THE WORTHGATE SCHOOL
CANTERBURY

COURSE DESCRIPTOR

GCSE FRENCH

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

The GCSE French course hones reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills, emphasizing precision and fluency. Cultural immersion in French-speaking countries is integral therefore receptive skills are cultivated through exposure to authentic sources like articles, videos, and songs. Productive skills will develop productive skills such as writing and speaking and learn to communicate in written French using formats like messages, emails and articles. Optional trips to local French restaurants and French-language theatre will provide real-world context, contingent on student interest.

PRIOR LEARNING REQUIRED

An interest in and a desire to study French is essential. Students who are willing to spend time studying in advance will have an advantage. We aim to instil a deep interest in the subject, and this can be maintained in courses of further education and beyond. It is recommended that students begin learning vocabulary before the course commences by using websites such as Quizlet and Memrise to familiarize themselves with the spelling and sound of French.

EXAM BOARD

AQA

COURSE CONTENT

Core content

- Theme 1: People and lifestyle
- Theme 2: Popular culture
- Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

Theme 1 covers the following three topics:

- Topic 1: Identitiy and relationships with others
- Topic 2: Healthy living and lifestyle
- Topic 3: Education and work

Theme 2 covers the following three topics:

- Topic 1: Free-time activities
- Topic 2: Customs, festivals and celebrations
- Topic 3: Celebrity culture

Theme 3 covers the following three topics:

- Topic 1: Travel and tourism, inclding places of interest
- Topic 2: Media and technology
- Topic 3: The environment and where people live

There is also an element of translating from French into English and vice versa.

Year 1	Year 2
THEME 1: People and lifestyles - Identitiy and relationships with others, healthy living and lifestyle, and education and work.	**THEME 3: Communication and the world around us** – travel and tourism, inclding places of interest, media and technology and the environment and where people live.

THEME 2: Popular culture - Free-time activities, customs, festivals and celebrations and celebrity culture.	

ASSESSMENT

Formal internal assessments take place regularly about once every half term and homework is set on a regular basis.
Grades are determined by final examinations, which take place in May/June at the end of the 2-year course.
An end of year exam must be passed for entry to year 2 and a mock exam must be passed for entry into the public exams.

Students will be tested in **listening, reading, speaking and writing** and will develop transferable skills relevant to further study and the world of work. The range of topics within the specification aims to inspire students who are interested in French culture and French speaking countries. There is also an element of translating from French into English and vice versa.

GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series.

Paper	Length of paper	Weighting
Paper 1 – Listening Section A – question in English	40 marks (Foundation Tier) 35 minutes 50 marks (High Tier)	25% of GCSE

Section B – dictation where students transcribe short sentences	45 minutes	
Paper 2 – Speaking Role-play, reading aloud task / short conversation, and photocard discussion	Role-play: 10 marks, 1.5 minutes (Foundation and High) Reading aloud task and short conversation – 15 marks (recommended to last in total between 2 and 2.5 minutes at Foundation tier and between 3 and 3.5 minutes at Higher tier) Photo card discussion – 25 marks (recommended to last between 4 and 5 minutes in total at Foundation tier, and between 6 and 7 minutes in total at Higher tier)	25% of GCSE
Paper 3 – Reading Section A – questions in English Section B – translation from French into English	50 marks (Foundation Tier) 45 minutes 50 marks (High Tier) 1 hour	25% of GCSE

Paper 4 – Writing Writing text in the language in a lexically and grammatically accurate way in response to simple and familiar stimuli. Translating from English into French.	50 marks (Foundation Tier) 1 hour 10mins 50 marks (High Tier) 1 hour and 15 minutes	25% of GCSE

TEXTBOOKS/REVISION GUIDES

Title	ISBN	Author
GCSE French AQA Revision Guide - for the Grade 9-1 Course (with Online Edition)	978178294546	CGP Books
GCSE French AQA Complete Revision & Practice (with CD & Online Edition) - Grade 9-1 Course	9781782945390	CGP Books

Materials will be provided; however, students are encouraged to buy some materials to assist them in continuing their studies outside of class time. Relevant items can be discussed with the teacher at the start of the course.

Students have access to a variety of books and materials in school as well as websites such as:
www.bbc.co.uk/languages
www.linguascope.com
www.lingua.com

HIGHER EDUCATION PATHWAYS

French is useful for both personal development and future careers in a wide range of fields such as Translation, Tourism, Business, Law, Public Relations, Journalism, Advertising, International Marketing, Economics, Teaching and Administration.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS OF STUDY

French can be studied alongside a variety of other subjects such as the humanities and social sciences. Studying French will sharpen communication, problem-solving, critical thinking, and interpersonal skills. French is highly esteemed by universities due to its status as a facilitating subject, which enables students to broaden their access to a diverse array of degree programs.

CURRICULUM DIRECTOR

Ms. Jemma Jones