



Wigston Academy

GCSE French

For exams in 2025

Examination Board

AQA 8658

Entry Requirements

Students should be working at a grade 2 or above in English.

What will I be studying?

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Topic 1: Me, my family and friends

- Relationships with family and friends
- Marriage/partnership

Topic 2: Technology in everyday life

- Social media
- Mobile technology

Topic 3: Free-time activities

- Music
- Cinema and TV
- Food and eating out
- Sport

Topic 4: Customs and festivals in French-speaking countries/communities

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Topic 1: Home, town, neighbourhood and region

Topic 2: Social issues

- Charity/voluntary work
- Healthy/unhealthy living

Topic 3: Global issues

- The environment
- Poverty/homelessness

Topic 4: Travel and tourism

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

Topic 1: My studies

Topic 2: Life at school/college

Topic 3: Education post-16

Topic 4: Jobs, career choices and ambitions

How will I be studying?

This course will be taught in a class and you will be expected to make an active contribution in lessons. Lessons will be a mixture of listening, reading, speaking and writing, as well as grammar and translation work. You will also be required to work independently at home to learn vocabulary and practice exam skills.

How will I be assessed?

Exam Board: AQA

Students will be entered for either Higher Tier (Grades 9-4) or Foundation Tier (Grades 5-1)

There are four exams at the end of the course: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Each exam is worth 25% of your overall grade. You are entered for the same tier (Foundation or Higher) for all four papers.

The Speaking exam is conducted by your class teacher and takes place in April/May at a set date decided by the school.

Paper 1 - Listening

35 minutes (Foundation Tier) including 5 minutes reading time

45 minutes (Higher Tier) including 5 minutes reading time.

40 marks (Foundation Tier) / 50 marks (Higher Tier).

Paper 2 – Speaking

Role-Play + Photo Card + General Conversation on 2 themes

7–9 minutes (Foundation Tier) + 12 min preparation time

10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) + 12 min preparation time

60 marks (Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)

Paper 3 – Reading

45 minutes (Foundation Tier)

1 hour (Higher Tier)

60 marks (Foundation Tier and Higher Tier)

Paper 4 – Writing

1 hour (Foundation Tier)

1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier)

50 marks at Foundation Tier and 60 marks at Higher Tier

Where Next?

Speaking more than one language increases your brain capacity and is an impressive achievement, giving you better and brighter options for your future!

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French is the language of our closest European neighbours. It is spoken in many other parts of Europe and the world including Canada and many countries in Africa.

French GCSE is essential preparation for A-Level French.

If you enjoy communicating with other people, finding out how languages work and learning about different cultures, studying a GCSE in one or more foreign languages is the choice for you! Studying foreign languages will also teach you some very valuable skills, such as the ability to communicate clearly, being a confident public speaker, thinking on your feet and problem solving. All these skills will give you the edge over other candidates.

Learning a language at GCSE is still highly regarded by universities, the world of work and it broadens the students' cultural understanding of the countries where the language is spoken.