

French

Brief Overview of the Course <i>(for further details, please see our Sixth Form Prospectus Sixth Form Prospectus • Sir Thomas Rich's School (strschool.co.uk)</i>	
Exam Board: AQA Specification web link: https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/as-and-a-level/french-7652	
Topics Covered: Year 12 Theme 1: Aspects of French speaking society: current trends Unit 1 – La famille en voie de changement Unit 2 – La 'cyber – société' Unit 3 – Le rôle du bénévolat Theme 2: Artistic culture in the French – speaking world Unit 4 – Une culture fière de son patrimoine Unit 5 – La musique francophone contemporaine Unit 6 – Le septième art	Topics Covered: Year 13 Theme 3: Aspects of French speaking society: current issues Unit 1 – Les aspects positifs d'une société diverse Unit 2 – Quelle vie en France pour les marginalisés? Unit 3 – Comment on traite les criminels Theme 4: Aspects of political life in the French speaking world Unit 4 – Les ados, le droit de vote et l'engagement politique Unit 5 – Manifestations et grèves – à qui le pouvoir? Unit 6 – La politique et l'immigration Independent Research Project: Title of your choice Literary Text / Film: L'Etranger – Albert Camus La Haine – Mathieu Kassovitz

Please follow the instructions in the boxes below. The aim of these activities is to introduce you to the study of this subject at Advanced Level by:

- reinforcing your core knowledge and understanding of your chosen subject;
- encouraging you to think more deeply about your subject;
- supporting you to develop a deeper understanding of and appreciation for your subject as an academic discipline.

Core Knowledge and Understanding Task

Whether you have studied this subject before or not, there are elements of core knowledge and understanding that you must have prior to starting the A Level course.

Please provide a written answer to each of the following questions. There are links below to help you discover the answers.

Please use your time over the summer to revise the vocabulary and grammar you studied for GCSE. You need to be confident using the present, perfect, imperfect, near and simple future, and the conditional tenses.

Please read the short story *Mateo Falcone* by Prosper Mérimée (<https://bibliothequenumerique.tv5monde.com/livre/315/Mateo-Falcone>). The story is set in Corsica and involves themes of family, hospitality and honour. As you read the story, please work through the activities below. (You do not have to do the drawing activities if you really hate art!) You should bring this work with you to your first lesson.

Activities on Mateo Falcone by Prosper Mérimée

A. Lisez le premier paragraphe et trouvez dans le texte la phrase ou le mot qui correspond:

- a. de petits chemins
- b. bloqués
- c. terrain couvert d'un mélange d'arbres et d'arbrisseaux
- d. ne pas avoir à
- e. partie d'un arbre qui est sous la terre
- f. un petit arbre
- g. animal qui a de grosses cornes

B. Dessinez la scène après avoir lu le premier paragraphe.

C. Choisissez des mots descriptifs qui aident le lecteur à apprécier les difficultés du terrain.

D. Donnez les informations suivantes au sujet de Mateo Falcone (taille, signes distinctifs, capacités)

E. Cherchez les qualités – et parfois les défauts – de Fortunato. Montrez comment il se débrouille avec le bandit, en se montrant:

ingénieur; prudent; rusé; bon acteur; méprisant; courageux; faible; fort

F. Cherchez les termes qu'emploie Gamba lorsqu'il s'adresse à Fortunato.

G. Voici les gros titres d'un journal qui parle de l'histoire. Remettez-les en ordre:

- a. Le retour des parents
- b. Des soldats trouvent un dangereux bandit
- c. Un bandit blessé cherche un abri
- d. Justice en Corse
- e. Tenté par une montre en or
- f. L'astuce d'un jeune garçon

H. Citez des exemples du style concis de Mérimée.

I. Trouvez des exemples de mœurs et coutumes corses.

J. Que savez-vous de la vie d'un paysan corse? Cherchez des détails dans le texte.

K. Trouvez des mots associés aux armes.

L. Trouvez des exemples de comparaisons dans l'histoire.

M. Trouvez dans le texte des exemples où le narrateur parle au lecteur.

N. Vous êtes reporter pour un journal corse. Vous réussissez à interviewer Gamba et Fortunato (soit ensemble, soit séparément). Racontez l'histoire de leur point de vue.

O. Deux ans après, vous rencontrez Mateo Falcone dans le maquis. Il vous raconte la pire journée de sa vie.

P. À votre avis, quelles sont les phrases les plus dramatiques de l'histoire?

Q. Vous êtes artiste. On vous demande d'illustrer l'histoire. Réalisez un ou plusieurs dessins. Vous pouvez écrire un poème si vous préférez.

R. Que pensez-vous de l'histoire? Rédigez votre critique (100 mots au minimum) et justifiez votre opinion.

Links to support:

To work on your grammar:

www.languagesonline.org.uk

www.micetf.fr Conjugation exercises generator

To work on your vocabulary:

www.quizlet.com – there are a huge range of topical vocabulary lists uploaded by teachers and students.

www.memrise.com – again, there are a huge range of vocabulary lists on here.

The Bigger Picture

As well as reinforcing your core knowledge and understanding, our A Level curriculum will expose you to what are called the 'established orthodoxies' within each subject, which can include key research, important people who have contributed to the field, as well as broader methods and theories that exist within the subject.

Prior to starting the A Level course, it is important that you are aware of the following themes and topics so that you can develop an understanding of how they contribute to some of the established orthodoxies within the study of French.

It is recommended that you keep up to date with the news in French speaking countries. You will find a variety of resources online for this.

French News

<http://fr.euronews.com> Choose from a wide variety of news videos.

<http://www.tf1.fr/jt-20h> Watch today's news from the TV channel TF1 (not easy, but if you already know what the main stories are...)

French TV channel websites

Many sites will block content from the UK. Log on **instead** to <http://www.tv5monde.com> where you can access a number of videos and watch live TV.

<http://www.ina.fr> is a free resource. It includes excerpts of news programmes and documentaries and covers a huge range of topics.

<http://fr.ver-taal.com> has an excellent selection of videos which include newsreels, advertisements, and songs. They have transcripts for you to download and the videos are all accompanied by online exercises. A very useful website.

French radio online

<http://www.radiofrance.fr> This is an excellent website that allows you to access seven radio stations and listen live or download podcasts. There are a number of videos on the site too.

<http://www.channel4.com/programmes/categories/world-drama> There are about a dozen French dramas on the channel 4 website.

Netflix / Amazon Prime / Sky – these will all have foreign films and dramas that you can watch online too.

Recommended Reading List and the Department's 'Top Pick' Title

As an A Level student, we want you to value academic endeavour (scholarship) and develop a thirst for learning in your chosen subject. Our curriculum will help you to understand that scholarship is not just about learning facts, it is about nurturing powerful knowledge.

We will help you with this by directing you to resources that will not only deepen your knowledge and strengthen your understanding of the A Level content, but also broaden it beyond that of the exam board specification.

Please find the full subject reading list alongside our prospectus on the Sixth Form section of the STRS website here: <https://strschool.co.uk/sixthform/prospectus>. We would encourage you to explore as many of these titles as you can.

From the published reading list, the most highly recommended book(s)/article(s) to read before September are:

Select an article which interests you, read it carefully and select at least 10 new pieces of vocabulary to look up. The choice of topic area is limitless.

The major national newspapers can all be read online:

<http://www.liberation.fr>

<http://www.lemonde.fr>

<http://www.leparisien.fr>

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

World news can be read on <http://www.courrierinternational.com>

It is also worth looking at <http://www.1jour1actu.com> which is a resume of news articles aimed at French children (and therefore might be more accessible, though the language is often quite fast – you may need to pause and rewind it regularly until you are more used to it.)

The following magazines are also worth looking at:

<http://www.telerama.fr>

<http://www.elle.fr> (for fashion)

<http://www.lexpress.fr>

<http://www.letudiant.fr>

<http://www.lequipe.fr> (for sport)

Once you have read the recommended book/chapter/article, consider the following:

- What did you learn from the reading?
- Have you identified any patterns or made any connections?
- What unanswered questions has the reading left you with?
- Did you agree entirely with what you have read? If so, why? If not, why not?

- Are there any themes or topics that you would like to explore further?

Other Recommended Activities

Please find below a selection of suggested additional activities which would be useful for you to explore prior to starting the A Level course in September.

France, like the rest of the world, has been living le confinement (lockdown) – you could do some research to find out how people are coping with this. The website:

<https://francebienvenue1.fr/>

has interviews, with transcripts, with university students on how their lives have changed and how they are living at the moment.

Another big event that is usually starting to get coverage at this time of year is the Tour de France – it has just been announced that it will be postponed until 29 August, so you have plenty of time to do some research into its history, traditions, the route for this year, etc.

And of course, before le confinement, there were the gilets jaunes...Do you know what sparked their initial protests and how the movement evolved?

Quick watch:

For a selection of wide-ranging TED talks, have a look at the following site:<https://frenchculturalcenter.org/2019/01/02/12-ted-talks-en-francais-to-inspire-your-french/>

There are loads of really interesting podcasts:

www.innerFrench.com

Coffee Break French

BD (bandes dessinées) – classic cartoons like Astérix and Tintin in French.

You could also read in French, books you have already read in English, if you can access them such as:

Harry Potter

Roald Dahl

JRR Tolkien (e.g. The Hobbit)

CS Lewis (e.g. The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe)

AA Milne

Mr Men and Little Miss (collection Monsieur – Madame)