

french

A Level

Head of department: Justine Brown

Email: jbrown@esher.ac.uk

Exam board: Pearson Edexcel



What is this subject about?

If you study French, you will gain in-depth understanding of the culture and society of the French-speaking world, through studying films, music, media, politics and more. You will develop skills in communication through listening, speaking, reading and writing, as well as translation into and out of the language. You will also develop your language skills to be able to read and analyse a book and film in French, which is both challenging and fun. French will test your analytical skills and ability to express yourself clearly. Studying French will broaden your job prospects and you will earn yourself a ticket to travel and work confidently in the French-speaking world.

What will I study over the two years?

In the first year you will study topics focusing on Family, Education, the Workplace, Music, Media, Festivals and Traditions. You will be given a wide variety of authentic materials including film, music, interactive online activities, language laboratory activities and the opportunity to work or stay in France on an exchange. You will also study a film in-depth. You will also have a weekly session with our language assistant to help prepare you for your oral exam.

In the second year, you will consolidate and extend the first year's topics. Furthermore, you will study Immigration and Multiculturalism in France, and the Occupation. You will also study a novel in-depth. As with the first year, you will have weekly sessions with our language assistant in preparation for your oral exam.

How is the course assessed?

Assessment is by two written exam papers (70%) and one oral exam (30%).

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.

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, journalism, law, marketing, tourism, industry and a variety of other professions. Being proficient in a language gives you broader career options.

According to the Confederation of British Industry, the UK's education system is failing to produce enough people with foreign-language skills to meet a growing need from business. Some 41% of businesses said knowledge of a foreign language was beneficial, with French identified as one of the most useful languages.

What are the formal entry requirements for this course?

Aside from the general criteria that the college requires, you will need to achieve a minimum of:

- Grade 6 in GCSE French, including the Higher Writing Paper
- Grade 4 in GCSE English Language

What extra support/enrichment activities are on offer?

The department usually offers a French exchange, the opportunity for work experience and also 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 a language assistant who can give tutorial support on a weekly basis.

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.