

French

Head of Department - Mrs Valerie Bailey
Examination Board: AQA

You have studied 3 years of foreign languages with transferrable skills and already 2 years of French, why carry on?

1. You have to do a language at GCSE so why not choose one represented in 58 countries of the world?
2. There are 58 countries where they speak French, the official language of many international organisations such as UN, the European Commission, Olympic Committee, the World Trade Organisation, FIFA... is French.
3. There are over 278 million native speakers of French, and 900 million who speak it as a second language in the world. If you want to be successful in their commercial environment, you'll need to speak their language.
4. Mostly, French is a business language, thriving in the world of industry, medicine, research, aeronautics, business, banking ...

Assessment and Exams

You'll do vocab tests and other small tests as you go along, obviously. There'll be more serious tests termly, in order for you and your parents to know how you're progressing, and mocks at the end of Year 10 & in November of Year 11. The official GCSE Assessment is divided into the 4 skills:

Speaking: 25% 17-19-minute exam in Year 11

Writing: 25% Again, 75-minute exam in Year 11

Reading: 25% 60-minute exam in Year 11

Listening: 25% 45-minute exam in Year 11

The GCSE Course

We use the STUDIO GCSE book. It's divided into 9 units, covered over the 2 years. You'll continue doing Listening, Speaking, Reading & Writing. The four Key Themes are: Leisure, Home & Environment, Work & Education, Lifestyle.

Classwork: You'll have lessons similar to those you've experienced in KS3, and you'll be revising vocabulary and grammar you've already learned, plus you'll have more vocabulary to learn, and a little more grammar. By the end of GCSE, you will be ready for a smooth transition into IB French.

Homework: You'll have homework 2/3 out of the 6 lessons per fortnight. This will be learning vocab, doing reading/listening exercises or preparing for termly assessments.

Where can languages take me?

Careers in languages on their own are as varied as working as an Interpreter for the EU, translating documents for big companies who have interests abroad, travelling with politicians... Or you could combine languages with any other subject, and join an international organisation doing something you're interested in but based in another country, or working for a British company who have contacts with producers abroad...

French holds the key to 58 countries!