with all students and parents to create a purposeful, creative and stimulating environment in which students are encouraged to fully develop - both academically and personally.

We will expect you to take responsibility for your own behaviour and learning. The current College Committee along with the student body have discussed and agreed that students should commit to:

- Ensuring academic success through regular attendance and punctuality at all required registrations, lessons, supervised study lessons and Inspire Periods. Attendance which drops below 95% reduces Key Stage 5 performance by at least one grade, so it is taken very seriously.
- Completing all set tasks on time to the best of your ability, making full use of study periods and homework to enable you to meet all deadlines.
- Using study time effectively by bringing all required equipment and resources with you and making full and regular use of the College study rooms and LRC, respecting the need for silent studying conditions.
- Working closely with all your teachers to develop an effective working relationship based on mutual respect and discussing your work with them on a regular basis and meeting targets set.
- Developing your skills as an independent, self-evaluative learner and work closely with your tutor in monitoring and discussing your academic progress. As an independent learner, if you miss a lesson, it is your own responsibility to find the teacher and catch up with the work missed.
- Organising your work efficiently and effectively into folders for each subject, making full use of individual subject expectations and using Cornell Notes daily to ensure work in your folders is relevant and meaningful.
- Keeping mobile phones out-of-sight in all classrooms and during assemblies so that lessons are not disturbed and/or important information is missed.
- Attending all parents' evenings and arrange appointments with your teachers to discuss your progress and work.



OUR EXPECTATIONS

Course-specific Expectations for Academic Success

- Attend all lessons. If not able to attend please inform your teacher by email so that work can be sent to you. You are expected to catch up all work missed.
- Attend all speaking lessons with the Language Assistant and/or your teacher.
- Bring your folder to every lesson, and ensure your notes are correctly organised as per your teachers' instructions.
- Ensure all work is handed in on time.
- Act promptly on feedback.
- Contribute positively and willingly to discussions and other activities.
- Listen to the opinions of others with respect and courtesy.
- Complete independent study each week, you should expect to spend at least 3-4 hours each week.



USING CORNELL NOTES

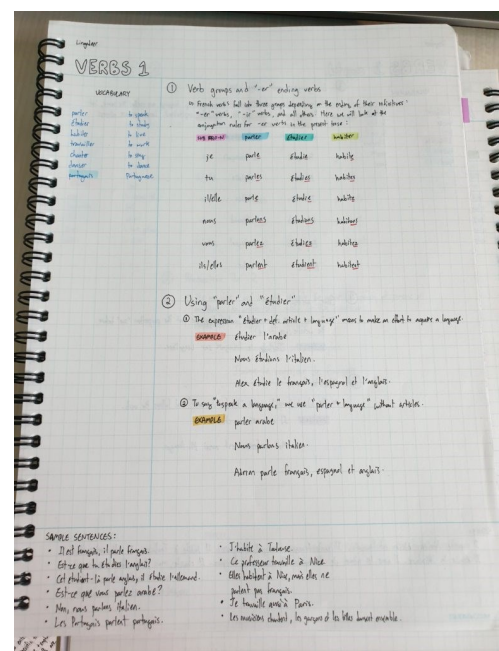
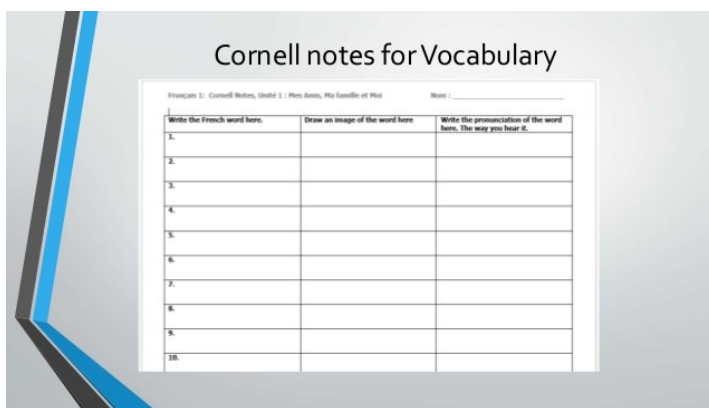
The Cornell Notes system is a note-taking system devised by Walter Pauk, an education professor at Cornell University. It is a proven method that establishes a more effective learning process.

It is designed to help the user think and reflect upon the notes they have made as well as making them more useful for revision purposes.

Please [click here](#) to watch a video that explains how to take Cornell Notes properly.

Using Cornell method for learning a language:

To help you understand how to use these notes for French please [read](#) this article about a student sharing his experience of language learning and using the Cornell method for taking notes.





REVIEW / REVISE

Revising your grammar and your vocabulary will help you feel more confident when you start in September. The key for your revision is to adopt the motto **“LITTLE and OFTEN”**.

Grammar

Revise your tenses, and verb endings. You can use the following websites to help you:

<https://conjuguemos.com/>

<https://www.languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/frenchindex.html>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zhh2gwx>

Complete grammar exercises, and use the games to practise and memorise your verb endings.

Vocabulary

Your school may have given you access to [VocabExpress](#) (you will need your username, password and school code).

Keep revisiting each unit both from Foundation and Higher.

You can also use [Quizlet](#) to revise your vocabulary. You will not need to log in but access is free.

Start with Unit 1, type in the search browser “AQA GCSE French unit 1”. Then change to unit 2, and so on....





WATCH

- Watch this [video](#) from the British Council and make notes on the benefits of learning a language:



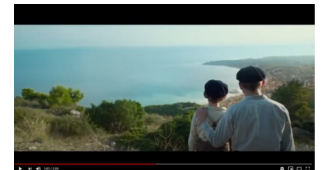
- Our first year we will start studying the film *La Haine* from Mathieu Kassovitz:

- watch the [trailer](#)
- translate the title
- what do you think the film is about? Where is it taking place exactly?
- research events which took place in 1995 in France



- We will also be studying the book "Un sac de billes" by Joseph Joffo. To familiarise yourself watch this [video](#). A film was made in 2017 about the book and its author, Joseph Joffo, worked closely with the film director so that this true story was truthfully related.

- what do you think the film is about? Make notes
- who was Joseph Joffo?
- translate the following quote from the trailer. What do you understand from it? "Il vaut mieux prendre une claque qui fait mal que perdre la vie parce qu'on a peur d'en prendre une."



- [TV5Monde](#) is a French television channel broadcasting several channels in the French language.

- go and explore the various programmes from news to sport, music, culture, etc...
- choose a programme of your liking and watch on a regular basis

- How to stay motivated when learning a language:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l57XikZUURU&feature=>



LISTEN TO

Besides the obvious benefit of being able to speak and listen to French without any trouble, there are some less obvious benefits that come along with honed listening comprehension skills:

- your accent sounds more French,
- learning new vocabulary happens almost by osmosis.

As you listen, you'll pick up new vocabulary all the time. Some of it will stick, and some won't, but you'll be surprised how much you retain. Many of the words you learn might show up in something you read and you'll know what it means without thinking about it.

Here are a few activities to help you practise:

- Listen and watch [this video](#) to give you an idea of how many accents exist just in France - and that's not including the many dialects and accents in Francophone countries around the world.
- Listen to this BBC [Podcast](#) "Frenchified" by Michael Rosen and Laura Wright to find out how much English comes from French (you will need to sign in to the BBC website, but it's free and easy)
- Listen to [songs](#) in French. Many of you will be familiar with the website <https://lyricstraining.com/fr/> choose a song and select the karaoke version to sing along first with the lyrics. You can then play by choosing with level of difficulty. The more difficult the level, the more words you will have to listen to and type to fill in the gaps when the song starts playing. A great way to practice your listening skill
- Listen to French radio. There are several you could access online. Here are a few:

⇒ [France Bleu 107.1](#)



⇒ Other radio stations using this [link](#).



- Watch films in French with subtitles. You can start with English subtitles to help you understand the plot, but then watch it again with French subtitles. Here is a list of films we suggest for you:
 - ⇒ Les 400 coups François Truffaut (1959)
 - ⇒ Au revoir les enfants Louis Malle (1987)
 - ⇒ L'auberge espagnole Cédric Klapisch (2002)
 - ⇒ Un long dimanche de fiançailles Jean-Pierre Jeunet (2004)
 - ⇒ Entre les murs Laurent Cantet (2008)



READ

It might seem daunting, but reading is one of the best ways to improve your French. It's a great way to pick up new vocabulary, especially for your written French.

You might not understand everything 100%, and that's OK, but the process of looking up words and digesting sentence structures will push your French to the next level.

Activities and materials we have selected for you

Le corbeau et le renard by Jean de La Fontaine

Read [here](#) this poem, with its illustration, translation and explanation. This is a classic poem and studied by many generations of French speaking students.

- Write a summary of the story
- What have you learnt about the author: Write a short paragraph



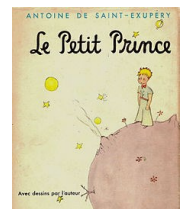
Les aventures de Tintin by Hergé

World famous comics albums from Belgian cartoonist Hergé. Follow the adventures of reporter Tintin in many countries and even to the moon. Ideal to start reading in French.



Le Petit Prince by Saint Exupéry (a bilingual version is available)

This is the most translated French book. This beautiful tale will be interpreted on different levels by children and adults. A pilot stranded in the desert after the crash of his plane meets a mysterious, little blonde boy full of questions who comes from another planet. With original watercolour illustrations from the author, this novella full of poetry will make you laugh, cry and ponder. The more you read it, the more you will learn from it.



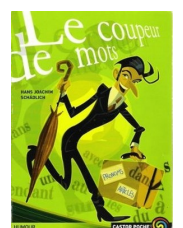
Le gentil petit diable et autres contes de la rue Broca:

These tales set in Paris have become a classic in youth literature. Discover the story of the little demon who wanted to be kind, or the witch who wanted to eat little girl Nadia seasoned with tomato sauce, or the pair of shoes that fell in love with each other, and many more!



Le coupeur de mots by Schädlich (Hans Joachim)

Paul, a young school student, seals a pact with a strange man, the "coupeur de mots": in exchange for doing the homework for Paul, the young boy will give away his prepositions, verbs, etc. for him. This very original story shows the importance of grammar: once he loses his tenses and prepositions, Paul becomes unintelligible for others and he's soon being mocked.





RESEARCH

For the A Level French speaking exam, students will need to 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. It could be on one of the themes or sub-themes or to one of the works (see pages 1 and 2 of this booklet).

Here are a few examples of research topics :

- The contribution of Francis Cabrel to modern French popular music: a study of three albums
- How does French society protect its language and culture?
- What did Marie Curie contribute to French science?
- What environmental challenges are faced by Paris and how is the city responding?
- The history and achievements of Les Restos du Coeur
- Why did Albert Camus write *La Peste*? An analysis of the main themes
- The history and role of rugby in France. How can it compete with other nations?
- What were the origins of French impressionism and what is its artistic legacy?
- Why is the tradition of the bande dessinée so important in the French-speaking world? An analysis of the work of two créateurs
- The emancipation of women in France. What has been achieved and is there more to do?
- To what extent did Coco Chanel influence French popular Fashion?
- What were the origins of the French Romantic Ballet movement and what is its artistic legacy?



Now your turn:

- ⇒ Identify a topic of interest to you, relating to France or a French speaking county
- ⇒ Research internet sources (but NOT Wikipedia) and make a list
- ⇒ Make notes of the facts, dates, but also add your personal opinion to the topic (there is no right or wrong answer when it comes to your personal views)



COMPLETE

Grammar

Complete exercises in this [section](#) "French verb buster" from the website Languages online.

Complete exercises from the BBC bitesize grammar section [here](#).

Vocabulary

Using VocabExpress and/or Quizlet to revise your vocabulary starting from Unit 1 of the AQA GCSE course.

Research

Having read page 10 please complete the following activities:

- Identify a topic of interest to you, relating to France or a French speaking country.
- Research internet sources (but NOT Wikipedia) and make a list.
- Make notes of the facts, dates, but also add your personal opinion to the topic (there is no right or wrong answer when it comes to your personal views).

Watch

Complete activities set on page 7.

Listen to

Complete activities set on page 8.



APPENDICES / RESOURCES

Listed below are the links to online resources which will help you revise and review work you have undertaken in Year 11. These links will also help you explore the subject further and prepare you for the new venture you are to embark on.

Cornell notes for studying a language

<https://studywithbee.com/2019/09/15/cornellnotes/>

Grammar

<https://conjuguemos.com/>

<https://www.languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/frenchindex.html>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zhh2gwx>

Vocabulary

<https://www.vocabexpress.com/login/>

<https://quizlet.com/subject/aqa-gcse-French-unit-1/>

Videos from the British Council

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nQJ8HPrFkSI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l57XikZUURU&feature=>

For the film “La Haine”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JBLB1_XOmRs&feature=share

For the book “un sac de billes”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28OPeu0LfCQ>

To watch French speaking television

<https://culture.tv5monde.com/>

To listen to French speaking radios

<https://www.francebleu.fr/107-1>

<http://www.radio-en-ligne.fr/rtl2>

To listen to:

BBC Podcast : <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b08lh6r1>

Songs on Lyricstraining: <https://lyricstraining.com/fr/>

Different French accents: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Egrfsn2CU8E>