



Year 10

French at GCSE

Information Evening

# Why French?

- 
- ❖ Practical and useful subject
  - ❖ Enjoyable way of communicating with people across the world
  - ❖ A gateway into other cultures
  - ❖ A gateway into learning other languages, especially Spanish and Italian
  - ❖ Regarded as a highly academic subject by universities
  - ❖ Makes you more marketable in the world of employment

# WHY LEARN FRENCH?



200 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE WORLD UNDERSTAND, SPEAK, READ OR WRITE FRENCH • FRENCH IS AN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF 29 COUNTRIES • FRENCH IS THE MOST WIDELY TAUGHT SECOND LANGUAGE AFTER ENGLISH • FRENCH IS SPOKEN IN OVER 43 COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD • FRENCH IS THE 9TH MOST WIDELY SPOKEN LANGUAGE IN THE WORLD • SPEAKING A NEW LANGUAGE HELPS YOU TO GET TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND ANOTHER CULTURE • FRENCH IS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION • FRENCH IS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE RED CROSS • FRENCH RESTAURANT MENUS WILL BE EASIER TO DECODE • FRENCH IS ONE OF THE TWO OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES • FRENCH IS ONE OF THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF THE UNITED NATIONS, NATO AND UNESCO • TO BE ABLE TO SAY MORE THAN "OÙ SONT LES TOILETTES SVP ?" • IN CANADA, FRENCH IS AN OFFICIAL LANGUAGE IN NEW BRUNSWICK, QUEBEC, THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, THE YUKON AND NUNAVUT • FRENCH IS A MAJOR LANGUAGE OF HIGH TECH AND BUSINESS IN THE WORLD • FRENCH OPENS DOORS TO CAREERS IN TEACHING, BUSINESS, DIPLOMACY, RESEARCH, TRANSLATION, INTERPRETATION, TRAVEL, AND MORE • FRENCH IS SPOKEN IN 2 OF THE G8 COUNTRIES • IF YOU BUMP INTO JOHNNY DEPP OR SIDNEY CROSBY, YOU COULD HAVE A CONVERSATION IN FRENCH • THERE ARE WELL OVER 33 MILLION FRENCH-SPEAKERS IN THE AMERICAS • OVER 100 MILLION STUDENTS IN THE WORLD ARE LEARNING FRENCH • LEARNING ANOTHER LANGUAGE CAN HELP YOU TO UNDERSTAND YOUR OWN • FRENCH IS THE LINGUA FRANCA OF ART, CUISINE, DANCE, AND FASHION • SPEAKING FRENCH ENHANCES YOUR TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES • THE NUMBER OF FRENCH-SPEAKERS HAS TRIPLED IN THE LAST 50 YEARS • FRENCH IS THE ONLY LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH TAUGHT IN EVERY SINGLE COUNTRY IN THE WORLD • THERE ARE OVER 700 FRENCH-LANGUAGE UNIVERSITIES IN THE WORLD • FRENCH GIVES ACCESS TO A HUGE NUMBER OF MOVIES, BOOKS, AND WEBSITES IN THEIR ORIGINAL LANGUAGE • KNOWING ANOTHER LANGUAGE LOOKS IMPRESSIVE ON A RESUME • FRENCH-SPEAKING AFRICA REPRESENTS AN AREA LARGER THAN THE USA • MANY SCHOLARSHIPS ARE OFFERED TO BILINGUAL STUDENTS • FRENCH IS THE LANGUAGE OF LOVE • SALARIES ARE HIGHER FOR BILINGUAL WORKERS THAN THEY ARE FOR UNILINGUAL WORKERS



## Key Success at GSCE



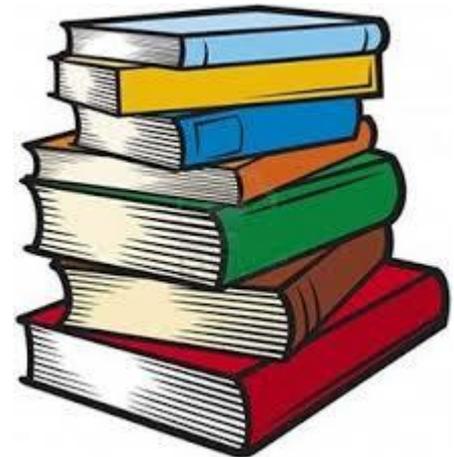
At home:

- ❖ Learning of vocabulary and frequent review of vocabulary after lessons
- ❖ Reinforcement of grammar points
- ❖ Regular revision of topics in a linear course
- ❖ Prompt and thorough completion of homework
- ❖ Being organised and equipped for the next lesson
- ❖ Use of appropriate websites to consolidate learning: Duolingo, Languages Online, Linguascope
- ❖ Reading of French texts, watching age-appropriate French films with subtitles
- ❖ Use materials effectively: excellent textbook, GCSE speaking booklet, websites, online dictionary (Reverso recommended) but not translation services

# Key success at GCSE

At school:

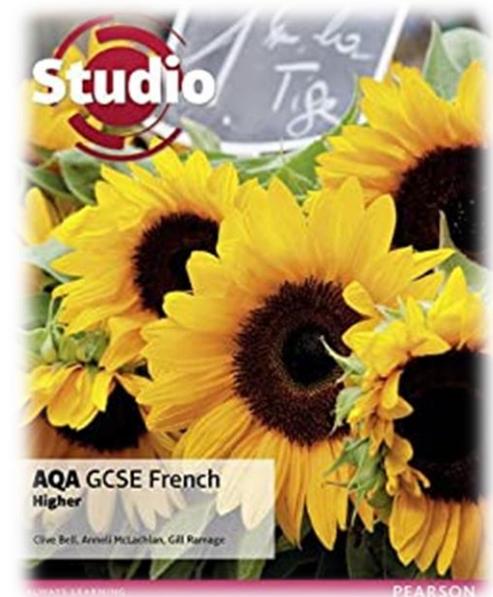
- ❖ Regular attendance in lessons
- ❖ Dialogue with teacher if there are concerns
- ❖ A 'can-do' attitude - willingness to participate and engage in lessons
- ❖ Good note-taking in class
- ❖ Learning from mistakes, good proof-reading and correction of 'unforced' errors
- ❖ Taking advantage of extra sessions in Year 11, either to support or extend
- ❖ Borrowing library books - there is a good selection in the school library



# Course content

## Year 10 units 1-4 studio higher GSCE

- ❖ The beginning of Year 10 is a revision of vocabulary and structures already known but with an emphasis already on gathering new vocabulary and structures.



CONTENT	GRAMMAR
<b>Unit 1: Identity and culture: family, friends</b>	
<p><b>talking about friends and what makes a good friend; talking about family relationships; making arrangements to go out; describing a night out with friends; talking about your life when you were younger; discussing role models</b></p>	<p>using irregular verbs in the present tense; reflexive verbs in present tense; near future tense; perfect tense; imperfect tense; combining present, perfect and imperfect tenses.</p>
<b>Unit 2 : Identity and culture: free time</b>	
<p><b>talking about sport; talking about life online; books and reading; television programmes; cinema</b></p>	<p>depuis + present tense; the comparative; imperfect tense; direct object pronouns; the superlative.</p>
<b>Unit 3 : Identity and culture : daily routine, special events</b>	
<p><b>describing daily life; food for special occasions; formal / informal register; family celebrations; festivals and traditions</b></p>	<p>pouvoir and devoir (modals); the pronoun 'en'; uses of 'tu' and 'vous' form; venir de + infinitive; combining tenses</p>
<b>Unit 4 : Local, national, international and global areas of interest : local area and issues</b>	
<p><b>describing a region; talking about own town, village or district; discussing things to see or do; plans and weather; community projects</b></p>	<p>the pronoun 'y'; negatives; questions using 'quel' etc.; future tense; combining present, past and future tenses</p>

# Course content

## Year 11 units 5-8 studio for higher GCSE:

- ❖ In Year 11 there will be more emphasis on more advanced topics and a continual review of topics from Year 10. Pupils will collect their answers in their GCSE booklet.



CONTENT	GRAMMAR
<b>Unit 5: Local, national, international and global areas of interest : holidays</b>	
<b>talking about an ideal holiday; booking and reviewing hotels; ordering in a restaurant; talking about travelling; buying souvenirs; talking about holiday disasters</b>	the conditional; reflexive verbs in the perfect tense; en + present participle; avant de + infinitive; demonstrative adjectives and pronouns; pluperfect tense
<b>Unit 6 : current and future study and employment: school; local, national, international and global areas of interest : healthy and unhealthy lifestyles; exchanges</b>	
<b>talking about school; comparing schools in UK and francophone countries; school rules; healthy living; discussing vices; talking about a school exchange</b>	using 'il' and 'elle'; using 'ils' and 'elles'; 'il faut' and 'il est interdit de' ; the imperative ; present and future tenses ; past, present and future timeframes
<b>Unit 7 : current and future study and employment: work</b>	
<b>discussing career choices; plans hopes and wishes; applying for jobs; work case studies</b>	better, worse, best, worst; subjunctive; direct object pronouns; prepositions after verbs
<b>Unit 8 : local, national, international and global areas of interest : environment and social issues</b>	
<b>discussing problems facing the world; protecting the environment; ethical shopping; volunteering; big events</b>	types of word; pouvoir and devoir in conditional; passive; indirect object pronouns; presenting arguments

## Assessments:

GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series. Each skill (reading, listening, speaking and writing) is worth 25%.

It is expected that most students will take Higher Tier but if it is in the interests of the pupil to take Foundation Tier then this should be seriously considered.



## Paper 1: Listening

### What's assessed

Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language

### How it's assessed

- Written exam: 35 minutes (Foundation Tier), 45 minutes (Higher Tier)
- 40 marks (Foundation Tier), 50 marks (Higher Tier)
- 25% of GCSE

(Each exam includes 5 minutes' reading time of the question paper before the listening stimulus is played.)

### Questions

#### Foundation Tier and Higher Tier

- Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally
- Section B – questions in French, to be answered in French or non-verbally

## Paper 2: Speaking

### What's assessed

Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes

### How it's assessed

- Non-exam assessment
- 7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + preparation time
- 10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) + preparation time
- 60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)
- 25% of GCSE

### Questions

#### Foundation Tier and Higher Tier

The format is the same at Foundation Tier and Higher Tier, but with different stimulus questions for the Photo card and different stimulus materials for the Role-play. The timings are different too:

- Role-play – 15 marks (2 minutes at Foundation Tier; 2 minutes at Higher Tier)
- Photo card – 15 marks (2 minutes at Foundation Tier; 3 minutes at Higher Tier)
- General conversation – 30 marks (3–5 minutes at Foundation Tier; 5–7 minutes at Higher Tier)

## Paper 3: Reading

### What's assessed

Understanding and responding to different types of written language

### How it's assessed

- Written exam: 45 minutes (Foundation Tier), 1 hour (Higher Tier)
- 60 marks (for each of Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)
- 25% of GCSE

### Questions

#### Foundation Tier and Higher Tier

- Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English or non-verbally
- Section B – questions in French, to be answered in French or non-verbally
- Section C – translation from French into English (a minimum of 35 words for Foundation Tier and 50 words for Higher Tier)

## Paper 4: Writing

### What's assessed

Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes

### How it's assessed

- **Written exam: 1 hour (Foundation Tier), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier)**
- **50 marks at Foundation Tier and 60 marks at Higher Tier**
- **25% of GCSE**

### Questions

#### Foundation Tier

- **Question 1 – message (student produces four sentences in response to a photo) – 8 marks**
- **Question 2 – short passage (student writes a piece of continuous text in response to four brief bullet points, approximately 40 words in total) – 16 marks**
- **Question 3 – translation from English into French (minimum 35 words) – 10 marks**
- **Question 4 – structured writing task (student responds to four compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 90 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 16 marks**

#### Higher Tier

- **Question 1 – structured writing task (student responds to four compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 90 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 16 marks**
- **Question 2 – open-ended writing task (student responds to two compulsory detailed bullet points, producing approximately 150 words in total) – there is a choice from two questions – 32 marks**
- **Question 3 – translation from English into French (minimum 50 words) – 12 marks**

A watercolor-style representation of the French flag, featuring three vertical stripes of blue, white, and red. The colors are rendered with soft, painterly textures and some splatters, giving it an artistic and slightly abstract appearance. The text is centered over the white stripe.

**AVEZ-VOUS DES QUESTIONS?**