

REVISED GCE AS & A LEVEL  
Student Guide  
**French**

For first teaching from September 2008

For first award of AS Level in Summer 2009

For first award of A Level in Summer 2010

french

# Student Guide: French

GCE French will give you a fascinating insight into the world of French. Whilst developing the ability to communicate confidently and effectively in French in both speech and writing, you will also learn about the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of not only France but of other countries and communities where French is spoken. Your own personal development will also benefit greatly from taking GCE French. It will strengthen your confidence and help you gain a positive attitude to learning and independent study. The AS units can be taken separately as a stand alone qualification or you can take the AS units combined with the A2 units to gain the full A Level qualification.

## Q. Why study GCE French?

If you have an interest and a desire to learn and experience the world around you then you will be well suited to this course. The AS course can be taken on its own without progressing on to the full A Level qualification and this will still provide you with a wealth of knowledge and competency in French for use in leisure or travel; however if you wish to specialise in French at degree level or equivalent, it would be beneficial to complete the A2 units and obtain a full A Level qualification.

## Q. What do I need to be able to take this course?

Before taking this course you will need to have obtained a good GCSE standard or equivalent in French. You should also have a good knowledge of the culture and society of France and other countries where French is spoken and of course a desire to enhance this knowledge through further study.

## Q. What will I study?

For GCE French you will study 2 units at AS and 2 units at A2. We have identified 5 broad Contexts for Learning. These are basically topic areas which you will study and explore whilst developing your language skills. 3 will be studied at AS and a further 2 at A2.

AS	Relationships	Health & Lifestyle	Young people in Society
A2	Local & Global Citizenship	Environmental Awareness	

You will develop an understanding and knowledge of these areas in both a local and global context. As well as this, in your A2 year; you will study and explore an aspect of French society and also a French literary text.

Throughout your AS and A2 years you will

- become familiar with reading and listening to extracts in French taken from authentic sources and extracting information from them.
- develop the skill of translating passages of information from French into English and vice versa.
- enhance your ability to hold a conversation in French, expressing ideas and justifying opinions.
- learn how to write essays in French using grammar accurately.
- develop the skills to discuss and write in French about literary and societal themes.

At the end of this course you will not only have improved your ability to communicate at a much higher level in French but you will also have gained a very thorough knowledge of life in France and other French speaking countries.



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## How can I find out more?

There are a number of ways that you can find out more about studying French.

These include:

- Teachers at your school or college
- Language assistants
- Students who have already studied the subject
- [www.ccea.org.uk/languages](http://www.ccea.org.uk/languages)
- The National Centre for Languages [www.cilt.org.uk](http://www.cilt.org.uk)
- Northern Ireland CILT [www.qub.ac.uk/edu/nicilt](http://www.qub.ac.uk/edu/nicilt)
- Careers advisor
- UCAS [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) or CAO [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie) for details on entry requirements for university courses

## Q. How will I be assessed?

Unit	Type of Assessment
<p><b>AS 1</b> <b>Speaking</b></p> <p>35% of AS                      17.5% of A2</p>	<p>This is made up of a presentation which you will prepare in advance, followed by a conversation. It will be conducted by an external examiner.</p> <p>In all, the speaking test should last approx. 13 minutes.</p> <p><i>Available in January and summer.</i></p>
<p><b>AS 2</b> <b>Section A – Listening</b></p> <p><b>Sections B &amp; C – Reading and Writing</b></p> <p>65% of AS                      32.5% of A2</p>	<p>This test will consist of 2 questions based on 2 passages recorded on individual CDs. It will last 30 minutes.</p> <p>These sections are combined into one paper which lasts 2 hrs 15 minutes.</p> <p>Section B consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 reading comprehension questions based on one text</li> <li>• translation into English</li> </ul> <p>Section C consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• one extended writing question.</li> </ul> <p><i>Available in January and summer.</i></p>
<p><b>A2 1</b> <b>Speaking</b></p> <p>17.5% of A Level</p>	<p>This is made up of a discussion based on a societal theme which you will study throughout your A2 year followed by a conversation. It will be conducted by an external examiner.</p> <p>In all, the speaking test should last approx. 15 minutes.</p> <p><i>Available in summer only.</i></p>
<p><b>A22</b> <b>Section A – Listening</b></p> <p><b>Sections B &amp; C – Reading and Writing</b></p> <p>32.5% of A Level</p>	<p>This test will consist of 2 questions based on 2 passages recorded on individual CDs. It will last 35 minutes.</p> <p>These sections are combined into one paper which lasts 2 hrs 25 minutes.</p> <p>Section B consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 reading comprehension questions based on 2 texts</li> <li>• translation from English into French</li> </ul> <p>Section C consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• one essay based on a literary text</li> </ul> <p><i>Available in summer only.</i></p>

## Q. What can I do with a qualification in French?

Learning a language will bring you a wide range of skills and attributes. Not only will you be able to communicate in another language but you will have opportunities to improve communication and interpersonal skills all of which are highly sought after by employers and universities alike. A qualification in GCE French will offer you a range of employment opportunities and not just in the traditional fields of teaching, tourism, government and marketing. GCE French will also benefit you in areas such as financial services, IT, journalism and engineering.

