

# A LEVEL FRENCH



## WHY SHOULD I STUDY FRENCH?

Choosing French A level allows you to not only build on the language skills you have learnt at GCSE but also foster a much greater appreciation and deeper understanding of the culture and society of the Francophone world. The course provides our students with the opportunity to gain a range of transferable skills, including communication skills, critical thinking, research, and creativity, valued by universities and employers alike. The content is therefore

suitable for students who wish to progress onto employment or further study including a modern languages degree or combined courses. The specification is designed to be studied over two years with examinations at the end of the two-year period.

## WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

The A level course focuses on how the French-speaking society has been shaped, socially and culturally, and the continual changes that we see even today.

**First Year:** topics we study include the changing family trends, youth trends (technology and identity), education and careers, heritage, music and film – a wonderful look at artistic life in French-speaking countries.

**Second Year:** we look deeper into social and cultural issues such as life for those on the margins of French society as well as the positive influences that diversity brings. We also take a closer look at the political landscape and the historical topic of 'Life in Occupied France and Post-War Years'.

Students will study one film (*La Haine*) and one novel (*No et Moi*). Students will also develop their research skills in French, conducting a piece of research on a subject of personal interest, relating to France or other Francophone countries. Not forgetting expanding your knowledge of your grammar, vocabulary and working hard on your speaking and writing skills with greater confidence.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Assessment takes place at the end of the two years and our examination board is Eduqas French A level:

**Speaking Examination** (30%) presenting your research and a conversation card

**Listening, Reading and Translation Examination** (50%)

**Essay Writing Examination** (20%) – one essay on the film and one essay on the book

## COURSE COMMITMENT

You will have approximately 4½ hours of classroom time. We expect you to work outside of your timetabled lessons for at least an extra 4 hours per week including two identified private studies periods within your college timetable.

## FOREIGN TRIPS

Here at Prior Pursglove, we offer visits to France. Previous trips have included a Cultural and Educational Visit to Paris including language lessons with native tutors. Foreign trips are optional, but it is helpful if you take part.

## COURSE COSTS

You will receive a textbook on loan from the college and have access to digital resources (a further e-book along with interactive activities). It is recommended that you buy the novel and the study guide as part of your course.

## ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

For entry on to this course you will need to meet the college standard entry requirements for Advanced Level study of 5 GCSE passes (grades 4 - 9) including English Language and French.

## PROGRESSION ROUTES

You could progress to University where French can be studied as a main subject or in combination with a wide range of other subjects such as Business, Spanish, European Management, or Physics.

The importance of being able to communicate in a foreign language is very highly prized by employers. Language learning in Higher Education has also never been more vital for the economy of this country and people with language qualifications have seldom been more in demand. Solid language skills are crucial for business in a global mobile economy. Language graduates have one of the highest employment rates of any subject.

We currently have ex-students at a variety of universities studying French along with another language or with Business, Mathematics and a wide variety of other subjects. Some of the students who studied this course at Prior Pursglove College progressed on to:

- Aston University – **Chemical Engineering**
- Durham University – **Law / Modern Languages**
- Edinburgh University – **French & Spanish**
- Leeds University – **International Business & Economics**

The European jobs market is at present dominated by young French, German and other foreign nationals who can already speak two or even three languages. As close collaboration with our European allies becomes more and more essential, it is vital for the future of this country that our young people continue their study of foreign languages so that we can not only trade effectively with countries abroad but also understand their culture and their outlook.

## STUDENT COMMENTS

What our French students say:

“French at Prior Pursglove is a great course to study because of its diverse range of topics. Languages have a reputation of being difficult A Levels, however even though the work is challenging, it is an interesting and valuable course to study. There’s a lot of support available, the A2 mentoring program being a helpful one and the extra conversation classes really improve your speaking skills. Overall, it’s a really interesting course to take up at college”

“I love learning French because I find it interesting as it teaches me a lot about my own language as well. It also broadens my way of thinking on other subjects and allows me to think about things from different perspectives. French at Prior is brilliant because you learn a lot and have fun whilst doing so. Because French is a very social subject it’s easy to help each other which improves your understanding and consolidation of the information as well as the other persons.”

“French at Prior is a great subject to take because although it can be really challenging, you do learn a lot and you learn a lot more about how to speak fluently. We have weekly speaking sessions where it’s just discussion, this really helps to make you think on the spot.”

## FURTHER INFORMATION

If you require further information please contact the subject leader, Helena Walker

*Please note that the information in this leaflet is correct at the time of publication, but circumstances may arise which cause us to revise our provision.*  
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