

FRENCH & GERMAN

Level: AS & A2

Examination Board : OCR

The AS and A2 French & German courses are for students of a high linguist ability, who are preparing for a variety of possible futures in the spheres of Higher Education, employment and leisure. The aims of the courses are:

- to develop in students a range of practical skills which will enable them to understand and communicate in written and spoken language for leisure purposes and in the world of work;
- to make students aware of the cultural, social, commercial, historical, geographical and political background of the countries where French and German is spoken;
- to offer enjoyment, challenge and intellectual stimulation;
- to develop study skills which will help students in their acquisition of other foreign languages;
- to allow students to complement their other studies by pursuing selected areas of interest in greater depth;
- to encourage maximum use of the foreign language by students.

The Examination - the candidate's ability in all four skill areas (listening, speaking, reading and writing) will be tested in a variety of mixed skill papers.

AS details - students will prepare for the following papers:

Unit 1	(c15 min)	Oral role-play and topic discussion
Unit 2	(2hr 45 min)	Listening / reading / writing (1)

Topics covered: Daily Life; Leisure; Communication and Media; Education and Training

A2 details - students are prepared for the following papers:

Unit 3	(c15 min)	Oral –discussion of an article in foreign language an topic discussion for 10-12 minutes
Unit 4	(2 hrs 45 min)	Listening / reading / writing (2)

Topics covered: Social issues, The Environment, Science and technology, Culture (literature, politics, history)

Key Features -

General:

- No dictionaries are allowed in externally assessed work.
- Candidates will be tested on their reading and listening comprehension through non-verbal responses as well as answering in the foreign language
- Candidates will be expected to give a gist translation in English as well as transferring the meaning of English texts into the foreign language.
- Candidates will continue to have the opportunity to study literature and to be assessed in this area if they so wish.

AS

- the oral at AS level will contain a role play with a business or domestic context and a discussion topic related to the target language countries being studied which pupils will have prepared in advance.
- at AS level students will have to “transfer meaning” from English into the foreign languages.

A2

- the oral at A2 level will contain a written stimulus in the target language. The candidate’s comprehension and opinions on the text will be tested. This will be followed by some general topical conversation based on a topic of their choice.

Candidates are required to write 2 essays on current issues in France or French speaking countries in the exam.

Resources

The department has a French & German Assistant between October and May. All students, in pairs or individually, will have one conversation lesson a week with him/her. In addition, there is a range of textbooks, reference books, worksheets, language tapes and video recordings available to students.

Higher Education

All British universities offer courses in French and German, either by itself, combined with another foreign language, or as part of a composite European Studies course. French and German can also be studied in a variety of more broadly based combinations such as French with Business, History, Philosophy, Law , Engineering amongst many others!

Careers using languages

Teaching, translating, and interpreting can all require specialist knowledge of French and German. There are many other careers, however, in which a knowledge of another language to a higher level is becoming increasingly useful and indeed, sometimes a necessary qualification: export marketing and sales, banking, insurance, chartered accountancy, law, travel, advertising, civil service, the BBC, librarianship, secretarial work, journalism and computing.