

Subject: French

Teachers: Ms Branson,
Mrs Furnival

Exam Board: AQA

NEWPORT GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

KS5 CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Curriculum Intent & Organisation		
We are following the AQA A-level course in French, as its course content most closely matches teachers' skills, specialisms and experience. Students following this course will have an excellent preparation for continued language study at university or for advanced level communication. The course covers aspects of French culture and society as well as literature and film study alongside advanced grammar practice.		
Examination Information		Facilitating Subject?
Option subject examined end of Year 13 by two written examination papers and a Non-Examination Assessment in speaking		Yes
Impact of Prior Learning from KS4		
A high grade at GCSE is essential and will have provided students with a good grounding in all skills – listening, speaking, reading, writing and translating, as well as a very good standard of grammar and a wide vocabulary.		
Summer work on grammar, ensures thorough knowledge of all pronouns, irregular verbs in all tenses, adjectival agreements and possessive adjectives. Recording regular reading, listening, film and news watching and research on a Francophone country will prepare students for the research and linguistic skills necessary to achieve a good grade at Advanced Level French.		
Equipment Required for this course		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Standard classroom stationery• Own lined paper• A good (not 'pocket') French-English dictionary, eg Collins Robert		
Curriculum Implementation – Areas of Focus Year 12		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Depending on teachers' timetabling and calendar commitments, these topics may be taught in a different order but will still be covered by the end of year 12 examination		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to the course and transition – grammar & vocabulary• What is important to you, friendship, hopes and dreams• The changing family – couples, parenting, grandparents' role, problems• Cybersociety – technology, dangers, internet users• The role of volunteering – the range of voluntary work, its benefits for those that are helped, those who help and society as a whole	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A culture proud of its heritage – heritage on a regional & national scale, tourism, the impact on culture & society• Contemporary Francophone music – its popularity & diversity, threats to it and how it might be safeguarded• Cinema – the 7th art – evolution of French cinema, its continuing popularity & film festivals• Examination skills – Speaking, literary texts, grammar	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examination skills – translation, summarising, grammar• Examination• Commence study of 'Un Sac de Billes' by Joseph Joffo• Commence study of Politics & Immigration – political issues concerning immigration

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Curriculum Implementation – Areas of Focus Year 13

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completion of study of Politics & Immigration – political viewpoints and issues concerning immigration• Completion of study of “Un Sac de Billes”• Diversity in society – the need for tolerance and respect, the promotion of diversity and its benefits• Study of “La Haine”, a film produced by Matthieu Kassovitz• Protests and strikes – their importance, the role of trade unions, attitudes to political tensions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Life for the marginalised – examination of the different groups who are socially marginalised, the attitudes towards them and the measures used to help them• Preparation for mock examination: examination skills• Review of performance post-mock examination• Crime and Punishment – examination of different attitudes to crime, the merits and problems of imprisonment and alternative forms of punishment• Political Engagement by the Young – the right to vote, levels of political engagement of young people and their influence on politics, the future of politics and political engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completion of Political Engagement• Revision programme of examination skills – translation, summarising, grammar, written responses to “Un Sac de Billes” and “La Haine”• Preparation for Speaking Examination

Impact / Outcomes

Learning will be assessed throughout the course by:

- Weekly vocabulary tests to ensure that topic-specific words, phrases and idioms are embedded.
- Regular translations, summaries and essays will be set and marked.
- End of module assessments. Each assessment will focus on two or three of the skills that will be tested in the examination.
- More formal assessment in examination weeks set by school, eg end of year examination in Year 12 and Mock examination in Year 13 will reflect the papers of the real examination in that students will sit papers similar to those expected, but where possible containing material covered in the course so far.
- Detailed feedback and advice is given after each assessment.

Homework / Self Study

A couple of sentences highlighting types of homework found in A-level course and how independent study time should be used.

- Weekly vocabulary learning
- Regular grammar exercises
- Reading comprehension tasks
- Listening comprehension tasks
- Preparation for a speaking presentation on research on an aspect of the course.
- Preparation for an individual speaking assessment
- Wider research and reading appropriate to the topics covered.
- Weekly news reading and/or listening

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Ways to support learning

- We currently have a subscription to Dynamic Learning which support the course and many additional practice activities in each skill are available for students to access.
- Students may wish to purchase French AQA A-level Revision and Practice Workbooks for Themes 1 & 2, and for Themes 3 & 4 by Hodder Education, which contain many examination-style activities, grammar practice in all the topics covered.

Field Work / Extension / Enrichment Opportunities

- Some students have organised work experience in a French-speaking country as well as their own visits, which is a very helpful way of improving spoken French and understanding of Francophone culture.

Next Steps

A single or joint honours Modern Foreign Languages degree (with or without French) – or joint with a non-language subject (eg a science). Most universities consider the research and communication skills used and practiced in A-level French to be a useful basis for any degree or further study, particularly for Arts subjects.

The ability to speak, write and understand a foreign language at a high level is considered by most employers to be an important employability skill.

For more information, contact Ms D Branson or Mrs H Furnival.