



French GCSE

GCSE

1-9

AQA

What is new to know about GCSE French?

This is a relatively new GCSE that has been changed to make the exams more accessible to students at the end of Year 11. Our current Year 11 cohort (exams in 2025) will be the last of the old specification where the task instructions in most of the papers are in French. The new specification has all instructions in English.

If you have studied French since Year 7 this course is for you. If you have studied French starting in Year 9, you will also need to choose Spanish so that you will be a **dual linguist**. There are many benefits of studying the two languages to GCSE meaning that the vast majority of dual linguists achieve the same grade and if they don't just one grade different but still on or above target. This is because the mark schemes are the same for both languages so you become an expert in how to be successful.

Who is this course aimed at?

If you enjoy learning about different cultures and like the idea of being able to communicate in another language, then French GCSE is for you! In lessons you will be studying not only the language itself but also about French-speaking countries. Studying a language at GCSE can open the doors to lots of opportunities later in life and will give you access to communicate with millions more people around the world. A language GCSE is very highly regarded by both employers and universities.

How will I be assessed?

There are 4 exams testing all four languages skills:
Listening exam (25%) —comprehension of spoken language
Reading exam (25%) —comprehension of written language
Writing exam (25%) —written tasks and a translation
Speaking exam (25%) —done in April/May of y11 and lasts approximately 10 minutes – we do one-to-one practice with a teacher and/or our languages assistant so that you have lots of practice 🍷

Will I enjoy the course?

You are most likely to enjoy this course if you have enjoyed studying languages up until now and you are keen to learn more about the French culture as well as how the language works. You will also be able to go to France to improve your language skills even further in year 10.

What will be expected of me?

We expect you to give everything your best in the class and at home and to have a go at speaking in French to the teacher and each other. We absolutely love it when you take an interest outside of school in watching French series and listening to French songs or radio. We will show you how best to find resources to do this.

What will I study?

Unit 1: Identity and relationships with others

Unit 2: Media, technology and celebrity culture

Unit 3: Free time activities

Unit 4: Customs, festivals and celebrations

Unit 5: Healthy living and lifestyle

Unit 6: Education and work

Unit 7: Where people live

Unit 8: Travel and tourism, including places of interest

Unit 9: The environment