

# A LEVEL FRENCH

2025-26



THE  
PORTSMOUTH  
GRAMMAR  
SCHOOL

## Course Outline

Pupils study four broad topics that comprise aspects of French Society, including social issues and trends, artistic culture, multiculturalism and aspects of political life. In addition, all pupils study a film and a book, both in the target language. Ahead of the oral exam, pupils complete an independent research project on a topic of their choice. This is underpinned by perfection of the grammar, to be able to work with the language longer term.

## A Level External Assessment

Pupils take the AQA A Level Examination. This consists of three papers:

Paper 1 – Listening, reading and translation (50%).

Paper 2 – Written response to a film and a book (20%).

Paper 3 – Speaking with IRP (Independent Research Project) (30%)

## Entry Requirements

For A Level study, a Grade 7 at GCSE or equivalent is required. You should be keen to communicate in French and want to learn more about the culture of France and French-speaking countries. The course will equip you with the necessary skills to discuss, debate and give justified viewpoints on a whole range of topic areas. It will, above all, give you an in-depth knowledge of the cultures of the Francophone world.

# Skills Required and Developed

During the two-year course you will further develop the four skills. By the end of the course, you will be able to read for pleasure in French, hold a conversation at normal pace, be able to write analytical essays and have sound translation skills. You can expect to be taught in small groups and your relationship with your teachers should be quite different from your previous experience. We aim to use French in class as much as practicable and you have a weekly session in the language laboratory for independent listening. In addition, you will have a weekly period with our French Assistant, in pairs or individually.

# Beyond the Classroom

Study trips are regularly organised and we currently offer a trip to Paris during the Easter holidays. Year 12 pupils can choose to help in our own Junior School French lessons. Finally, many A Level pupils choose to write a PGS Extend research essay in French. Recent essay topics have been as varied as secularism in France, French choral music, post-war economic growth in France and multiculturalism in French sport.

## University Courses and Professions that Require the Subject

French, as with any modern language, is an essential skill to have in a globalised world. The language is spoken by over 300 million people and is an official language in 30 countries across five continents. French is a popular subject choice and provides excellent preparation for a wide number of careers including, but not exclusively, translation, journalism, law and the diplomatic service. Each year pupils make successful applications to study French at a range of top universities, including Oxford and Cambridge. In recent years, pupils have gone to study French at university in combination with a number of other subjects, including Italian, Spanish, Law, Philosophy, and History.



### More Information

Contact our Head of Modern Languages, Mr. O Stone:

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You can also find more information on the exam board's website: [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)