

GCSE French



Qualification: GCSE French

Exam Board: Edexcel

Why study French?

French is the language of art, literature and cuisine providing students with an insight into French culture and history. Studying French opens up numerous opportunities in communication, culture and career advancement, making it a valuable language to learn. Studying French is not just about learning a language; it is about embracing a global culture, enhancing career prospects, and enriching personal experiences. Many sectors, including luxury goods, automotive, and aeronautics, value employees who can communicate in French.

France is the world's top tourist destination and attracts more than 79,5 million visitors a year. The ability to speak even a little French makes it so much more enjoyable to visit Paris and all the regions of and offers insights into French culture, mentality and way of life. French also comes in handy when travelling to Africa, Switzerland, Canada, Monaco, the Seychelles and other places. French is both a working language and an official language of the United Nations, the European Union, UNESCO, NATO, the International Olympic Committee, the International Red Cross and international courts. Being proficient in French is essential for anyone considering a career in any international organisation.

After English and German, French is the third most widely used language on the Internet, ahead of Spanish. An ability to understand French offers an alternative view of the world through communication with French speakers from all over the world and news from the leading French-language international media (TV5, France 24 and Radio France Internationale). Furthermore, learning French at school helps students develop essential language skills, such as reading, writing and speaking, which are imperative for academic success.

Key Themes:

The Edexcel French GCSE specification for 2025 includes a comprehensive curriculum designed to enhance communication skills, cultural understanding, and assessment across various themes.

The specification covers five main themes:

1. **Identity and Culture:** Exploring personal identity, relationships, and cultural practices.
2. **Local Area, Holiday, and Travel:** Discussing places, travel experiences, and local customs.
3. **School:** Covering school life, subjects, and educational experiences.
4. **Future Aspirations, Study, and Work:** Focusing on career aspirations and further education.
5. **International and Global Dimension:** Understanding global issues and cultural diversity.

Thematic contexts:

There are a range of engaging and relatable thematic contexts, which are relevant to students' current and future needs:

- My personal world – family, friends, relationships, equality
- Lifestyle and wellbeing – physical well-being, mental well-being, food and drink, sports
- My neighbourhood – places in town, accommodation, shopping, transport the natural world, environmental issues
- Media and Technology – music, social media and gaming, TV and film
- Studying and my future – school, future opportunities (e.g. work, travel)
- Travel and Tourism – tourist attractions

Assessment Structure:

Students will be assessed through four papers, each focusing on different language skills:

- **Paper 1:** Speaking in French (Non-examined assessment) (50 marks – 25%)
- **Paper 2:** Listening and Understanding in French (50 marks – 25%)
- **Paper 3:** Reading and understanding in French (50 marks – 25%)
- **Paper 4:** Writing in French (50 marks – 25%)

Each paper is available at Foundation or Higher tier, and students must be entered for a single tier across all papers.

Resources and Support:

Pearson provides a range of resources to support students on their website, including detailed specifications and sample assessment materials. These resources are designed to help students connect with the language and make meaningful progress.

What career opportunities are there?

The career paths available for individuals with language skills are diverse and can be found in various sectors. Some of the potential career options include: Translators, working in specialised fields such as Law, Business, Marketing and Medicine; Teachers of MFL in schools or English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) abroad; Customer Service in multi-lingual environments; Public Sector, including Government roles; Hospitality and Travel sectors where multi-communication is essential; Nursing professions and Flight Attendants.

How can I get further information?

Please see French teachers - Miss Peace and Mrs Gambone-Smith