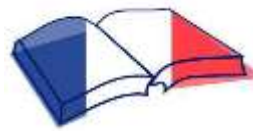


# FRENCH A LEVEL



Caterham French Department

# French A level Student Guide

## So you have decided to learn French at A level ,

### Bienvenue!

If you enjoy meeting and talking to people from other countries, finding out about their cultures and learning how language works, then studying A level French is an excellent choice for you!

Learning languages encourages you to:

- Meet people from different countries and find out more about them
- Learn many skills which are useful in a wide range of careers, such as the ability to communicate clearly, be confident about speaking in public, use problem solving strategies and write coherently
- Develop critical thinking, creativity and independence
- Add an international dimension to your choice of A level subjects, which is something many employers and higher education providers want
- Have greater opportunities to work and/or study abroad, or work for companies in the UK with international links
- Discuss interests, ideas and opinions with other people who speak the language
- Learn more about countries where the language is spoken, and the people who speak it
- Read books and watch films in their original language
- Spend time abroad (e.g. at university or on a work placement).

### What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?

If you already have knowledge of a variety of topics, and can express your opinions, you are ready to build on this at A level. You will learn about different aspects of French culture, literature and/or film, and be able to use more complex grammar and more vocabulary. This enables you to really develop an understanding of the language, the countries where it is spoken and the people who speak it.

### What can I do after I've completed the course?

People with language skills and knowledge usually have an advantage over people without them. They stand out as talented and successful people, with broad and exciting horizons. Success at A level French means you will:

- *Add an extra international dimension to your personal skills profile which will impress people who read your CV*
- *Be in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links*
- *Be able to work or study in a French-speaking country in later life*
- *Progress to study a degree in French, or French and another subject, to further your knowledge of the language and culture*
- *Find it easier to learn other languages later if you want to*
- *Add a useful skill if your main subjects are not languages: languages support careers in a range of areas including management, business, science and tourism.*

## **What will I learn?**

A level French helps you explore a wide range of topics, which will add to your understanding of the language and country.

Topics are:

Work

Education

Evolving society in France;

Political and artistic culture in French-speaking countries;

Immigration and multiculturalism in France;

The Occupation and Resistance.

The books (or book and film) you study may link to the topics, giving you further insight into French culture.

You will also learn new grammar and vocabulary and you will be able to translate into and out of French.

You will develop your critical thinking, creativity, independence and skills of analysis.

You will also develop skills to be able to learn other languages

## How will I be assessed?

You will take three exams which make up the total available.

Paper 1 is 40% of the total marks;

Paper 2 is 30%

Paper 3 is 30%.

<b>Paper 1 Listening, reading and translation</b>	<b>Paper 2 Written response to works, grammar and translation</b>	<b>Paper 3 Speaking</b>
In the listening section of this paper, you will answer multiple choice and comprehension questions in French on a variety of recordings. In the reading section, you will also answer multiple choice and comprehension questions in French, based on a variety of written passages. You will also translate a passage from French into English.	In this paper you will write about two books or one book and one film that you have studied. There will also be a translation of a passage from English into French.	Before this exam you will have 5 minutes to prepare a discussion based on a stimulus card you are given. You will then discuss the topic of the card with your examiner, who is often your teacher. You'll also give a presentation on an independent research project you will have conducted on a topic you will have chosen.

## Next steps

# The long summer holiday is the ideal time for you to prepare for September

For Grammar and vocabulary, visit [www.Languagesonline.org.uk](http://www.Languagesonline.org.uk)

The grammar section will allow you to brush up on your skills and revise basic tense formation ahead of the start of the course in September. You can also look at some A level resources to start reading around the topics.

The best place to start is the Firefly resource section for French

<https://caterham.fireflycloud.net/mfl/french>

focusing on the A level section and the extension sections

Also check, Quizlet <https://quizlet.com/> and explore some of the sets . If you want to start looking at some A Level vocab then go to the A level Quizlet section on Firefly which has all the sets references.

<https://caterham.fireflycloud.net/mfl/french/a-level/a-level-quizlet-edexcel-textbook--vocabulary->

Watching French films will help as well.

Here is a list:

## ACTION:

Watch at least 2 films over the course of the summer then, write a summary in French including main plot, themes and characters with your opinions

- *La Haine*, dir. Mathieu Kassovitz
- *Au Revoir les Enfants*, dir. Louis Malle
- *Intouchables*, dirs. Oliver Nakache, Eric Toledano (we study it )
- *Le Dernier Métro*, dir. François Truffaut
- *Les Choristes*, dir. Christophe Barratier

(See last page for further recommendations)

## Reading French books will help

Here is a list:

- *Un Sac de Billes*, Joseph Joffo (we study it )
- *Le petit prince* Antoine de St Exupéry
- *Thérèse Desqueyroux*, François Mauriac
- *Le Tartuffe*, Molière
- *L'Étranger*, Albert Camus
- *Les Petits Enfants du Siècle*, Christiane Rochefort

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Watch some TV

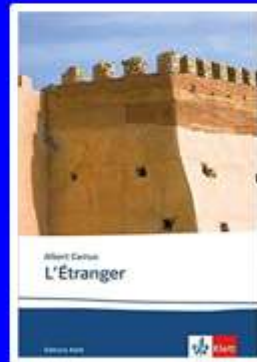
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**Beyond the curriculum:  
Get involved with  
French society  
Study visit opportunities  
Work experience**

# FRENCH DEPARTMENT SUMMER RECOMMENDATIONS



Reading  
recommendations



All  
resources  
are available  
in the  
Library



Viewing  
recommendations

