

FRENCH

WHERE CAN IT TAKE YOU?

Diplomatic Service

As a Diplomatic service officer you'll work for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to protect and promote UK interests and support British citizens and businesses throughout the world. The FCO deals with issues such as:

- Conflict resolution
- Counter terrorism
- Trade and investment
- Forced marriages
- Human rights
- Climate change

As an officer, you'll specialise in the practical side of diplomatic work and will work in foreign policy and service delivery overseas. You'll also have the opportunity to influence international and diplomatic development.

Tour Manager

Tour managers, sometimes known as tour directors, organise and accompany groups of holidaymakers on tours to a variety of locations. They are responsible for ensuring travel arrangements run as smoothly as possible and provide holidaymakers with practical support throughout their trip.

- Tour managers involved in the planning and organisation of tours or special-interest holidays may be employed continuously, especially with large tour operators
- Tour managers are often self-employed, working on a freelance basis, moving from one tour to another
- The work is often without supervision or an office base and there is usually considerable contact with clients.

Translator

As a translator, you will convert written material from one or more 'source languages' into the 'target language', making sure that the translated version conveys the meaning of the original as clearly as possible. You can translate a variety of content, including:

- Commercial
- Educational
- Legal
- Literary
- Scientific
- Technical documents

You typically need an excellent command of two or more languages. Those most in demand are the official languages of the European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN). You can become a translator with a degree in any subject, providing you are fluent in two or more languages. However, certain degrees may increase your chances of securing work and these include:

- Translation studies with languages
- Modern European and/or non-European languages
- Business, law or science with languages.

Interpreter

As an interpreter, you'll convert spoken or sign language statements from one language to another. You'll need to listen to, understand and memorise content in the original source language and then reproduce it in the target language. This is usually done in only one direction, normally into your native tongue, but you may be required to interpret on a two-way basis.

You can work as an interpreter in the following settings:

- Business functions such as meetings, conferences, exhibitions and product launches
- Criminal justice proceedings, known as public service interpreting (PSI), including police and probation service interviews, court hearings, solicitor interviews, arbitration hearings and immigration tribunals
- Community-based events and assignments within the education, health and social services sectors.

FURTHER CAREER INFORMATION

These are just a small selection of the careers you could go on to pursue should you study A Level French.

Many of these careers require a university degree and therefore we would recommend looking into the specific requirements for each university course by heading to their respective websites.

FRENCH

WHAT TO EXPECT

What does the course involve?

A Level French will take your knowledge of the French language to the next level, but will also give you the opportunity to explore fascinating aspects of French social, cultural and political life. The emphasis of study at A Level is on learning more about how the language works, mastering grammatical structures, expanding vocabulary and gathering knowledge, understanding and opinions about a range of more advanced topics that go beyond the personal information you focused on at GCSE.

Students will have many opportunities to develop confidence and competence in the key exam skills using a variety of up to date authentic sources and materials (audio, video, printed, on-line), teaching strategies and topic areas. You will have the opportunity to participate in a French exchange with our partner school in Lyon which will enable you to experience the language first hand in an authentic setting.

Throughout the A level course students will:

- develop knowledge and understanding of aspects of French society, culture and history of the country or countries where French is spoken, studying themes from each of the following areas:
- Year 1 Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends (the changing nature of the family, the "cyber-society", the role of voluntary work)
- Year 2 Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues (features of a diverse society, life for the marginalised, how criminals are treated)
- Year 1 Artistic culture in the French-speaking world: (cultural heritage, contemporary francophone music, cinema)
- Year 2 Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world: (young people's involvement in politics, the right to vote, unions, strikes and

demonstrations, politics and immigration) study a film in year one

- Year 1 Study of a film (La Haine/Mathieu Kassovitz)
- Year 2 Study of a literary work (No et Moi/ Delphine de Vigan)
- Year 2 Study of a literary work (No et Moi/ Delphine de Vigan)
- Year 2 Independent Research Project on a topic of personal interest

Can I take additional qualifications?

If you choose to study French, you will usually take it alongside two other A levels, though it is sometimes possible for students who achieve high average GCSE grades to add French to their programme of three other subjects.

How will I be assessed?

100% examination

Paper 1

- Listening, Reading and Translation - 50% of A Level (NB A level listening is individual with headphones and controlled by the candidate)

Paper 2

- Writing (on film and book) - 20% of A Level

Paper 3

- Speaking (stimulus card + independent research project) - 30% of A Level

What are the costs?

There are no charges to study on any of our courses. However we strongly advise all students to purchase their own copies of a few resources which they will find it useful to annotate, at a cost of about £12-15. Also there may be costs associated with participation in our French exchange if students choose to take part.

What is the duration?

This is a two year course.

Entry Requirements

Grade 6 in GCSE French.