

IB FRENCH

Contact Person - Mrs V. Bailey

**French is available at 3 levels for IB.
The two levels with most students will run,
so it will depend on numbers of students
choosing each level.**

LANGUAGE B Ab Initio Standard Level

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENT

No previous knowledge of the language is required, and students who have studied the language but not done the GCSE exam (or equivalent) can also enter at this level. Students do will need to have a positive attitude and willingness to throw themselves into the language, practising regularly and learning vocabulary and grammar actively in order to reach the standard required in the year.

THE COURSE CONTENT

The *Ab Initio* course level reaches the equivalent to that which students reach at AS. You will be covering topics such as: Education & work, travel, media, town & services, environmental concerns, and studying the culture of the French-speaking nations.

Students will have 5 hours of lessons per fortnight. The Language Assistant will also come into one lesson per fortnight to concentrate particularly on speaking skills. (some of these may be outside lessons).

ASSESSMENT

The Speaking element is internally assessed, through an individual oral (30%). There is also a Written Assignment, based on one of the topics and done in class (20%). There are two final written papers worth 50% comprising text handling (Reading) (25%) and a written paper (25%), (two short tasks).

LANGUAGE B STANDARD LEVEL

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENT

The minimum requirement for this course is a grade B at GCSE, although we expect the majority of students to have a grade A or A*, in order to reach the standard required at the end of the course.

THE COURSE CONTENT

The course is intended for students with prior knowledge of French. Standard Language B lessons will enable students to reach a high level of competence in the target language and explore the culture from the countries where the language is spoken.

Students will have 5 hours of lessons per fortnight. The Language Assistant will also come into one lesson per fortnight to concentrate particularly on speaking skills. (some of these may be outside lessons).

Topics that will be covered during the two-year course are taken from the Core topics: Communication & Media, Global Issues and Social Relationships. Then teachers will chose 2 further topics from: Cultural Diversity, Customs & Traditions, Health, Leisure, Science & Technology.

There is also a strong emphasis on Literature, and the appreciation of the writing and culture of the target language countries in IB, and part of the Standard Level course will include the study of some French and North American French writing.

You will be encouraged to participate in a trip to France, a course there or work experience during the two-year course. Visits to plays, films and conferences may be organized.

ASSESSMENT

The Speaking element is internally assessed, through an individual oral (20%) and a group oral (done in class) (10%). There is also a Written Assignment, based on one of the topics and done in class (20%). The written papers are worth 50% and comprise text handling (Reading) (25%) and a written paper (25%), (one task from a choice of 5).

LANGUAGE B HIGHER LEVEL

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENT

The minimum requirement for this course is a grade A or A* at GCSE. Those with lower grades will struggle to obtain an exit Level 4 (the pass grade) at IB Higher French.

THE COURSE CONTENT

The Higher Level course is very similar to Standard Level, but students will have 8 hours of lessons per fortnight. The Language Assistant will come into one lesson per fortnight to concentrate particularly on speaking skills. Course topics follow the Core and Optional Topics, as at Standard Level, but are studied in greater depth. There is also a requirement to study two literature texts.

ASSESSMENT

The Speaking element is internally assessed, through an individual oral (20%) and a group oral (done in class) (10%). There is also a Written Assignment, based on one of the texts studied and done in class (20%). The written papers are worth 50% and comprise text handling (Reading) (25%) and a written paper (25%), (two tasks: creative response and discursive essay).

RESOURCES FOR STANDARD AND HIGHER LEVEL

Students will be given course materials, and will be required to purchase a grammar book ("Complete French Grammar"). Students will also need to purchase a good dictionary.