St Benedict's Sixth Form

A Level French

Course Description

The approach is a focus on how French-speaking society has been shaped, socially and culturally, and how it continues to change. In the first year, aspects of the social context are studied, together with aspects of the artistic life of French speaking countries. In the second year further aspects of the social background are covered, this time focusing on issues such as life for those on the margins of French speaking society as well as looking at the positive influences that diversity brings. Students also study aspects of the political landscape in a French speaking country, looking at immigration from the political perspective and at the way in which political power is expressed through action such as strikes and demonstrations. Teenagers and the extent to which they are politically engaged looks towards the future of political life in French-speaking society.

Skills Attained

The A-level specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and society. Grammar and the mastering of linguistic features are key elements of this qualification as is the inclusion of authentic written and spoken sources, responding through writing to literature and film, and independent research.

Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of themes relating to the culture and society of countries where French is spoken, and their language skills. They will do this by using authentic spoken and written sources in French. In addition, students following this specification will:

- Develop research skills in French, demonstrating the ability to initiate and conduct individual research on a subject of personal interest, relating to the country or countries where French is spoken
- Identify a key question or subject of interest and select relevant information in French from a range of authentic sources, including the internet
- Use information to illustrate knowledge and understanding of the research subject
- Analyse and summarise research findings, elaborating on key points of interest, as appropriate, through oral presentation and discussion

Assessment

There are three papers that function as part of the assessment:

1. **Listening, Reading and Writing** - 2 hours 30 minutes, 100 marks, 50% of A Level.
2. **Writing** - 2 hours, 80 marks, 20% of A Level.
3. **Speaking** - Oral exam, 21 to 23 minutes (including 5 minutes of preparation time), 60 marks, 30% of A Level.

Progression

The A-level in languages builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills gained at GCSE. It constitutes an integrated study with a focus on language, culture and society. It fosters a range of transferable skills including communication, critical thinking, research skills and creativity, which are valuable to the individual and society. The content is suitable for students who wish to progress to employment or further study, including a modern languages degree.

Languages are all around us; they are used in so many situations whether at work, on holiday or just casually in day-to-day life - we live in a multilingual global society. Choosing an A-level language is a really smart move if you want a fascinating subject that offers you a range of career possibilities at the end and are a lot of fun along the way. A-level language courses are interesting and varied subjects to study and give you a broad range of knowledge and skills.

Learning a language is a never-ending process; languages are constantly changing, bringing in new words and getting rid of old ones.

The skills and qualifications that you gain from studying a language at A-level are incredibly important tools to have under your belt

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in GCSE French
Grade 5 in GCSE English

Exam Board: AQA

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