

What Will I Be Studying?

Students following the AQA GCSE French syllabus will study the following three themes on which the assessments are based:

Theme 1: Identity and Culture, covering the topics of Me, Family and Friends; Technology in everyday life; Free-time activities; Customs and festivals in French-speaking countries/communities.

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest, covering the topics of Home, Town, Neighbourhood and Region; Social issues; Global issues; Travel and tourism.

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment, covering the topics of My studies; Life at School / College; Education post-16; Jobs, Career Choices and Ambitions.

How Will I Be Assessed?

GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4-9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier and in the same series. Paper 1 (Listening), Paper 3 (Reading) and Paper 4 (Writing) are all written exams; Paper 2 (Speaking) is a non-exam assessment. Each component is worth 25% of the overall GCSE mark

Who Would Enjoy This Course?

Students who:

- Enjoy and have enthusiasm for languages
- Wish to have a broad range of study and career options open to them
- Wish to develop their communication skills
- Enjoy travelling and discovering the world abroad

How Will This Course Help Me In The Future?

Having a GCSE in a foreign language is highly regarded and extremely prestigious, giving those with this skill a real advantage when competing for places at top universities and work places. It is well known that learning a foreign language improves brain power, memory and problem solving abilities as well as developing your confidence, social and public speaking skills.

There are various options available to you post-GCSE, namely the traditional A-Level, Certificates / NVQ Business Qualifications and numerous university degrees combining one or two languages with other subjects such as Law, Business and Music. Many of these offer students the opportunity to study abroad for one year, which again gives young people a real advantage, as well as a greater depth of experience. In addition, employers greatly value graduates with foreign language skills and they remain in high demand.

92% of language graduates are employed or in further study. Using a language at work can raise your salary by up to 20%. Studying a language beyond GCSE can really open up your career options. Examples of careers where speaking other languages can be extremely beneficial are teaching, journalism, translating / interpreting, law, many businesses and the fashion / travel and tourism industries.