

# French

## A Level



**Head of department:** Isobel Lowe

**Email:** ilowe@esher.ac.uk

**Exam Board:** AQA

### **What is this subject about?**

French is designed to develop an enthusiasm for language learning, awareness and understanding of contemporary society and confidence in communication.

### **For the AS level you will study:**

During the AS course you will study the topics of Media, Popular Culture, Healthy Living and Family and Relationships. You will be given a wide variety of authentic materials, including film, music, interactive online activities, the language laboratory activities and the opportunity to work or stay in France on exchange.

### **For the A2 level you will study:**

In the A2 year, you will study the Environment, Multicultural Society and Contemporary Social Issues. In addition there will be 2 cultural topics, for example a chosen region, novelist, director or musician from France.

### **How is the course assessed?**

For both AS and A2 assessment is by examination at the end of the year. AS consists of a Listening, Reading and Writing Paper of 2 hours (70% of AS) and a speaking test of 15 minutes (30% of AS). A2 consists of a Listening, Reading and Writing Paper of 2.5 hours (70% of A2) and a speaking test of 15 minutes (30% of A2).

### **What skills will I need and develop in this course?**

This course is designed to build directly on skills learned at GCSE. You will also develop your analytical and creative skills, communication skills, presentation skills, interpersonal skills and cultural awareness.

### **Subject combination advice:**

Language study combines well with all other subjects and is an excellent way to enhance your transferable skills and your global awareness and mobility.

### **What can the course lead to in terms of higher education and future careers?**

It is well documented that language graduates have one of the highest employment rates and that employers value the transferable skills which study of a language provides. Language graduates are often employed in international banks, in journalism, law, marketing, tourism and industry, and a variety of other professions. Being proficient in a language gives you broader career options. "94% of London employers think that foreign language skills are important for the London economy and 72% of UK trade is within countries that do not have English as their first language."

### **What are the formal entry requirements for this course?**

Aside from the general entry criteria that the College requires, you will also need to achieve at least a C grade at GCSE in French including the Higher Writing Paper. A higher grade than C is advisable for success at AS and A level.

### **What extra support / enrichment activities are on offer?**

The department usually offers a French exchange and the opportunity for work experience and to attend other cultural events such as the short film festival in Clermont. We also invite guest speakers during the year. We are privileged to have language assistants who can give tutorial support on a weekly basis.

### **Is the gap between GCSE and AS level languages really wide?**

At last we can answer no, as the new specification ensures graduated progression from GCSE.



**ESHER**  
COLLEGE

Weston Green Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey, KT7 0JB  
Tel: 020 8398 0291 Fax: 020 8339 0207  
Email: [eshercollege@esher.ac.uk](mailto:eshercollege@esher.ac.uk)

