



FRENCH



- Exam board:** Welsh Joint Education Committee (WJEC)
- Staff:** Marie Nichols
- Summary of course:** A modular two year course with 2 units examined at the end of year 12 and 3 units examined at the end of year 13

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking French in the sixth form?

This specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills established at GCSE.

What will I learn?

The WJEC AS and A level French encourages learners to:

- enhance their linguistic skills and promote and develop their capacity for critical thinking on the basis of their knowledge and understanding of the language, culture and society of the countries or communities where the language is spoken
- develop control of the language system to convey meaning, using spoken and written skills, including an extended range of vocabulary, for both practical and intellectual purposes as increasingly confident, accurate and independent users of the language
- develop their ability to interact effectively with users of the language in speech and in writing, including through online media
- develop language learning skills and strategies, including communication strategies to sustain communication and build fluency and confidence
- engage critically with intellectually stimulating texts, films and other materials in the original language, developing an appreciation of sophisticated and creative uses of the language and understanding them within their cultural and social context

- develop knowledge about matters central to the society and culture, past and present, of the countries or communities where the language is spoken
- equip themselves with transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, critical thinking, and linguistic, cultural and cognitive flexibility that will enable them to proceed to further study or to employment

Main topic themes will include:

At AS

- Family structures, traditional and modern values, friendships/relationships
- Youth trends, issues and personal identities
- Educational and employment opportunities
- Regional culture and heritage in France, French-speaking countries and communities
- Literature, film, art and music in the French-speaking world
- Study of a film
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At A2

- Migration and integration
- Cultural identity and marginalisation
- Discrimination and diversity
- France 1940- 1950 (life in occupied France, liberation, end of World War II, repercussions for modern day France)
- Study of a literary text

Specification content:

The subject content for AS French will be assessed across two examinations:

Unit 1: Speaking

Arguing a point of view and discussion based on 2 stimulus cards: 15 minutes (plus 15 minutes preparation time)

12% of A level qualification

Unit 2: Listening, reading, translation and critical response in writing (essay on film studied)

Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes

28% of A level qualification

The subject content for A level French will be assessed across 3 examinations:

Unit 3: Speaking

Presentation and discussion on independent research project: 11-12 minutes

18% of qualification

Unit 4: Listening, reading and translation

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

30% of qualification

Unit 5: Critical and analytical response in writing (essay on the literary work studied)

Written examination: 1 hour 15 minutes

12% of qualification

What kind of students is the course suitable for?

- Students who are interested in developing their linguistic knowledge and cultural understanding of France and other countries where French is spoken
- Students who want to enhance their cultural appreciation and gain a greater awareness of intercultural differences
- Students who want to build their communication, interpersonal, intercultural and public speaking skills
- Students who are interested in a career involving translation or communication with people from French speaking countries. This can include careers in tourism, government, politics, media, publishing and journalism.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

The full A level in French is a subject that is favoured by top universities for a whole range of courses and provides the basis for students who wish to study towards a degree in French or who wish to study a combined degree and study French alongside Politics and International Relations, Business Studies, History, Sociology, Law, English or Philosophy.

For further information on specification and examination papers:

www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/french/r-french-gce-asa-from-2016