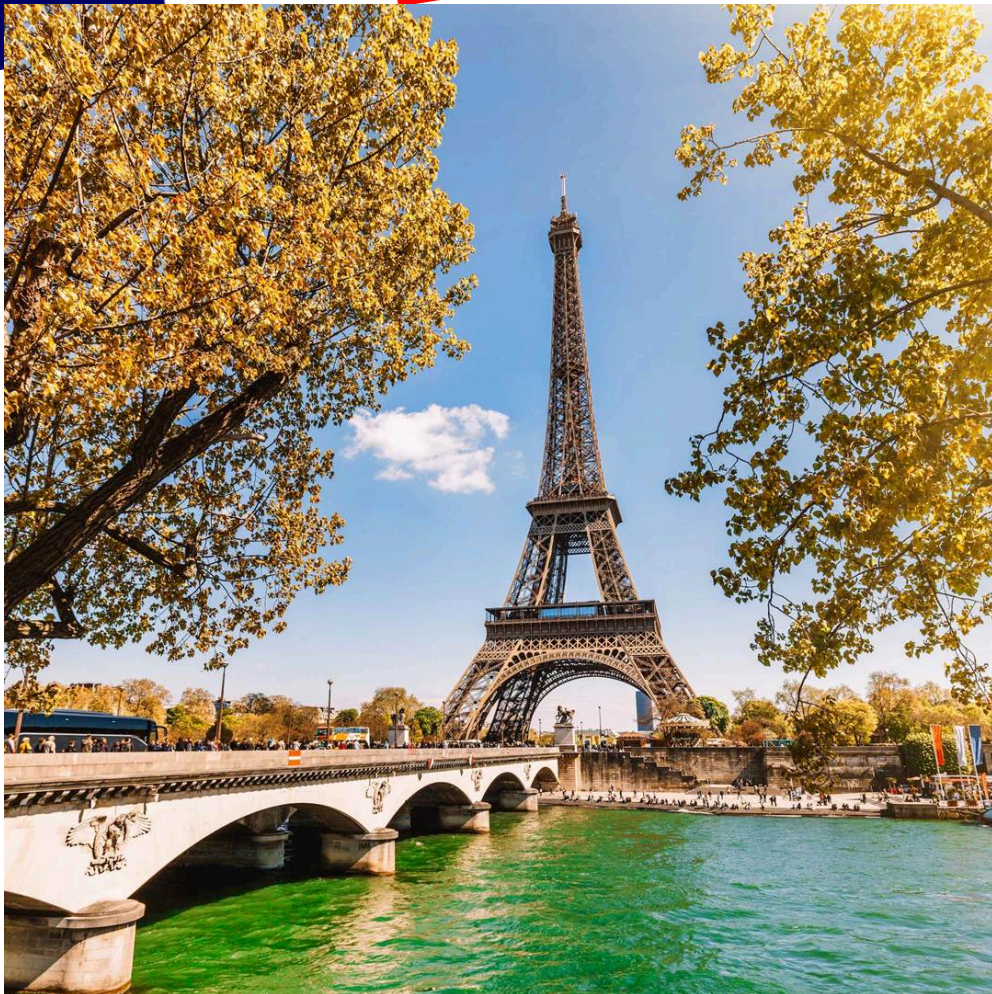
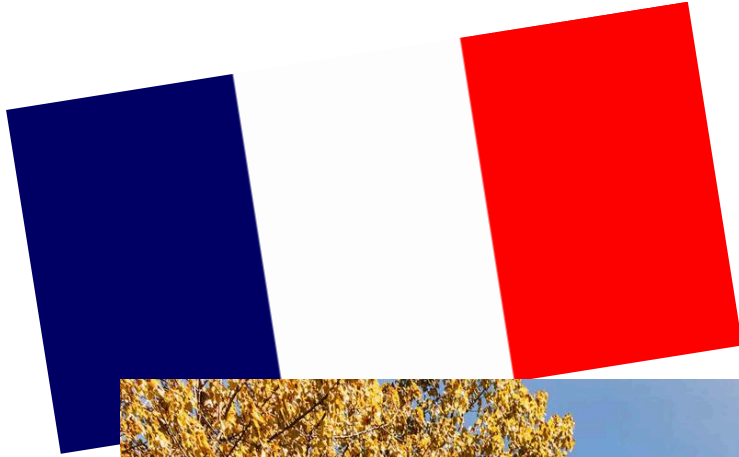




Hartismere College



French

A STUDENT'S GUIDE TO THE A LEVEL IN FRENCH

What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?

In order to study this subject, it is usual to have a GCSE qualification in French at level 6+.

The course focuses on the study of the French language through topics linked to the lives of young people today and then looks at issues concerning the wider world.

What will I learn on this A level course?

The course will enable you to:

- develop your ability to communicate in French
- improve your interpersonal & communication skills generally
- develop your self confidence
- enhance your understanding of topical issues
- develop your ability to express and justify your own opinions
- broaden your career opportunities

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course will appeal to students who:

- have a genuine interest in the language
- enjoy communicating
- have a committed and thorough approach to work
- would like to work in an international context
- might like to learn another language in the future
- have the motivation to practise spoken French

What exactly will I be studying?

Core content:

1. Social issues and trends
2. Political and artistic culture
3. Grammar

Options:

4. Literary texts and films
5. Individual research project



1. Social issues and trends

These themes and sub-themes are studied in relation to at least one French speaking country.

Aspects of French-speaking society – current trends:

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

Aspects of French-speaking society – current issues:

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

2. Political and artistic culture

These themes and sub-themes are also studied in relation to at least one French speaking country.

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

3. Grammar

Knowledge of the grammar and structures specified for GCSE is assumed. This is revised and extended to enable candidates to express themselves effectively in fluent French.

4. Literary texts and films

We will study one literary text from the list of set texts and also one film, again from the list prescribed by the board. One will be studied in yr. 12 and the other in yr. 13.

5. Individual research project

Students will 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. They select relevant information from a range of sources, analyse and summarise their findings in order to present and discuss them in the speaking assessment.

What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?

The A level course is linear which means that exams are taken at the end of the two-year course. There are 3 examinations.

Paper 1 – Listening, Reading and Writing

- 40% of A level
- 160 marks in total
- Written exam; 2 hours 30 minutes

Paper 2 – Writing

- 30% of A level
- 90 marks in total
- Written exam; 2 hours

Paper 3 – Speaking

- 30% of A level
- 60 marks in total
- Oral exam; 21 - 23 minutes
[including 5 minutes preparation time]
- Conducted by one of your teachers

And did you know...

...you can combine French with most subjects at university, including:

Law	Business Studies	Engineering
History	Sciences	Economics
Drama	Media Studies	Politics

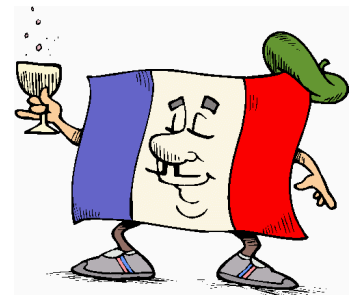
and of course, other languages!!



WHY STUDY A LEVEL FRENCH?

Choosing an A-level language is a really smart move if you want a fascinating subject that offers you a range of career possibilities at the end and are a lot of fun along the way. A-level language courses are interesting and varied subjects to study and give you a broad range of knowledge and skills. Learning a language is a never-ending process; languages are constantly changing, bringing in new words and getting rid of old ones.

The skills and qualifications that you gain from studying a language at A-level are incredibly important tools to have under your belt.



What other subjects can I study?

An A-level language complements a whole variety of subjects. You may need languages for all sorts of career destinations - doctors, psychologists and physiotherapists need language skills to communicate effectively with patients whether they work in the UK or overseas; businessmen, bankers and entrepreneurs all need language skills to make deals and sell products on the global market. Politicians, historians, geographers and holiday reps all need language skills to get to know the people and area that they are passionate about. A foreign language A level will complement and enhance your other A level studies.

What can I do afterwards?

Languages are an invaluable skill to have. Having a language can increase your salary from 8 to 20% and gives you a head start on other potential employees as by speaking another language you're vital to any company who does international business (and there are a lot of them). Plus, a language is also an advantage for lots of university courses so it's something to consider if you're thinking about university in the future. Languages are key to the exciting multinational world we live in!

Source: Routes into Languages, University of Southampton
http://www.whystudylanguages.ac.uk/post16/why_languages/

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A bientôt!