

MODERN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

Head of Department: Mrs K Waters

Why choose the subject? Globalisation, the ease of international travel and technology are bringing more of the world within our reach and the ability to communicate as well as understand and appreciate different cultures is an invaluable skill which is highly valued by employers. The AS and A level French course allows you to develop an advanced level knowledge and understanding of the French language, the culture of France and other French-speaking countries as well as many transferable study skills.

Languages combine well with virtually any subject for further study. The range of combined degrees and further education courses involving a language is limitless - from Accountancy with Russian to Theatre Studies with Italian.

Who is eligible? GCSE grade 6 or above is the minimum requirement.

A LEVEL QUALIFICATION

Examination Board: Edexcel

Theme 1: Les changements dans la société française

Theme 1 is set in the context of **France only**.

- Les changements dans les structures familiales
- L'éducation
- Le monde du travail

Theme 2: La culture politique et artistique dans les pays francophones

Theme 2 is set in the context of **francophone countries and communities**.

- La musique
- Les médias
- Les festivals et les traditions

Theme 3: L'immigration et la société multiculturelle française

Theme 3 is set in the context of **France only**.

- L'intégration et le multiculturalisme
- La montée de l'extrême droite

Theme 4: L'Occupation et la Résistance

Theme 4 is set in the context of **France only**.

- L'Occupation
- La Résistance

Paper 1. Listening, reading and translation

Written examination: 2 hours, 40% of qualification (80 marks.)

Section A: Listening (30 marks)

This section will be made up of spoken passages covering different registers and types, including authentic communication involving one or male and female speakers. Sources will include material from online media.

Section B: Reading (30 marks)

The reading section will be made up of texts containing both factual and abstract content and will be authentic or adapted from authentic sources. The texts will include contemporary, historical, literary, fiction and non-fiction, written for different purposes and audiences.

Section C: Translation into English (20 marks)

The content for the translation will be taken from one of the four themes.

Paper 2. Written response to works and translation

Written examination: 2 hours and 40 minutes 30% of qualification (120 marks)

Section A: Translation into French (20 marks)

Students are given an unseen text in English to translate into French.

Section B: Written response to works (literary texts) (50 marks)**Section C: Written response to works (films) (50 marks)**

Candidates must write an extended response in French on either 1 literary text and a film or 2 literary texts from the prescribed literary texts and films.

There will be a choice of two questions for each literary text and film. Students will give a critical and analytical response by selecting relevant material from the works.

Candidates will be expected to present and justify points of view, develop arguments, draw conclusions based on understanding and evaluate issues, themes and cultural and social contexts related to the works studied. Candidates can write 300-350 words although all the essay will be marked regardless of length.

Paper 3: Speaking

Internally conducted and externally assessed

30% of the qualification (72 marks)

Total assessment time: between 27 and 30 minutes, which includes 15 minutes of formal preparation time.

Task 1 - discussion on a theme based on a stimulus containing 2 different statements

Task 2 part 1 - independent research presentation, a summary of at least 2 of the written sources they have used for their research.

Task 2 part 2 - students answer questions on their presentation and then have a wider discussion on their research.

AS LEVEL EXAMINATION

The themes for AS (1 Year course)

1. Les changements dans la société française:

Les changements dans les structures familiales

- Les changements dans les attitudes envers le mariage, les couples et la famille.

L'éducation

- Le système éducatif et les questions estudiantines

Le monde du travail

- La vie active en France et les attitudes envers le travail; le droit à la grève; l'égalité des sexes.

2. La culture politique et artistique dans les pays francophones:

La musique

- Les changements et les développements; l'impact de la musique sur la culture populaire

Les médias

- La liberté d'expression; la presse écrite et en ligne; l'impact sur la société et la politique

Les festivals et les traditions

- Les festivals, fêtes, coutumes et traditions.

Paper 1. Listening, reading and translation

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes 40% of qualification (64 marks)

Section A: Listening (24 marks)

There are four questions in this section made up of multiple-choice and open-response questions, including questions testing summary skills.

Recordings will be issued on CD-ROM audio format or as digital sound files accessed via a secure download. Students will have individual control of the recording and may stop, revisit and replay sections of the recording as they wish.

Section B: Reading (28 marks)

Students respond to five questions based on the texts provided questions comprise both multiple-choice and open-response questions; all questions are set in French and must be answered in French.

Section C: Translation into English (12 marks)

Students are given one unseen text in French and must translate it into English.

Paper 2. Written response to works and translation

1 hour and 40 minutes 30% of qualification (60 marks)

Translation of an unseen passage and a grammar exercise based on one of the two themes.

The study of one discrete French work: either one literary text or one film. The work must be taken from the list provided.

The literary texts listed include a range of classic and contemporary novels and one play. All of the films are feature length.

Students are not permitted access to a dictionary or any documentation relating to the works during the examination.

Paper 3: Speaking

Internally conducted and externally assessed - 30% of the qualification (72 marks)

Total assessment time: between 27 and 30 minutes, which includes 15 minutes of formal preparation time.

Task 1 (42 marks) requires students to read and respond to two short texts based on Theme 1: *Les changements de la société française* and then hold a discussion.

Task 2 (30 marks) is based on a discussion from Theme 2: *La culture politique et artistique dans les pays francophones*.

STUDENT VIEW

French



French is one of the most diverse and fulfilling subjects to pursue [at A Level]. There is a common misconception that learning a foreign language is largely directed towards improving one's language skills and, although important, French is so much more than this. The study of French allows for a deeper understanding of Francophone culture; be that history, literature, or even the rich variations of the French language observed worldwide. The Languages Department at BSG is equipped with both specialist knowledge and a wide range of resources in order to help students achieve their potential, as well as being one of the most enthusiastic departments across all subjects. Studying French has opened my eyes to the infinite possibilities of languages, as well as having encouraged me to continue the language at university. There is no question that French is a fantastic subject which guarantees a unique and unforgettable learning experience.

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