

HOLLAND PARK SCHOOL SIXTH FORM | FRENCH

Examination Board
AQA
Topics/ Texts Studied
The film <i>La Haine</i> , Camus' novel <i>L'Etranger</i> (or another of the set texts, depending on the cohort), as well as a range of cultural and political topics affecting France and other French-speaking countries today.
Coursework and Practical Elements
1x 25 minute speaking exam, for which you prepare an Independent Research Project on any topic relating to France/the francophone country of your choice.
Recommended Pre-reading
Any reading on French history, culture or politics would be helpful. For example, <i>A Very Short Introduction to French History</i> or the <i>Rough Guide to France</i> . Important French literary texts (that you can read in translation) include <i>Madame Bovary</i> (Flaubert), <i>Les Misérables</i> (Hugo) and <i>Le Comte de Monte-Cristo</i> (Dumas). Elsewhere in the Francophone world, you might consider Ben Jelloun's <i>L'Enfant du sable</i> and Miriama Bâ's <i>Une si longue lettre</i> .
Where will this course take me?
Any career which requires you to communicate clearly - the study of a foreign language demonstrates a desire to communicate ideas, as well as understand foreign cultures. Literature and film components support English Literature very well. The study of another language also means that you could take up a career abroad, thus enlarging the geographical potential of your job prospects.
Why should you study this course?

The studies about language learning are clear: people who speak more than one language are more likely to earn more, keep degenerative disorders at bay, and show greater empathy. Learning beyond your mother tongue demonstrates an appreciation of difference and a desire to broaden horizons. More than 300 million people speak French on the five continents. A knowledge of French therefore not only gives you an advantage on the job market, but also offers direct access to Francophone culture including philosophy, cooking, fashion and literature. In the words of (Austrian) Wittgenstein, 'the limits of my language mean the limits of my world'.

What are the entry requirements?

In addition to the general entry requirements, you will need a grade 7 or above in GCSE French to study this course.