

FRENCH

Exam Board: AQA

Assessment methods: 100% exams, no coursework.

Length of exams: Paper 1 (listening, reading and writing) - 2 hours 30 minutes (50% of A level); Paper 2 (writing) - 2 hours (20% of A level); Paper 3 (speaking) - 21–23 minutes including 5 minutes preparation time (30% of A-level).

Breakdown of unit content and tasks:

Paper 1 (listening, reading and writing):

- Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends
- Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues
- Artistic culture in the French-speaking world
- Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world
- Grammar

Questions

Listening and responding to spoken passages from a range of contexts and sources covering different registers and adapted as necessary. Material will include complex factual and abstract content and questions will target main points, gist and detail. Studio recordings will be used and students will have individual control of the recording. All questions are in French, to be answered with non-verbal responses or in French (30 marks)

Reading and responding to a variety of texts written for different purposes, drawn from a range of authentic sources and adapted as necessary. Material will include complex factual and abstract content and questions will target main points, gist and detail. All questions are in French, to be answered with non-verbal responses or in French (50 marks)

- Translation into English; a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks)
- Translation into French; a passage of minimum 100 words (10 marks).

No access to a dictionary during the assessment.

Paper 2 (writing):

- One text and one film or two texts from the list set in the specification
- Grammar

Questions

Either one question in French on a set text from a choice of two questions and one question in French on a set film from a choice of two questions or two questions in French on set texts from a choice of two questions on each text. All questions will require a critical appreciation of the concepts and issues covered in the work and a critical and analytical response to features such as the form and the technique of presentation, as appropriate to the work studied (eg the effect of narrative voice in a prose text or camera work in a film). No access to texts or films during the assessment. No access to a dictionary during the assessment. Students are advised to write approximately 300 words per essay.

Paper 3 (speaking):

- Individual research project
- One of four sub-themes ie Aspects of French-speaking society: current trends, Aspects of French-speaking society: current issues, Artistic culture in the French-speaking world, Aspects of political life in the French-speaking world

Questions

Discussion of a sub-theme with the discussion based on a stimulus card (5–6 minutes). The student studies the card for 5 minutes at the start of the test (25 marks).

Presentation (2 minutes) and discussion (9–10 minutes) of individual research project (35 marks).

No access to a dictionary during the assessment (including 5 minutes preparation).

Students may take the assessment only once before certification.

Assessments will be conducted by either the centre or a visiting examiner and marked by an AQA examiner.

Overlap with other subjects

A number of the topics available for discussion in Unit 4 clearly link to other disciplines such as Geography, History, Sociology and Film/Media/Literature Studies.