

A-Level French (AQA)

Hit the Ground Running Guide for Year 12

Welcome

Welcome to A-level French!

This course builds on GCSE and develops your ability to communicate, analyse and think critically in French. It requires independence, resilience and curiosity.

What is different from GCSE?

At A-level, you will engage with authentic materials, study modern French society, and develop well-supported opinions in spoken and written French.

AQA Course Overview

You will study social issues and trends, political and artistic culture, grammar, and a film and book. You will also complete an Individual Research Project for the speaking exam.

Daily habits for Success

- Learn 15–20 new words per week
- Spend 10–15 minutes daily listening to French
- Revise grammar regularly
- Speak in every lesson

Independent Study Expectations

You are expected to complete 4–5 hours of independent study per week, including vocabulary learning, grammar, listening practice and wider reading.

Film and Book Study

You will analyse themes, characters and key events, and learn to express personal interpretations in detail.

Speaking Exam

You will discuss a sub-theme and present an Individual Research Project on a topic of your choice related to the French-speaking world.

Top Tips

Be consistent, be curious, take risks when speaking, and learn from mistakes.

First Steps

- Set up a vocabulary system
- Revise key tenses
- Engage with French daily
- Participate actively in lesson

Before starting the course

You can read articles

PRESS

☐ Le Monde – great for seeing how the French press approach global topics, very high level of French!

www.lemonde.fr

☐ Le Figaro – news magazine, www.lefigaro.fr

☐ L'Express – news magazine, www.lexpress.fr

☐ Paris Match – news/gossip, www.parismatch.com

☐ www.Newsinslowfrench.com limited amount of free content but well worth listening to, various subjects (arts & culture, science & technology, world news, politics) read in much slower than normal French, making it easier to follow.

☐ L'Obs – weekly news magazine, www.nouvelobs.com

- ❑ Puzzles and wordsearches www.notretemps.com
- ❑ Wider, outdoor magazine, www.widermag.com
- ❑ Onze Mondial, football magazine, www.onzemonial.com
- ❑ Sport & Vie, general sports, www.sport-et-vie.com

Other Sources of Information

Online Video Youtube:

- ❑ Imagiers.net: quizzes, vocabulary, grammar
- ❑ Frenchpod101.com: short videos of vocabulary and random phrases followed by a short quiz. Radio talk show format structured around everyday dialogues
- ❑ JeFrench.com: very simple format, quite random topics from pronouns to conjugation
- ❑ Thefrenchguy3000: this is a hilarious channel led by a guy who is NOT in fact French. Random anecdotes, enthusiastic, entertaining.
- ❑ The Radio Lingua Network: On this channel, CoffeeBreakFrench!, the user learns with Anna, the student, who is instructed by Mark, the teacher. This duo is so enthusiastic and helpful as they situate each lesson in different parts of Paris.
- ❑ Un gars, une fille – about the funny situations a couple have to go through, very amusing.
- ❑ Plus belle la vie – a very famous French soap set in Marseilles
- ❑ TV5: www.tv5.org
- ❑ France 2: www.france2.fr
- ❑ TF1: www.tf1.fr

Year 12 topic content:

La famille

La cyber-société

Le rôle du bénévolat

Le patrimoine

La musique francophone contemporaine

Le septième art

Year 13 topic content:

Les ados, le droit de vote et l'engagement politique

Manifestations, grèves – à qui le pouvoir ?

La politique et l'immigration

Les aspects positifs d'une société diverse

Quelle vie pour les marginalisés ?

Comment on traite les criminels

You will need:

- A5 notebook for vocabulary
- A4 file
- A4 loose leaf paper
- Set of dividers
- Textbook

(You will have this book from the French Department)

- Grammar book (optional but advisable)

You can find this grammar workbook on Amazon:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/AQA-Level-French-Translation-Workbook/dp/0198415532>

- **Films**

- Les Intouchables
- Le Fabuleux Destin de Amélie Poulain / Amélie
- Bienvenue chez les Chtis
- La vie en Rose
- La Haine (you will study the film in Year 12)