

COURSE TITLE: FRENCH**EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA****Why study French GCSE?**

- Learning a language is fun and infinitely rewarding, it is a skill that you will use throughout your life, often when you least expect it.
- Many employers still rank speaking a foreign language as one of the top skills that they look for when seeking to employ new staff.
- The Russell group of universities (the top 24 UK universities) recommends the studying of a foreign language at GCSE
- French is a highly relevant language to speak if you are aiming to work both with and in Europe, North America, Africa and Asia.

Study materials used on the course:

- AQA Course books
- Teacher prepared resources
- Vocab Express – online vocabulary learning environment
- Authentic texts, videos and music
- Online learning games
- Past examination papers and sound files

Themes:

- Identity and culture
- Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Current and future study and employment

Skill areas:

Methods of assessment: 100% examination. GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4-9) and all question papers must be taken in the same series.

- **Listening:** worth 25% of the final mark; the exam includes a variety of verbal and non-verbal answers in both French and English.
- **Speaking:** worth 25% of the final mark; up to 12 min for the Higher Tier ; includes a role-play and a short conversation
- **Reading:** worth 25% of the final mark; the exam includes a variety of verbal and non-verbal answers in both French and English.
- **Writing:** worth 25% of the final mark; 3 or 4 different writing tasks with a translation.

Recommendations for equipment and visits:

Students should purchase a quality dictionary that is at least A5 size or larger. The MFL department recommends Oxford / Collins publishers. Students should aim to immerse themselves in as much French as possible and are encouraged to visit France and French-speaking countries whenever possible.

Study approach:

The main approach for teaching is communicative; however students need to develop a sense of autonomy and responsibility towards their studies. It is imperative that students have a mature attitude towards their studies and a positive attitude towards challenges.

Homework demands:

Students will be set one or two homework tasks per week – this could be vocabulary based, comprehension exercises, presentations, preparation for assessments. Around assessment time the amount of extra study needed will increase.

For more information please contact: Miss M Nunes.

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Author:
Date:

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