French

Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of themes relating to the culture and society of countries where French is spoken, and their language skills. They will do this by using authentic spoken and written sources in French.

Course Structure & Content

The approach is a focus on how French-speaking society has been shaped, socially and culturally, and how it continues to change. In the first year, aspects of the social context are studied, together with aspects of the artistic life of French-speaking countries. In the second year further aspects of the social background are covered, this time focusing on issues, such as life for those on the margins of French-speaking society as well as looking at the positive influences that diversity brings. Students also study aspects of the political landscape in a French-speaking Course, looking at immigration from the political perspective and at the way in which political power is expressed through action such as strikes and demonstrations. Teenagers and the extent to which they are politically engaged looks towards the future of political life in French speaking society.

The choice of works (literary texts and films) offers opportunities to link with the themes so that for example 'Life for the Marginalised' could be studied in conjunction with the book 'No et Moi' whilst aspects of politics and immigration are reflected in the film La Haine.

Assessment

Paper 1 - Listening Reading Translation
Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes • 160 marks in total • 40% of A Level
All questions are in French
Paper 2 - One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification
Written exam: 2 hours • 90 marks in total • 30% of A Level
Two 300 word essays chosen from two questions on either one book and one film or two books
Paper 3 - Individual research project on one of the sub-themes
Oral exam: 21 23 minutes (including 5 mins preparation time) • 60 marks in total • 30% of A Level
5-6 minute discussion based on stimulus card of a sub-theme (25 marks)
2 minute presentation on individual project followed by 9-10 minute discussion (35 marks)

Entry Requirements

Students would be expected to achieve a minimum grade 6 at GCSE to proceed to studies at A Level. However, students who have shown a similar level of academic ability in other subjects but do not have a particular languages qualification will also be considered if they already have some expertise in the language as a result of home circumstances where, for example, a parent is a native speaker and the language is spoken at home.

Possible Learning Pathways

Students who are able to converse in a foreign language are very much in demand on the job market. There are many opportunities available in the world of work which may be directly or indirectly related to the study of a language. The skills acquired by those who study languages – communication, problem solving, critical thinking, human relations- can be applied to a number of careers such as accountancy, public relations, journalism, advertising, international marketing, teaching and administration.