



Coloma Sixth Form

# FRENCH A-LEVEL



# Specification

This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course.

## Subject content

### Core content

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

### Options

4. Works: Literary texts and films

## Assessments

### 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  
100 marks  
50% 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 (30 marks)

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 (50 marks)

Translation into English; a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks)

Translation into French; a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks).

No access to a dictionary during the assessment.

## 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

80 marks in total

20% 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).

No access to texts or films during the assessment.

No access to a dictionary during the assessment.

Students are advised to write approximately 300 words per essay.

## Paper 3: Speaking

### What's assessed

Individual research project

One of four themes (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)

60 marks in total

30% of A-level

### Questions

Discussion of a sub-theme with the discussion based on a stimulus card (5–6 minutes). The student studies the card for 5 minutes at the start of the test (25 marks).

Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9–10 minutes) of individual research project (35 marks).

No access to a dictionary during the assessment (including 5 minutes preparation).

Students may take the assessment only once before certification.

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

# What could this qualification lead to?

## Typical modern language careers:

- International Lawyer
- United Nations careers
- International diplomacy. ...
- Business, logistics and finance careers. ...
- Marketing, advertising and public relations (PR) careers.
- Ambassador
- Interpreter / Translator. ...
- Modern language positions in education. ...
- Management careers in UK-based French businesses
- International development worker. ...
- Broadcast or print media journalist. ...
- Sales executive
- Teacher including for English as a foreign language
- Patent examiner
- Tourism and hospitality manager
- International company executive
- Social media executive
- Spy



Language learning at A level improves job and career prospects, and graduate unemployment amongst linguists is very low. Many students go on to study one or more foreign languages at university, often in the context of a combined course with another subject such as History, English Literature, Science, Engineering or Business. Advance knowledge of a foreign language provides many opportunities for work experience, for study and for employment in the international arena.

Universities and employers recognize that those who have studied Modern Languages to an advanced level do not only have proven flexibility and capacity to learn languages generally, but also are likely to be more literate, accurate and eloquent through the medium of English too.

## A\* candidates at A-Level in Modern Foreign Languages

To gain an A\* grade at A-level, students will want to immerse themselves as much as possible in the language they are learning. They will go the extra mile to learn vocabulary and to seek to make use of new expressions in their own writing and speaking. They will be interested in how the language works, and what the similarities and contrasts are with the English language. A\* students will be organised and motivated to read beyond the curriculum, with a real capacity for independent learning, and they will take an interest in the culture and society of the country or countries whose language they are studying. When speaking, they will make every effort to communicate their ideas and opinions, and they will just have the courage to 'have a go'.

A\* students will have highly developed skills which are valued in the university and employment markets. They will possess very good analytical skills, and will be able to articulate their analysis and ideas clearly. They will be able to translate into the foreign language, and also into accurate and eloquent English, which is a key advantage in terms of employability. They will speak fluently in the foreign language on a range of important topics such as current affairs, social issues, literature and film. They will be able to use their grammatical knowledge to use language flexibly, and will have the confidence, through practice, to react spontaneously to new ideas. They will have the skills to embark on a language-based degree course in the UK or indeed to undertake work or study abroad.

# Summer Work

## Comment se préparer pour la rentrée en septembre

- **Achetez** un dictionnaire de verbes (par exemple 'Bescherelle').
- **The AQA French AS Grammar Workbook is recommended, it has answers in the back, so you can work through it at your own pace and consolidate your learning.**

|  |  | <b>Fini ?<br/>(Date)</b> |
|--|--|--------------------------|
| <p><b>Réviser</b> les temps des verbes: présent, futur, passé composé, imparfait –<br/>Pour vous aider, utilisez <a href="http://www.languagesonline.org.uk">www.languagesonline.org.uk</a> (Français-Grammar)</p> <p>Réviser les verbes irréguliers: <a href="http://www.les-verbess.com/">http://www.les-verbess.com/</a></p> <p>Conjugaisons à <b>apprendre par cœur</b> : avoir / faire / pouvoir / aller / être / prendre / voir / devoir / mettre / envoyer / dire / vouloir / savoir / venir / partir</p> | <p><b>Revise the verb tenses thoroughly.</b></p> <p><b>Learn these verbs by heart in all the tenses.</b></p>   |                          |
| <p><b>Écoutez</b> la radio française, par exemple: LW 190 Europe, LW 230 RTL, LW 160 France Inter, et <b>faites un résumé</b> en français sur une émission que vous avez appréciée.</p> <p>Sur Internet: <a href="http://www.1jour1actu.com">www.1jour1actu.com</a><br/><a href="http://www.europe1.fr">www.europe1.fr</a><br/><a href="http://www.rtl.fr">www.rtl.fr</a><br/><a href="http://www.tv5.fr">www.tv5.fr</a></p>   | <p><b>Write a summary of a French radio programme that you've listened to.</b></p>   |                          |
| <p><b>Lisez les informations</b> sur les sites français, par exemple: <a href="http://www.Tfl.fr/news">www.Tfl.fr/news</a>;<br/><b>Imprimez 3 articles</b> et résumez-les en français.</p> <p>Lisez des magazines, par exemple: Elle, Paris Match, Phosphore; <a href="http://www.linternaute.com">www.linternaute.com</a></p>   | <p><b>Print 3 articles from the French news and summarise them in French, in your own words.</b></p>   |                          |
| <p><b>Regardez</b> des DVD de films français avec sous-titres – en voici une liste d'exemples:<br/><a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_French-language_films">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_French-language_films</a>.<br/><b>Écrivez</b> votre opinion d'un film que vous avez regardé.</p>  | <p><b>Write a critique of a French film that you have watched, what you thought of it and why.</b></p>   |                          |
| <p>Recherches: Présentation à faire.</p> <p><b>Recherchez</b> une région en France ou un autre pays francophone (festivals, gastronomie, sites touristiques/historiques etc.) et préparez une présentation en français qui dure 5 minutes sur ce thème.</p>  | <p><b>Research a French-speaking region and prepare an interesting and engaging presentation in French. This could be a PowerPoint, but make sure you know the topic well enough that you do not have to read from the slides.</b></p> |                          |



## *Quelques suggestions estivales ...*

You're not just studying for an exam in French - you're exploring a different culture! Do something new in French this summer!

1. Listen to [www.frenchradiolondon.com](http://www.frenchradiolondon.com) Browse for new French bands on Myspace. Or get a free account from **Spotify.com** and discover something more mainstream. You could use the bestseller lists on **amazon.fr** or **fnac.com** to get you started.
2. Find a French poem, learn the words by heart, then learn to love them. Website: [www.poesie.webnet.fr](http://www.poesie.webnet.fr) ; [www.learnoutloud.com/Podcast-Directory/Languages/French/Easy-French-Poetry-Podcast/18774](http://www.learnoutloud.com/Podcast-Directory/Languages/French/Easy-French-Poetry-Podcast/18774) Prévert is really good and really simple. Read a classic French novel in English - maybe Saint Exupéry's *Le Petit Prince*, or Camus' *The Outsider*. Learn to understand existentialism: you are what you do; try short stories eg by Guy de Maupassant .
3. Look for French recipes online, eg [www.marmiton.org](http://www.marmiton.org) Learn to make a gratin dauphinois - don't stint the garlic. Your family will love you. Learn to make really good vinaigrette from a French recipe. Your command of French verbs will improve dramatically, as will your appreciation of la gastronomie française!
4. Explore French film. Check out [www.filmsdefrance.com/](http://www.filmsdefrance.com/)
5. Load some French music onto your iPod. Use French songs to work on your vocab and grammar: <http://platea.pntic.mec.es/~cvera/hotpot/chansons/index.htm>
6. Keep up with current affairs in France. <http://www.1jour1actu.com/> is meant for kids, but it's straight to the point and easy to follow. Subscribe to the website <https://fr.ilini.com/> (it's free) and practise!