



# GET READY TO STUDY FRENCH

If you are planning to study A Level French with us in September, please review this document and complete the required activities. Please bring the completed activities with you at induction.

FAQ

## **What specification will I study?**

You will be studying the AQA A-Level French specification which you can find [here](#)

## **How many lessons will I have a week?**

You will have 4 lessons a week, each lesson is 1 hour and 10 minutes as well as speaking practice in small groups.

## **Who can I contact if I have a question about this subject?**

David Frost. [d.frost@barnsley.ac.uk](mailto:d.frost@barnsley.ac.uk)

## **What subjects go well with French?**

French will enhance any combination of A Levels. You will develop a range of communication skills, as well as gain subject knowledge (course content). The course content has links to aspects of language and literature, Film studies, History, Law, Geography, Sociology and Politics but also students taking Maths, Science or Arts subjects often take French successfully.

## **What grades should I have?**

In addition to the general sixth form entry requirements, learners must have grade 6 or above in GCSE French.

# WHAT WILL I STUDY?

**French A level** builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It focuses on language, culture, and society. You will practice speaking, listening, reading, writing and grammar skills as well as gain an in-depth understanding of French speaking culture and society. You should expect to be amazed at your linguistic progress as you move from GCSE level to the end of the A level course.

The course will cover the following topics

## **Aspects of French-speaking society:**

- The changing nature of family (La famille en voie de changement)
- The 'cyber-society' (La « cyber-société »)
- The place of voluntary work (Le rôle du bénévolat)
  
- Positive features of a diverse society (Les aspects positifs d'une société diverse)
- Life for the marginalised (Quelle vie pour les marginalisés ? )
- How criminals are treated (Comment on traite les criminels)

## **Political and artistic culture**

- A culture proud of its heritage (Une culture fière de son patrimoine)
- Contemporary francophone music (La musique francophone contemporaine)
- Cinema: the 7th art form (Cinéma : le septième art)
  
- Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment (Les ados, le droit de vote et engagement politique)
- Demonstrations, strikes – who holds the power? (manifestations, grèves – à qui le pouvoir ? )
- Politics and immigration (La politique et l'immigration)

We will also study a book and a film in French:

- the film '*la Haine*' by Matthieu Kassovitz in Year 12;
- the novel '*Un Secret*' by Philippe Grimbert in Year 13.

You will also do regular speaking practice in small groups, with support and guidance, that is tailored to your individual needs.

During the French A Level course, you will carry out an Independent Research Project (IRP) on a French-related topic of your choosing. Your IRP will be related to aspects of French-speaking society (e.g. history). Discussing the IRP will be the main task in your final speaking exam at the end of Year 13.

## WHAT WILL I NEED?

To study on the course, you will need the following:

- An A4 Level Arch Folder with dividers;
- An A5 (or smaller) notebook for noting down vocabulary;
- A notepad to take notes during lesson;
- Access to a computer/smart phone/tablet at home to access online learning materials;
- A bilingual French-English dictionary (the bigger the better – this can be new or second-hand).

You are advised to purchase your own copy of "*Un Secret*" by Philippe Grimbert, so that you can make your own notes in it.

Mot A Mot for French Vocabulary for AQA A-Level, by Paul Humberstone and Kirsty Thathapudi (6<sup>th</sup> edition or later) is a valuable resource that it is advisable to purchase.

Note that you will always be able to borrow copies of *Mot A Mot*, *Un Secret* and other relevant textbooks from the College, for use during lessons.

# FIND OUT MORE

These activities are to help broaden your understanding of the subject in preparation for studying this subject at an advanced level.

Careers	Journalism, sales and marketing, PR, logistics, business, banking and finance, accountancy, law, media, tourism and hospitality, charity and humanitarian work, diplomacy and security, education, translation and interpreting, public service and even politics! French will be an asset in any role where you will need to communicate effectively with other people.
Social Media	You should follow at least 2 French speaking social media accounts. Here are some examples <a href="https://www.instagram.com/magphosphore/">https://www.instagram.com/magphosphore/</a> ( French magazine for teens) <a href="https://www.instagram.com/wedemainado/">https://www.instagram.com/wedemainado/</a> <a href="https://www.instagram.com/omarsyofficial/">https://www.instagram.com/omarsyofficial/</a>  <b>Challenge: are you brave enough to change your phone settings to French?</b>
YouTube	A selection of French vloggers and French learning YouTube channels: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/c/EasyFrench">https://www.youtube.com/c/EasyFrench</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/c/PieceofFrench">https://www.youtube.com/c/PieceofFrench</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSKdvgqdnj72_SLgpp7BDTg">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSKdvgqdnj72_SLgpp7BDTg</a>

Further Reading / Useful websites	<p><b><u>LANGUAGE</u></b> <a href="http://www.languagesonline.org.uk">www.languagesonline.org.uk</a> <a href="http://www.quizlet.com">www.quizlet.com</a> (French language quizzes.... and other subjects too)</p> <p><b><u>CURRENT AFFAIRS &amp; NEWS</u></b> Watch, read and listen to French news: <a href="https://www.1jour1actu.com/">https://www.1jour1actu.com/</a> (French news for teens) <a href="http://www.tv5monde.com">TV5MONDE - Langue française</a> (website promoting French language) French non-stop TV news: <a href="http://www.francetvinfo.fr">www.francetvinfo.fr</a> <a href="http://www.bfmtv.com/">http://www.bfmtv.com/</a> <a href="http://www.itele.fr/direct">http://www.itele.fr/direct</a></p> <p>Right-wing French newspaper: <a href="http://www.lefigaro.fr/">http://www.lefigaro.fr/</a></p>
-----------------------------------	---

[http://www.lemonde.fr /](http://www.lemonde.fr/)

(centre politics French newspaper)

<http://www.liberation.fr/monde,10>

(left-wing French newspaper)

## **Films/series (watch in French with English subtitles)**

### **On Netflix**

[French Movies & TV Shows | Netflix Official Site](#)

Discover what French language TV shows and films you can stream, for example :

**Netflix:** 'les 7 vies de Léa (the 7 lives of Lea)', 'Dix pour cent' (call my agent), Lupin, Le fabuleux destin d'Amelie Poulain, Intouchables...

**Disney +:** 'weekend family' ( Comedy) 'Oussekiné' (drama on police violence based on real facts) or watch your favourite Disney films in French!

**Amazon prime:** [Amazon.co.uk: french films included with prime video - English / French / Certificate: 3 selec...: Prime Video](#)

### **Watch French Podcasts:**

[Coffee Break French podcast - Free on The Podcast App](#)

[News in Slow French - French Podcast](#)

### **Songs:**

One teacher's Spotify playlist of songs in French: [Spotify – Chansons Françaises pour A level](#)

What is your top 3? (Check out the lyrics feature on Spotify for lyrics in French)

Practise your French by listening to songs with the lyrics:

[Learn French for Free with Music Videos, Lyrics and Karaoke! \(lyricstraining.com\)](#)

### **Online Dictionaries**

[Cambridge French–English Dictionary: Translate from French to](#)

[English Linguee | Dictionary for German, French, Spanish, and more](#)

[English to French, Italian, German & Spanish Dictionary - WordReference.com](#)

# REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

It is important that all the required activities are completed in preparation for starting your course. Please bring these completed activities with you at induction.

Choosing your A Levels can be a challenge for some learners therefore, if you are undecided around which subjects to study, completing these activities will give yourself greater insight into the course to help ensure you have made the right choice.

## **GRAMMAR WORK**

Revise the following grammar points:

- **Present** tense of regular verbs : -er, -re and -ir verbs
- **Present** tense of these key irregular verbs: être, aller, avoir, faire, devoir, pouvoir, vouloir, savoir, venir, prendre, mettre.
- **Present** tense of reflexive verbs - e.g. je me couche, elles s'entendent bien
- **Perfect** tense (past) including both *avoir* and *être* verbs - e.g. je suis allée, j'ai mangé
- **Imperfect** tense - e.g. j'étais
- **Immediate future** tense (going to do) - e.g. je vais manger
- **Future** tense (will do) – e.g. je mangerai

You should learn and practice French verbs in these tenses by using [www.languagesonline.org.uk](http://www.languagesonline.org.uk) Click on "Français" then "Grammar" then select from the menu.

## **VOCABULARY**

Get into the habit of learning 5 words a day! You should start by the vocabulary we are going to use in the first two units studied in Y12 (Changing family [vocabulary](#) and Cyber Society [Vocabulary](#)).

You can practice vocabulary by creating your own study sets online:

<https://quizlet.com>

and

<https://www.memrise.com/>

## **ENRICHMENT**

Using the links from the 'find out more' section above, try to regularly listen to French podcasts, watch films, go on French social media, or practise French songs on *Lyrics-training* to create a 'French summer immersion experience' by exposing yourself to French every day.



# INDUCTION TASK

## A- “Mon Journal Français”

Fill out an ‘activities log’ documenting any French work you are doing over the holidays

This could include any grammar practice but also any enrichment activities, such as watching a film, going on the links mentioned in ‘find out more’. Aim to do 3 activities per week.

See example below:

Week beginning	My French Activities	My Comments
3 July	Changed phone setting to French Watched first 2 episodes of ‘7 lives of Lea’ on Netflix Practised present tense of irregular verbs	Really enjoyed the series and subtitled helped me understand some French New French words I learned were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Durable – sustainable</li> <li>• Haut – high/top</li> <li>• ...</li> </ul>
10 July	Listened to “coffee break” French podcast Practised perfect tense on languages online	Struggling to remember perfect tense- need to practice more
17 July	Listen to spotify French playlist Practised a Stromae song on ‘lyrics training’	Loved songs by French singer Francis Cabrel and will write my written text on him.
24 July	Researched singer Francis Cabrel and completed first draft of my written paragraph	
31 July	Practised family vocabulary on Quizlet	Remembered quite a few words from GCSE
7 August	Finished written text. Practised future tense on <a href="http://languagesonline.org.uk">languagesonline.org.uk</a>	
14 August	Revised all the key irregular French verbs	Made a list of the tricky ones

## **B. SPEAKING TASK – *Je me présente...***

**Prepare an oral presentation about yourself (up to 2 minutes).**

You can say what you like, or what you used to be like, or you could talk about your hopes for the future .... You may rely on your notes during the presentation, but it is important that you use a variety of tenses as well as some opinions.

## **C. WRITTEN TEXT – your own French research – *Une Célébrité***

Choose any French speaking-famous person (dead or alive) that you are interested in (see the list below for examples), research them and write a couple of paragraphs about them in French (approx. 100-150 words).

To get you started here are a few suggestions:

- **Actors:** Omar Sy, Léa Seydoux, Catherine Deneuve, Jean-Paul Belmondo
- **Directors:** Xavier Dolan, Jean Luc Godard, Celine Sciamma
- **Singers:** Pomme, Chris (and the queens), Stromae, Angèle, Edith Piaf, Jacques Brel, Gaël Faye, BigFlo & Oli, MC Solaar
- **Sport:** Laure Manaudou, Alice Milliat, Killian M'bappé, Surya Bonaly, Eric Cantona
- **Politics:** Emmanuel Macron, Charles de Gaulle, Christine Lagarde, Marine le Pen
- **Fashion:** Coco Chanel, Jean-Paul Gaultier
- **Literature:** Albert Camus, Aimé Césaire, Victor Hugo, Simone de Beauvoir