

AQA Level 3 GCE in French

Overview:

The AQA Level 3 GCE A-Level in French is designed to develop students' linguistic skills and cultural understanding. It enables learners to communicate confidently and fluently in French, understand a range of spoken and written materials, and gain insight into the culture and society of French-speaking countries. This qualification is linear, meaning that all exams are taken at the end of the course.

Course Content:

Students will study technological and social change, artistic culture, and political and intellectual thought in the French-speaking world. They will also explore literary texts and films in the target language.

Themes and Topics Include:

1. Aspects of French-Speaking Society: Current Trends

- The changing nature of family (La famille en voie de changement)
- The 'cyber-society' (La « cyber-société »)
- The place of voluntary work (Le rôle du bénévolat)

2. Artistic Culture in the French-Speaking World

- A culture proud of its heritage (Une culture fière de son patrimoine)
- Contemporary francophone music (La musique francophone contemporaine)
- Cinema: the 7th art form (Le septième art)

3. Aspects of French-Speaking Society: Current Issues

- Positive features of a diverse society (Les aspects positifs d'une société diverse)
- Life for the marginalised (Quelle vie pour les marginalisés ?)
- How criminals are treated (Comment on traite les criminels)

4. Aspects of Political Life in the French-Speaking World

- Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment (Les ados, le droit de vote et l'engagement politique)
- Demonstrations and strikes (Manifestations et grèves)
- Politics and immigration (La politique et l'immigration)

Literary Texts and Films:

Students study either one text and one film or two texts from the list provided by AQA, such as:

- Film: "La Haine" (dir. Mathieu Kassovitz)
- Novel: "No et moi" by Delphine de Vigan
- Play: "Le Tartuffe" by Molière

- Autobiography: “Un sac de billes” by Joseph Joffo

Assessment:

Assessment is by three written examinations, all taken at the end of the two-year course.

Paper 1: Listening, Reading and Writing (2 hours 30 minutes) – 50% of A-level

- Comprehension questions based on spoken and written sources.
- Translation into English and into French.

Paper 2: Writing (2 hours) – 20% of A-level

- Two essays (approx. 300 words each) on either one text and one film, or two texts.

Paper 3: Speaking (21–23 minutes including 5 minutes preparation time) – 30% of A-level

- Discussion of one sub-theme based on a stimulus card.
- Individual research project presentation and discussion.

Skills Developed:

- Advanced language proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing.
- Understanding and appreciation of French-speaking cultures and societies.
- Analytical, interpretive, and evaluative skills through the study of literature and film.
- Research and presentation skills through the Independent Research Project (IRP).

Career Pathways:

The A-Level in French supports progression to higher education and careers requiring language competence, cultural awareness, and analytical thinking. It is particularly relevant for degrees in Modern Languages, International Relations, Law, Business, Translation, and Education. It also opens pathways in diplomacy, tourism, media, and global commerce.

Who Is It For?

This course is ideal for students who enjoy learning languages, exploring cultures, and developing transferable communication and analytical skills that are highly valued by universities and employers.