

# **FRENCH**

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## **SPECIFICATION**

A Level      Edexcel      French      9FRO

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE**

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to:

- Enhance their linguistic skills and promote and develop their capacity for critical thinking on the basis of knowledge and understanding of the language, culture and society of the country or countries where the language is spoken
- Develop control of the language system to convey meaning, using spoken and written skills, including an extended range of vocabulary, for both practical and intellectual purposes as increasingly confident, accurate and independent users of the language
- Develop their ability to interact effectively with users of the language in speech and in writing, including through online media
- Develop language learning skills and strategies, including communication strategies to sustain communication and build fluency and confidence
- Engage critically with intellectually stimulating texts, films and other materials in the original language, developing an appreciation of sophisticated and creative uses of the language and understanding them within their cultural and social context
- Develop knowledge about matters central to the society and culture, past and present, of the country or countries where the language is spoken
- Mediate between cultures and between speakers of the language and speakers of English
- Foster their ability to learn other languages
- Equip themselves with transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, critical thinking, and linguistic, cultural and cognitive flexibility that will enable them to proceed to further study or employment
- Develop their capacity for critical and analytical thinking through the language of study
- Develop as independent researchers through the language of study

## **CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT**

### **YEAR 12 TOPICS**

1. Les changements dans la société française
2. La culture politique et artistique dans la société française
3. Au revoir les enfants (film)
4. Grammar

### **Social issues and trends**

Students must study the following themes and sub-themes in relation to at least one French speaking country. Where France is not specified, students may study the theme or sub-theme in relation to any French-speaking country. Students must study the themes and sub-themes using a range of sources, including material from online media.

### **Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends**

- The changing nature of the family (La famille en voie de changement)
- Education (l'éducation)
  - World of work (le monde du travail)

### **Artistic culture**

Artistic culture in the French-speaking world

- Music (la musique)
  - Media (les médias)
  - Celebrations and traditions (Festivals et traditions)

### **Grammar**

Students will be expected to have studied the grammatical system and structures of the language during their course. Knowledge of the grammar and structures specified for GCSE is assumed.

### **Literary texts and films**

For Paper 2, students are required to study two works from the list below. This can be either two literary texts or one literary text and one film.

#### **Literary texts**

- Boule de Suif et autres contes de guerre (Boule de Suif, Un Duel, Deux Amis, La Mère Sauvage), Guy de Maupassant, 1880 (short stories)
- La Place, Annie Ernaux, 1983 (novel)
- Le Blé en Herbe, Colette, 1923 (novel)
- Le Château de ma Mère, Marcel Pagnol, 1957 (novel)
- Le Gone du Chaâba, Azouz Begag, 2005 (novel)
- Les Mains Sales, Jean-Paul Sartre, 1948 (play)
- Les Petits Enfants du siècle, Christiane Rochefort, 1961 (novel)
- Le Tartuffe, Molière, 1669 (play)
- L'Étranger, Albert Camus, 1942 (novel)
- No et Moi, Delphine de Vigan, 2007 (novel)
- Thérèse Desqueyroux, François Mauriac, 1927 (novel)
- Une si longue lettre, Mariama Bâ, 1981 (novel)
- Un Sac de Billes, Joseph Joffo, 1973 (novel)

## Films

- Au Revoir les Enfants, dir. Louis Malle (1987)
- Chocolat, dir. Claire Denis (1988)
- Cléo de 5 à 7, dir. Agnès Varda (1962)
- Deux Jours, une Nuit, dirs. Jean-Pierre Dardenne, Luc Dardenne (2014)
- Entre les murs, dir. Laurent Cantet (2008)
- Intouchables, dirs. Oliver Nakache, Eric Toledano (2011)
- La Haine, dir. Mathieu Kassovitz (1995)
- La Vie en Rose, dir. Olivier Dahan (2007)
- Le Dernier Métro, dir. François Truffaut (1980)
- Les Choristes, dir. Christophe Barratier (2004)
- Les 400 Coups, dir. François Truffaut (1959)
- Un Long Dimanche de Fiançailles, dir. Jean-Pierre Jeunet (2004)

## YEAR 13 TOPICS

1. L'immigration et la société multiculturelle française
2. L'Occupation et la Résistance
3. Book study: L'Étranger

### Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation in English

Covers all four themes

Written exam: 2 hours • 80 marks in total • 40% of A Level

### Paper 2: Written response and Translation

- One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification

- Grammar

Written exam: 2 hours 40 minutes • 120 marks in total • 30% of A Level

### Paper 3: Speaking

Task 1: all 4 themes

Task 2: Independent Research

a: Presentation

b: Follow up discussion

## SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE COURSE

- Visits abroad
- Study-day visits to local universities
- Video and foreign language films
- Use of Internet to access up-to-date information

## **METHODS OF STUDY**

The A Level course is conducted in the foreign language wherever possible, and students are expected to take an active part in the learning programme. The course is based on the study of texts from a wide variety of sources, spoken as well as written. At the same time as increasing their ability to use French, students will gain knowledge of and insight into aspects of the civilisation and culture of France and the French – speaking world. Through the use of documents and data, radio and recorded texts, articles and books and digital information, students will be encouraged to collect, analyse and exchange information, ideas and attitudes through the medium of French. The texts studied will be concerned primarily with topics of current interests rather than 'literature'. Students are expected to commit a considerable amount of private time to the acquisition of an extremely broad vocabulary, and should be aware that a great deal of emphasis is placed on them voicing opinions on sociological issues in French.

## **SUBJECTS WHICH COMPLEMENT FRENCH**

Any other subject

## **HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

Pure Languages degree courses.

Language and business courses or any other combination degrees.

Translating/Interpreting.

Science/Engineering courses.

