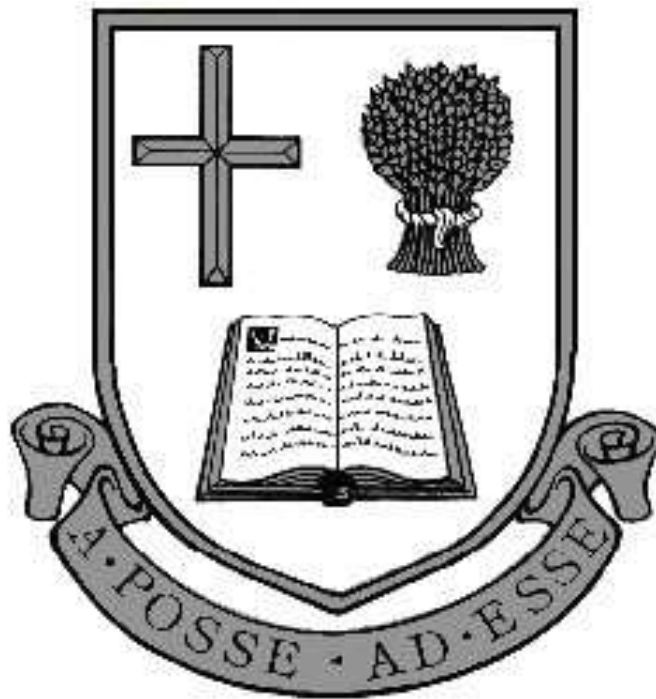


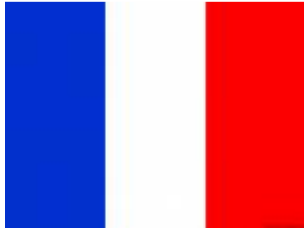
Fulford School



AS FRENCH

FRENCH HANDBOOK

AS French – Students Guide



Welcome to AS French!

This brief guide is an important start to your higher level learning in this wonderful language. Read it carefully and discuss it with your teacher. If you follow the advice given here you will be well placed to achieve excellent results in all your work.

1. Attitude!

Be positive! Get ready to work hard and learn. Bring all the right materials to your lesson but also prepare before the lesson. Your teacher will tell you what topic you are studying so go out and read about it, look up relevant information on the internet, ask the French assistant for extra facts and arrive full of extra vocabulary, grammar and interesting facts.

2. Work!

You will be expected to do about 5 hours work per week outside of the classroom. This might be:

- copying up your notes into neat
- writing up grammar in a workbook
- learning vocabulary / copying vocabulary into a workbook
- reading a French magazine
- actively working with a French website
- speaking in French with a friend

- listening to French via radio / tape / CD / internet / tv
- watching a French film
- completing homework tasks

Each week you will be set homework by your teacher. These activities are set to enhance your learning and give you a broader view of each topic. You must meet the deadline set (or you may be excluded from subsequent lessons).

Your teacher will regularly check to see evidence of the work tasks outlined above being completed.

3. Creativity!

Find ways to enjoy your language skills in other areas.

- help out at the Year 7 and 8 language club
- be a classroom assistant for a Year 8 or Year 9 French class
- arrange to meet with friends once a month at a French Cafe and talk French
- look out for cultural events at the *alliance française* (www.alliancefrancaise.org.uk)
- Go to City Screen and watch a French film with friends, or watch a French DVD

4. The course

The course is based around the text book *Élan 1*

The exam board is AQA and you will sit units 3 and 4 in May/June 2010

Unit 1 is a listening, reading and writing test - 2 hours (70%)

Unit 2 is a speaking test - 15 mins (30%)

The teaching is divided between two members of staff as follows (please complete):

Topic	Teacher 1 :	Teacher 2:
Media: Television		
Media: Advertising		
Media: Communication technology		
Popular Culture: Cinema		
Popular Culture: Music		
Popular Culture: Fashion/Trends		
Healthy Living/Lifestyle: Sport/Exercise		
Healthy Living/Lifestyle: Health/well-being		
Healthy Living/Lifestyle: Holidays		
Family/Relationships: Relationships within the family		
Family/Relationships: Friendships		
Family/Relationships: Marriage/partnerships		

Web-sites you may find useful during your A/S and A2 Studies

<http://www.lemonde.fr>

Reading some of this newspaper will improve your French comprehension and widen your knowledge of France. The French is fairly dense and difficult sometimes, especially if you are still at A/S level but try skimming the front-page stories once or twice a week. You will recognise some of the international stories e.g. about the Middle East or the S.E. Asia tsunami disaster which will help you understand the gist of what you are reading. You may also search the archives to help you with a course-work topic or presentation.

<http://www.voici.fr/>

This is great fun! You can read all the gossip 'sur les stars'. Some stars are only popular in France so you may not recognise them but others, for instance Kylie Minogue et Olivier Martinez you will have heard about. Interesting gossip to improve your French!

<http://www.gala.fr/>

This also has news about the stars but also film reviews and cookery. All quite short pieces, which are easy to follow even if you don't understand every word.

<http://www.frenchrevision.co.uk/>

Go into the A level section. Here you will find some exam practice, some past papers and some news videos to give you all the latest headlines.

<http://www.frenchrevision.co.uk/>

If you are interested in film and cinema this is the site for you. There is also lots of up-to-date and colloquial French to pick up here. (But use it with care!)

<http://viaduc.midilibre.com/>

This is an excellent new site about the recently opened and amazing bridge over the river Tarn near Millau. Look at the Viaduc en Images sections with the most interesting photos and descriptions in French, read about l'homme araignée (Spiderman) who climbed it and the visitors from their twin town in England and what they thought about it (in perfect French!)

AS FRENCH STUDY SKILLS

Managing your learning

This information is provided to help you get off to a good start with this course and to approach your learning in an organised, well-managed way. There are some important differences between GCSE language learning and AS and A level. These require you to take more responsibility; to plan and use your study time in a productive way; to understand that there are "good" study habits, and that there are approaches that are "less good".

Getting the most from lessons

- You should keep all the material; handouts and worksheets from lessons in an A4 ring binder that you keep with you just for AS French. The file can be divided according to the topics covered in the course. As well as the topic sections you should have a Grammar section.
- You should spend time after each lesson reviewing the work covered in the lesson. It may be that – for convenience – you took notes rather quickly or you jotted the meaning of words down on a handout. The review of the lesson allows you to “tidy up” the way you have stored this information and to put it where it belongs, where it can easily be retrieved and revised.
- Lesson activities and learning materials used in lessons should be seen as “starting points” for you to work from independently at a later stage. A reading passage or the transcription of a listening item, for example, is a source of vocabulary learning. However, to get the most out of that source you need to review it and “re-work” it.

Time management: organising a weekly study programme

You should aim to spend on weekly private study the equivalent amount of contact-time you have for AS French.

Language learning is about acquiring and extending your knowledge of the language and about developing and practising skills. The way you manage your time has to reflect this. You wouldn't want to do a one-hour listening exercise, or a one-hour stint of vocabulary learning. The time per week needs to be broken down into shorter and more manageable slots of time. A suggested timetable is given below:

Learning activity	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
Study activity				
Lesson review and follow up	15	15	15	15
Vocabulary learning	15	15	15	15
Listening practice	15		15	
Reading practice		30		30
Grammar review and learning	15		15	
Total	60	60	60	60

The grid below gives further advice on how to approach each of the Learning and Study Activities:

Lesson review

However much you concentrate in lessons, what you take in will be registered only in your short-term memory. You should always go back and review the day's lesson in order to consolidate your learning. There may be some "tidying up" of notes to do or some vocabulary lists to re-organise. If there's a reading passage from the lesson you should re-read it carefully. Have you understood it? Are there points you need to ask about in the next lesson? Go over again any exercises completed in the lesson. If you are working from a course-book there may be an exercise to try that was not covered in the lesson.

Vocabulary

This will be your number 1 learning priority. **At AS and A level no dictionaries are allowed in any of the assessment units.** You will be relying on the vocabulary you have learnt.

The advice here is that you approach vocabulary noting and learning in a very organised and disciplined way. Use a vocabulary notebook as a "short-term" record of words and meanings and also have a Card Index System for vocabulary. On a weekly basis transfer items from your notebook to your Card Index System, arranging words according to different topic headings or word-type headings. Keep to this as a weekly task. It will provide a better and more manageable learning source; having individual cards that you keep adding to will mean that you automatically review words and items already noted.

The way you note vocabulary is important; it is not enough just to note the meaning. This does not give you all the information about a word that you need to be able to use it.

There will also be some practical exercises in lessons to show you how best to deal with vocabulary.

Listening

Cassettes of listening material for individual practice will be recorded for you to use. Listening skills can be improved through regular practice but it is not a case of "practice makes perfect". Listening is not just about hearing familiar sounds in a foreign accent; it's about recognising and making sense

of those sounds in terms of words and what they mean. Improved listening is linked very closely to an extensive stock of known vocabulary.

Where you have access to the transcription of a listening item, it is useful to extract the vocabulary from that and learn it; then to use the listening exercise as a means of testing your vocabulary learning. It is recommended that you spend 20 minutes – ½ hour weekly in your own time developing your listening skills. You can access French radio on the Internet, e.g. France Inter or France Culture. Try to listen to the news at least once a week. There are a selection of French DVDs in the Resource Centre to help with listening comprehension.

Before starting a reading task you should decide why you are reading; what do you want to gain from the practice? This will determine what you select to read and how to read it. Reading through the headlines of a newspaper or flicking through the adverts in a magazine is a different sort of reading from tackling a full article.

Headlines and adverts are a good source of vocabulary as the context often makes the meaning clear.

You can make sense of words whose meaning you didn't know before seeing them in this context. Checking in a dictionary will give further examples of how words are used. With a full article you will be "skimming" the text to get a "gist" understanding. You may want to concentrate on a couple of paragraphs and understand the detail but in the early stages, if you try reading and understanding every word of a long piece of French you will find it discouraging. It's useful to tackle longer articles linked to the topics being studied. Having general "background knowledge" of a topic helps your understanding. The Internet is a good source of information: www.yahoo.fr is a useful search engine for topic-related searches. You should also try to refer to the newspaper "Les Clés de l'Actualité" in the resource centre every week.

Reading Practice

Grammar Review and consolidation on a regular basis are of crucial importance if you are to progress linguistically to the level required at AS and A Level. Like your knowledge of vocabulary, your understanding of points of language and the ability to use them accurately will improve your skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing.

Grammar Review and Learning

Your knowledge of grammar and the way you use this knowledge will be developed gradually; each point of language will build upon a previous one and prepare the ground for a subsequent one. It is important that in your learning you revise points thoroughly as they are encountered, so that you have a constantly expanding working knowledge upon which to build.

Grammar learning and improvement are developed through two main sources:

- (1) Grammar lessons where points of language are presented, explained and practised through speaking and writing and
- (2) Corrected pieces of written work.

This second source is a valuable opportunity for you to learn from your mistakes. A lot of importance will be given to using corrected work as a source of further learning and improvement.

Materials checklist

The department will provide textbooks and associated materials. You will need in addition:

- An A4 ring binder and dividers
- A supply of C90 audio cassettes
- A card index box and cards
- A good French/English dictionary**
- A notebook for noting vocabulary during lessons

** Teachers will advise on particular dictionaries.

