

Mayflower High School

WHAT WILL I STUDY AT A LEVEL?

A level French at Mayflower consists of three externally examined papers assessing listening, speaking, reading and writing and translation. These are externally set but conducted internally. All examinations and the speaking assessments are marked by the **Edexcel** examination board.

- **Paper 1** (listening, reading and translation into English) – worth 40%.
- **Paper 2** (writing [answering **two questions** based on literary texts and/or films and a question involving a translation into French] – worth 30%
- **Paper 3** (speaking – worth 30%)

For **Paper One**, students will be assessed on their understanding of spoken and written French from a variety of types of authentic texts and listening material, as well as their ability to translate accurately from French into English. Texts and recordings vary in length to include some extended passages. All spoken and written materials are culturally relevant to France and French-speaking countries and are drawn from the four themes (listed below). The listening section will be made up of spoken passages covering different registers and types, including authentic communication involving one or more male and female speakers. Sources will include material from online media. The reading section will be made up of texts containing both factual and abstract content and will be authentic or adapted from authentic sources. The texts will include contemporary, historical, literary, fiction and non-fiction, written for different purposes and audiences.

For **Paper Two**, students will study works chosen from a wide choice of French literary texts and films. These include contemporary and more classical titles, together with authentic source materials from France and the wider French-speaking world. Students will develop a detailed understanding and appreciation of the works studied, by writing critical and analytical responses in French on the works - either two literary texts, or one literary text and one film.

Students will produce responses that relate to features such as the form and the technique of presentation, key concepts and issues and the social context, as appropriate to the work studied. They will present viewpoints, develop arguments and will also learn how to persuade; and analyse and evaluate the work they study. Paper Two will also be aimed at the students learning to manipulate language accurately through translating an unseen passage from English into French.

In **Paper Three** students will learn to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the cultural context by giving ideas, examples and information on one of the themes listed below and on a chosen subject of interest they have researched linked to the social and cultural context of the language studied. They will develop the ability to analyse aspects of the cultural context by presenting and justifying valid arguments, viewpoints and conclusions. The aim of this paper is to provide the students with the ability to interact and hold a natural and fluent discourse.

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Themes

The qualification is based on four themes which provide clear links to some of the most fundamental and interesting aspects of Francophone culture countries and communities. The themes address a range of social issues and trends, as well as aspects of the political and artistic culture of France and French-speaking countries. Themes 1, 3, and 4 focus on aspects of society or history of France only. Theme 2 requires students to broaden their knowledge of French-speaking countries and communities.

Theme 1 *(Les changements dans la société française) focuses on how French society has evolved over recent decades.

Theme 2 *(La culture politique et artistique dans les pays francophones) requires students to broaden their knowledge of politics and the Arts in French-speaking countries and communities.

Theme 3 *(L'immigration et la société multiculturelle française) deals with immigration and multiculturalism in France.

Theme 4 *(L'Occupation et la Résistance) provides students with an insight into France's recent history focussing on the country's occupation and collaboration during the Second World War and the French Resistance Movement.

WHAT ARE THE OPPORTUNITIES AFTER A LEVEL?

In recent years, Higher Education institutions and employers have consistently flagged the need for students to develop a range of transferable skills to enable them to respond with confidence to the demands of undergraduate study and the world of work. Transferable skills enable young people to face the demands of further and higher education, as well as the demands of the workplace.

French A level will help students develop their cognitive, interpersonal and intrapersonal skills. Their French studies will also allow them to become more adaptable and to be more confident in the area of self-management and self-development - the ability to work in teams or to work autonomously.

French can be helpful if you want to pursue a career in areas such as International Trade and Commerce, Business, Technology, Economics, Engineering, Teaching and Travel and Tourism. Increasingly, French can form part of a combined degree with many subjects including Business Studies or Economics. Knowledge of French is increasingly essential in the modern, ever-shrinking world in which we find ourselves.

WHAT ARE THE COURSE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?

CAPS 5 plus a grade 6 in GCSE French.

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