

# A-level French

Board and specification: **Edexcel 9FRO**

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## Subject specific entry requirements:

- Grade 7 in GCSE French (grade 6 will be considered in exceptional circumstances).
- Grade 5 or above in English Literature and/or Language.

## What skills are required of students?

Students must be highly motivated and interested in the subject. They should also be able to undertake independent study outside of the classroom and be willing to try and speak in the target language at every available opportunity.

A-level Modern Foreign Languages are some of the most challenging, therefore students must be willing to practise grammar, reading and listening skills every day, as well as learning vocabulary. They should also be willing to take part in an exchange with the target language country.

## Modules titles and codes:

During the two year A-level course you will study the following topics

### **Theme 1: Les changements dans la société française (set in the context of France only).**

Les changements dans les structures familiales.

Les changements dans les attitudes envers le mariage, les couples et la famille.

L'éducation.

Le système éducatif et les questions estudiantines.

Le monde du travail.

La vie active en France et les attitudes envers le travail ; le droit à la grève; l'égalité des sexes.

### **Theme 2: La culture politique et artistique dans les pays francophones**

**Theme 2 is set in the context of francophone countries and communities.**

La musique.

Les changements et les développements ; l'impact de la musique sur la culture populaire.

Les médias.

La liberté d'expression ; la presse écrite et en ligne; l'impact sur la société et la politique.

Les festivals et les traditions.

Les festivals, fêtes, coutumes et traditions.

### **Theme 3: L'immigration et la société multiculturelle française**

Theme 3 is set in the context of France only.

L'intégration et le multiculturalisme.

Les origines de l'immigration (à partir du 20ème siècle); l'évolution des stratégies.

politiques ; les bienfaits et les défis de l'intégration et du multiculturalisme.

La montée de l'extrême droite.

Les objectifs du Front national (FN); les leaders du FN; la montée du FN; l'opinion publique.

#### **Theme 4: L'Occupation et la Résistance**

Theme 4 is set in the context of France only.

L'Occupation.

La vie sous le régime de Vichy et l'autorité du Maréchal Pétain ; La France occupée et la collaboration; l'antisémitisme.

La Résistance.

La Résistance des Français, l'importance de Jean Moulin et Charles de Gaulle.

#### **Paper 1: Listening, reading and translation (\*Paper code: 9FR0/01)**

*Written examination: 1 hour and 50 minutes - 40% of the qualification, 64 marks*

This paper draws on vocabulary and structures across all four Themes.

#### **Assessment overview**

Students are not permitted access to a dictionary during the examination.

The examination is made up of:

#### **Section A: Listening (24 marks)**

A listening assessment based on a recording, featuring male and female French speakers.

Students will respond to comprehension questions based on a variety of contexts and sources.

#### **Section B: Reading (24 marks)**

A reading assessment based on a variety of text-types and genres where students will have to respond to comprehension questions.

#### **Section C: Translation into English (16 marks)**

An unseen passage to be translated from French to English.

#### **Paper 2: Written response to works and translation (\*Paper code: 9FR0/02)**

*Written examination: 2 hours and 40 minutes - 30% of the qualification, 48 marks*

This paper draws on the study of two discrete French works: either two literary texts, or one literary text and one film. The literary texts listed include a range of classic and contemporary novels, a series of short stories and plays. All of the films are feature length. This paper includes a translation exercise and two essays on either two literary texts, **or** one literary text and one film (students must **not** answer questions on two films). Students are not permitted access to a dictionary or any documentation relating to the works during the examination.

#### **Section A: Translation (16 marks)**

Students translate an unseen passage from English into French.

#### **Section B: Written response to works (literary texts) (16 marks)**

Students must write an extended response on either one or two of the literary texts listed in *Appendix 3*. Students select one question from a choice of two for each of their chosen literary text(s). If a student answers questions on two literary texts then they do not complete section C.

### **Section C: Written response to works (films) (16 marks)**

Students who answer only one question from a literary text in Section B must now write an extended response on one of the films listed in Appendix 3. Students select one question from a choice of two for their chosen film.

### **Paper 3: Speaking (\*Paper code: 9FR0/03)**

*Internally conducted and externally assessed*

*Total assessment time: between 21 and 23 minutes, which includes a single period of 5 minutes' formal preparation time. 30% of the qualification 48 marks*

#### **Assessment overview**

Students complete two tasks.

#### **Task 1 (Discussion on a theme) 20 marks**

Students discuss one theme from the specification based on a stimulus containing two different statements.

#### **Task 2 (presentation and discussion on independent research) 28 marks**

Students present a summary of the key findings of the written sources they have used for their research and answer questions on this. They then have a wider discussion on their research.

#### **What kinds of work will you do in class and at home?**

- Students will practise the core skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in every lesson.
- Research may be set as homework.
- Every lesson students will be given vocabulary to learn.
- Students will be given grammar exercises to practise in every lesson.

Reading and listening will be of authentic material (as they are in the exam) and students will be expected to read books and watch films in the target language as well; to help prepare them for the external exams.

#### **What other A-levels does your subject connect well with?**

English, History, Religion, Philosophy and Ethics.

#### **What types of university course will be helped by this A-level?**

An A-level in a modern foreign language could lead towards international courses and any related courses connected with English and MFL.

In an increasingly global economy, proficiency in a foreign language is a highly marketable job skill. French is integral to or complementary with a huge number of careers including; international business, computing, travel and tourism, public administration, law, banking, medicine, accountancy, journalism, education and social work.

A sound working knowledge of one or more modern European languages has become a major differentiator when it comes to recruitment. The study of other European languages and literature develops cultural awareness and sensitivity, improves one's ability to communicate and promotes greater appreciation of European business environments.