

French

Edexcel A-level French (9FR0)

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Introduction

By the end of the French A-level course you will have the necessary fluency to communicate with native speakers and a greater understanding of one of the world's great cultures – one that boasts incredible riches of literature, cinema and philosophy. French is the official language of 11 countries and a co-official language in a further 16, as well as being an official language of 36 international organisations including the United Nations, NATO and the World Trade Organisation. There are approximately 300 million French speakers worldwide, with this number set to grow to 650 million by 2050.

Subject Requirements

A Grade 8 in GCSE French is required. Students must have an excellent grasp of key tenses and grammar points to succeed at A-level, as well as being able to comprehend at speed. Understanding and finding success in the listening and translation sections at GCSE should be seen as an indicator of success.

Given the film and literary analysis paper at A-level, we recommend that candidates also have a Grade 7 or above in GCSE English Literature.

Course Outline

The course is assessed over three papers:

Papers 1 and 3 cover content on social issues and political and artistic culture in French-speaking countries, immigration and multiculturalism, and occupation and resistance during World War II.

Paper 1:

- Listening comprehension (15% of overall qualification)
- Reading comprehension (15%)
- French to English translation (10%)

Paper 3:

- Topic cards (12.5%)
- Individual research project (17.5%)

Paper 2 covers literature and film.

Literature: Two of

L'Étranger, Albert Camus

La Place, Annie Ernaux

Le Tartuffe, Molière

Thérèse Desqueyroux, François Mauriac

Film: One of

La Haine, Matthieu Kassovitz

Cléo de 5 à 7, Agnès Varda

Les 400 Coups, François Truffaut

Paper 2:

- Literature essay (12.5%)
- Literature/film essay (12.5%)
- English to French translation (5%)

Higher Education and Careers

French A-level studies offer a wide range of academic and career opportunities in the UK. At university level, students can specialise in modern languages through a single-honours degree, focusing on language proficiency, literature, and cultural studies. Alternatively, combined honours programmes provide interdisciplinary options. Combining French and Business or Marketing allows for a more diverse degree coverage. Similarly, combining French with Politics prepares students for roles in diplomacy or international relations, while French and Law opens doors to global perspectives in legal careers. Proficiency in French is highly valued in journalism and media, making French and journalism or English a viable choice.

Additionally, French A-level studies lay the groundwork for careers in translation, interpreting, and international NGOs. In the expanding tech industry, French proficiency is an asset, making French and Computer Science a strategic combination. Overall, French A-level equips students with a versatile skill set applicable across diverse academic and professional fields in the UK.

French study at university level will allow for opportunity to take a year abroad. This offers a unique chance to immerse oneself in the language and culture, refining linguistic skills and gaining cultural insight. Engaging in internships or employment in a French-speaking environment provides hands-on experience, builds adaptability, and enhances professional communication. This practical experience not only complements academic learning but also equips students with a distinct advantage in the competitive job market, highlighting their ability to thrive in diverse and international settings.

What should I study alongside French?

French complements many other subjects and is a useful A-level in any Sixth Form programme, however we have seen it most commonly combined with other modern languages, Latin, English, History and Economics.

Is there anything else I should consider?

A big change between GCSE and A-level is the requirement to write essays on literature and film.