



The Oldershaw School

A Level French - HOD: Mrs H Mulloy

Course Outline & Exam Ratio

This linear key stage 5 qualification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and to society. Pupils will need to have a grade 5 in GCSE French and a grade 5 in English.

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing: Written exam (2 hours 30 minutes) and worth 40% of A-level.

Students are assessed on their understanding of aspects of French-speaking society, artistic culture in the French-speaking world, multiculturalism in French-speaking society and aspects of political life in French-speaking society. They are also assessed on their understanding of French grammar.

Paper 2: Writing: Written exam (2 hours) and worth 30% of A-level.

Students study either one book and one film or two books from the lists in this specification. They must appreciate, analyse and be able to respond critically in writing in French to the work they have studied, as well as evidence a greater understanding of French grammar.

Paper 3: Speaking: Oral exam (21 – 23 minutes) and worth 30% of A-level.

Students are assessed on their understanding of aspects of French-speaking society, artistic culture in the French-speaking world, multiculturalism in French-speaking society and aspects of political life in French-speaking society. They will also present and discuss their chosen research project.

Year 12

Aspects of the social context are studied, together with aspects of the artistic life of French-speaking countries. This is divided into 3 phases.

Phase 1: intensive grammar programme linked to thematic content.

Phase 2: development of all skills through theme-linked teaching and learning.

Phase 3: 'top up' teaching on film or book to meet A-level requirements. Developing skills in speaking, essay writing, listening, reading skills, summary writing and translation into and from target language.

Year 13

Further aspects of the social background are covered, alongside the French political landscape, looking at immigration from the political perspective and at the way in which political power is expressed through action such as strikes and demonstrations, while the focus on young people and politics looks forward to shaping the future of political life in French-speaking countries. This consists of 4 phases.

Phase 1: development of skills in the two theme areas of year 13. Intensive first phase of teaching and learning for the second work.

Phase 2: as for phase 1 with less time spent on the 2nd work and more time spent on social issues.

Phase 3: phase 1 and 2 continued. Content and skills practice with independent research (ie. outcomes are shared with teacher, planning and preparation for speaking).

Phase 4: intensive and comprehensive exam preparation.

Progression Routes

Success in French A Level can lead on to higher education and is essential for degrees in French. There is also a host of degrees which include French; ranging from Law with French, Business Studies with French to Politics or History with French. Linguists have a wide range of career opportunities open to them – in the business world, translating, interpreting, teaching, journalism, any career involving travelling, amongst many others.

Enrichment Opportunities

Enrichment opportunities are provided by way of cinema trips to watch French films and study enhancement days at participating universities and local schools. There may be opportunity to visit a French-speaking country or gain work experience in a French-speaking country.

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