

Introduction to GCSE French

Why study French?

Studying French will help you to communicate in the language, as well as helping you to understand the language in speech and writing. It will benefit you when you come into contact with French-speaking people both at home and abroad. You will learn about the culture of countries where French is spoken and will be able to communicate with young people of your own age in these countries.

You will study French in relation to:

- * Everyday activities;
- * Personal and social life;
- * The world around us;
- * The world of work;
- * The international world.

You will learn the following skills:

- * Listening;
- * Speaking;
- * Reading;
- * Writing.

You will need to decide whether you are taking each of these skills at Higher or Foundation level. You can choose either to take the Writing Paper or to submit Written Coursework. No dictionaries are allowed in the examinations.

Assessment:

You can mix and match entry levels, by taking some at Foundation and some at Higher. You will take a paper in each of the four skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. The choices you have are whether to do the Writing Paper or Written Coursework and which level you are taking.

Listening Paper

You will listen to messages, dialogues, announcements, discussions, narratives, etc, in French on a cassette that has pauses to give you time to write your answers.

Speaking Test

You will take part in two Role Plays. Then you will give a presentation in French for about one minute on a topic that you have prepared in advance of the examination. Your teacher will then discuss your presentation with you and finally will talk generally with you about two other topics in French.

Reading Paper

The examination paper contains signs, emails, faxes, letters, postcards, brochures, articles, narratives, etc, and you will give mainly multiple-choice answers.

Writing Paper

You will write a letter, fax or email of about 100 words in French. For Foundation level you will also write lists, messages, postcards, etc. For Higher level you will also write an essay, report or article of about 150 words.

Written Coursework

You will produce a portfolio of items of written coursework in French. Your teacher can give you advice on the first draft of your work. Your teacher will select the best three items to be assessed for the examination.



**Bon courage
et bonne
chance!**

GCSE

