

Why choose French at Highbury Grove: With small class sizes and expert teachers, Year 12 French students at Highbury Grove can expect a highly personalised learning experience which travels deep into cultural and linguistic themes. You will develop language skills in a wide variety of ways; in class you will carry out a lot of pair and group work designed to build up your communicative skills. We also have access to a range of interactive exercises including vocabulary learning and listening work. We 'bridge the gap' from GCSE to A level with considerable study skills support, and by Year 13 students are able, for example, to write confident essays and enjoy real conversations on diverse and interesting subjects..

Entry Requirements:

Grade B or above in French GCSE.

Why choose French: If you dream of speaking a foreign language fluently and impressively and perhaps even working abroad, studying French will bring this ambition within your grasp and it will equip you with a variety of unique skills that will be invaluable in the future. You will become a more knowledgeable and informed person and debates and discussions in the classroom will give you a broad perspective on a wide range of issues and topics. You will also gain in-depth knowledge of France and French-speaking countries.

Future Prospects: You may choose to go on to study a language further at University. This is sought after in a variety of career sectors including finance, retail, banking, business, teaching and tourism. Companies value employees with language skills as the UK trades with over 200 countries worldwide, 60% of which are non-English-speaking. English may be the language of international business, but the ability to communicate in another language and to be aware of cultural differences is a tremendous asset. Your experience of travel and other cultures will benefit you personally as well as being attractive to future employers.

Even if you do not choose to study a language in Higher Education, learning a language at A Level can develop a number of more general skills. Among these are communication skills, cultural knowledge and links with other subject areas. Foreign language study has been found to be associated with improvements in students' creativity, self-concept, critical thinking abilities, memory, and listening skills. Mental flexibility is enhanced by the reasoning, problem-solving and analytical processes that are frequently used in learning a language.

Enrichment Opportunities: You may be able to take part in trips to either France and also local screenings of foreign films. This will offer you the chance to develop your language skills and enhance your cultural knowledge.



What I will learn on this course:

To improve your listening and speaking skills, you will have regular access to interactive on-line resources.

Core content

1. Social issues and trends
2. Political and artistic culture
3. Grammar

Options

4. Works: Literary texts and films

“Learning French gives you so many chances to enjoy another culture, I’ve got into loads of new music and films through my French lessons.”

Assessment and Examination:

Paper 1: Listening, reading and writing

What's assessed

- Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends
- Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking world
- Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world
- Grammar

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes
- 40% of A-level

Questions

- Listening and responding to spoken passages from a range of contexts and sources covering different registers and adapted as necessary. Material will include complex factual and abstract content and questions will target main points, gist and detail. Studio recordings will be used and students will have individual control of the recording.
- All questions are in French, to be answered with non-verbal responses or in French
- Reading and responding to a variety of texts written for different purposes, drawn from a range of authentic sources and adapted as necessary. Material will include complex factual and abstract content and questions will target main points, gist and detail.
- All questions are in French, to be answered with non-verbal responses or in French
- Translation into English; a passage of minimum 100 words Translation into French; a passage of minimum 100 words

Paper 2: Writing

What's assessed

- One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification
- Grammar

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 30% of A-level

Questions

- **Either** one question in French on a set text from a choice of two questions and one question in French on a set film from a choice of two questions or two questions in French on set texts from a choice of two questions on each text.
- All questions will require a critical appreciation of the concepts and issues covered in the work and a critical and analytical response to features such as the form and the technique of presentation, as appropriate to the work studied (eg the effect of narrative voice in a prose text or camera work in a film). Students are advised to write approximately 300 words per essay..

Paper 3: Speaking

What's assessed

- Individual research project
- One of four sub-themes ie Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends, Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues, Artistic culture in the French-speaking world, Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world.

What's assessed

Individual research project

- One of four sub-themes ie Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends, Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues, Artistic culture in the French-speaking world, Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world

How it's assessed

- Oral exam: 21–23 minutes (including 5 minutes preparation time)
- 30% of A-level

Questions

- Discussion of a sub-theme with the discussion based on a stimulus card
- Presentation and discussion of individual research project

Assessments will be conducted by either the centre or a visiting examiner and marked by an AQA examiner.

“Languages open so many doors, you can basically follow any career path you want with a language qualification.”

