

Welcome to Year 12 French!

Type of course: 2-year linear (final exams in Year 13) course with internal AS style exams/mocks in the spring/summer of Year 12.

Link to specification: <http://aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/french-7652/>

Content of exams:

- **Paper 1 - Listening, Reading and Writing + Translation** (French to English, and English to French)
 - based on all topics studied in Years 12 and 13
 - 2hrs 30 mins, 100 marks, worth 50% of A-Level
- **Paper 2 - Essay paper** – written in French
 - 2 x essays: 1 x book and 1 x film (approx. 300 words each)
 - 2 hours, 80 marks, 20% of A-Level
 - Film to be studied (Yr 12/Yr 13) 'La Haine' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKwcXt3JlaU>
 - Books to be studied (Yr 12/Yr 13) 'Kiffe kiffe demain', Faïza Guène / 'No et moi', Delphine de Vigan
- **Paper 3 – Speaking**
 - Detailed discussion of one topic card from all topics studied in Yrs 12 and 13
 - Presentation and discussion on Individual Research Project (IRP)
 - Max 21-23 mins, 60 marks, 30% of A-Level

Year 12 topic content:

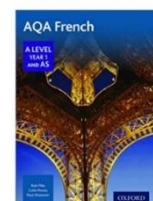
- La famille
- La cyber-société
- Le rôle du bénévolat
- La patrimoine
- La musique francophone contemporaine
- Le septième art

Year 13 topic content:

- Les ados, le droit de vote et l'engagement politique
- Manifestations, grèves – à qui le pouvoir ?
- La politique et l'immigration
- Les aspects positifs d'une société diverse
- Quelle vie pour les marginalisés?
- Comment on traite les criminels

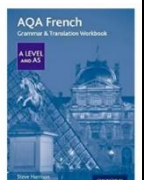
You will need:

- A5 journal/notebook for vocabulary
- A4 lever arch file (big and tall)
- A4 loose leaf paper
- Set of at least 10 dividers



- Textbook
AQA French A Level Year 1 and AS, Pike, Povey, Shannon, Oxford, 2016
ISBN 978 019 836688 1

- Grammar workbook
AQA French Grammar and Translation Workbook A-Level and AS, Harrison, Oxford, 2017
ISBN 978 019 841553 4



To do before term starts:

1 Grammar – *required learning***:**

Revise and be confident with the following grammar points:

- Present tense regular and irregular -er, -re and -ir verbs
- Past tense / passé composé (and when to use avoir/être and how any endings change with être)
- Reflexive verbs and use of être in past tense
- Imperfect tense (j'étais)
- Future tense with aller (je vais manger) and future tense with avoir endings (je mangerai)
- Conditional tense
- Pluperfect tense
- Adjective endings and when they are used

You should review your GCSE notes and exercises, but the following will also be helpful:

- www.languagesonline.org.uk (scroll down to the more advanced/GCSE exercises)
- BBC Bitesize French <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z9dqxnb>
- [Tex's French Grammar](#)
- www.zut.org.uk

There will be a short diagnostic grammar assessment mid-September to test your learning

2 Online learning – topic vocabulary, phrases, expressions *required learning*****

- Quizlet - Year 12 French –
https://quizlet.com/_5x01nu?x=1jqt&i=vqr9k
- Kahoot:
[French grammar quiz](#)
- Seneca:
<https://app.senecalearning.com/dashboard/class/q1g036v0oj/assignments/assignment/64779d76-a75c-47bb-b2b2-993897124f49>

3 Reading and Listening – Summary Writing *required learning*****

Reading

[1jour1actu](#) provides brilliant resources for both reading and listening.

Pick one of these suggested articles to read, trying to understand the gist. You will not understand every single word and that is normal!

When there is an article that interests you, complete the interactive quiz at the end to check your understanding. Then try to write a short summary in French (50-70 words) of the article. **Summarising** is a new skill at A-Level, so it would be useful to start getting your head around it. Write the summaries in your simple GCSE vocabulary so it is written in your own words rather than copied from the articles.

[Famille](#)

[Technologie](#)

[Bénévolat](#)

[Patrimoine](#)

[Musique](#)

[Cinéma](#)

[The day](#) also provides excellent translations of English articles in French. Pick one of these suggested articles and read it through, trying to understand the gist (some useful vocab is provided at the end). Then try to translate a passage into English and check your work by clicking the “simplified English version” option at the top.

If you want a challenge, it would be excellent practice to then attempt the “A vous de décider” and “Activités” questions, which are more challenging.

[Coronavirus](#)
[Technologie](#)
[Patrimoine](#)
[Terrorisme](#)
[Politique](#)
[Cinéma](#)

Listening

Pick one of these suggested videos/podcasts below and listen to it several times, with subtitles first (if you have any) then without, pausing it often to try and digest the gist. You will not understand every single word and that is normal.

Then try to write a short summary in French (**50-70 words**) of the article. Write the summaries in your simple GCSE vocabulary so it is written in your own words rather than copied from the articles.

These websites provide challenging but manageable videos or podcasts in French about relevant topics:

[Ilini](#) – has the option of displaying French/English subtitles and clicking on a word to have its translation, but you will need to create an account first to access them.

[Coronavirus](#)
[Patrimoine](#)
[Criminels](#)
[Sport](#)

[1jour1actu](#) – simple vocabulary, all sorts of topics related to current events.

[Bénévolat](#)
[Technologie](#)
[Politique](#)
[Cinéma](#)

[Brut](#) – more complex and some longer videos but usually with French subtitles to support you.

[Immigration](#)
[Diversité](#)
[Musique](#)
[Cinéma](#)

4 Choose a selection of activities from each of the following categories ***free choice***

Films to watch online:

- Ultimate list of French films on Netflix: <https://frenchflicks.com/read-49/items/watch-french-films-on-netflix-2019.html>
- Ultimate list of French films on Amazon Prime <https://frenchflicks.com/read/items/the-best-french-films-on-amazon-prime.html>
- 100 Best French movies of all time <https://www.timeout.com/paris/en/film/best-french-movies>
- **La Haine (AQA Set film)**
- Les Intouchables
- Le Fabuleux Destin de Amélie Poulain / Amélie
- Bienvenue chez les Chtis
- La vie en Rose
- Au revoir les enfants

Music, Books and Podcasts

- Discover French music on Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/search/musique%20francaise>
- Find a French song/band/artist you like and complete the gapfills until you can complete 'advanced' (or even 'expert'!?) <https://lyricstraining.com/fr/>
- Find some French language podcasts that you enjoy and listen to them regularly
- Discover the Asterix and Tintin series

News and current affairs

- News in Slow French: <https://open.spotify.com/show/3sbOvAVL6lIdMjop1r4i1G>
- <https://www.1jour1actu.com/> watch at least one episode of news every week (the animated videos are very good), making a note of ANYTHING you understand and ignoring what you don't for now
- Start following at least 3 different French language news outlets on social media – aim to find some from a range of French-speaking countries, or even a selection from each continent
- **Research:** What are the political parties in France? (also compare to Belgium / Switzerland / another French-speaking country in the world). Who are they led by? What do they stand for? What are the main political issues at the moment?

Social Media

- Start a collection of French language memes
- Follow a range of French language social media accounts: you could start by finding out who are the current social media influencers in France, Belgium and Switzerland
- Follow a range of French social media accounts related to your own hobbies and interests

Useful social media to follow

These accounts provide topical and comprehensible material to ease you into the course:

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

Other ideas

- Find a French recipe and try it out
- Research a topic of your interest related to France or a French-speaking country and prepare a mini oral/online presentation about it
- Blog/Vlog your summer in French, create memes, write a song, a poem or a story – get creative!
- Find out more about other countries across the world which have French as an official language: <https://www.francophonie.org/>
- Spend 10 minutes trying to learn the Départements de France
<https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3246>
 - Cities in France <https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3103> More difficult version: <https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3327>
 - Regions of France <https://online.seterra.com/en/vgp/3331>
- Research these opportunities for visiting France:
 - <https://www.workexperienceabroad.co.uk/france/>
 - <https://www.concordia.fr/eng>
- Find your preferred online dictionary
 - www.larousse.com
 - www.reverso.net
 - www.wordreference.com - online dictionaries in a number of languages
 - <https://leconjugueur.lefigaro.fr> – online verb conjugator
 - www.bab.la
- And if you really must use an online translation tool then try these:
 - **Linguee** - advanced, sophisticated translation comparison tool www.linguee.com
 - **DeepL** - even more advanced than Linguee - www.deepl.com
- Find a range of French language learning apps – Which would you recommend and why?
- Finally watch some **TED** Talks –

Watch this TED Talk which presents a compelling argument for why you should bother to learn a foreign language

[4 reasons to learn a new language](#)

TED Talks – John McWhorter

Watch this TED talk about the benefits of bilingualism

[The benefits of a bilingual brain](#)

TED Talks- Mia Nacamull

Watch this TED Talk in which lexicographer Erin McKean explores how we can manipulate language to express ourselves better

[Go ahead, make up new words!](#)

TED Talks – Erin McKean

Watch this TED Talk which explores how we can communicate effectively in non-verbal ways, using pictures and maps to represent meaning

[A word game to communicate in any language](#)

TED Talks – Ajit Narayanan

Every year, 6th formers taking French at Ribston comment on the following:

- The great thing about studying French is that you make progress without realising it, you are just exposed to the language so much that you get better without it feeling like hard work.
- The most intimidating skill is Speaking, and how much more spontaneous and opinionated you have to be at A-Level. Reading and listening around the topics definitely helps boost your confidence!
- I wish I had brushed up on my grammar before starting the A-Level course as it would have been easier to focus on the new content if I had been secure on my tenses already.
- Listening is definitely the hardest skill, so get as much practice as you can early on to get used to the quick pace.
- The small-sized classes are ideal for learning, for getting the support you need, and it is nice to have class discussions and debates as it doesn't feel like a traditional lesson! It is more relaxed and you can make the most of it, by asking questions and helping one other.
- The one thing I didn't realise at first was the importance of knowing some facts around the topics, so following Hugo Décrypte on Instagram was a massive help with improving my cultural knowledge!

Over the next month you will also be given access to a "French transition Y11-Y12" group on Teams, where useful additional course materials such as the Specification and Handbook will be added. This will be a useful platform for finding information or asking a teacher for help or further guidance.

If you have any questions, then please don't hesitate to contact our lovely department.

E-mail _ejh@ribstonhall.gloucs.sch.uk

See you soon! **Madame Holman / Madame Beamish**