

# Beths Grammar School

## A level induction materials for Year 11 students

### A level French (AQA)

## Preparation for courses to begin teaching in September 2021



### The course

The first year of the A Level course comprises 6 really interesting and eye-opening units under two main headings:

*Students may study all sub-themes in relation to any French-speaking country or countries.*

#### **Social Issues and Trends**

##### **The changing nature of family (La famille en voie de changement)**

Grands-parents, parents et enfants – soucis et problèmes  
Monoparentalité, homoparentalité, familles recomposées  
La vie de couple – nouvelles tendances

##### **The 'cyber-society' (La « cyber-société »)**

Qui sont les cybernautes ?  
Comment la technologie facilite la vie quotidienne  
Quels dangers la « cyber-société » pose-t-elle ?

##### **The place of voluntary work (Le rôle du bénévolat)**

Qui sont et que font les bénévoles ?  
Le bénévolat – quelle valeur pour ceux qui sont aidés ?  
Le bénévolat – quelle valeur pour ceux qui aident ?

#### **Political and artistic culture**

##### **A culture proud of its heritage (Une culture fière de son patrimoine)**

Le patrimoine sur le plan national, régional et local  
Comment le patrimoine reflète la culture  
Le patrimoine et le tourisme

##### **Contemporary francophone music (La musique francophone contemporaine)**

La diversité de la musique francophone contemporaine  
Qui écoute et apprécie cette musique ?  
Comment sauvegarder cette musique ?

##### **Cinema: the 7th art form (Cinéma : le septième art)**

Pourquoi le septième art ?  
Le cinéma – une passion nationale ?  
Evolution du cinéma – les grandes lignes

During the two year course, you will learn about the above units in the context of France and the French-speaking world through reading exercises, listening exercises, discussion and independent research. You will acquire facts and stats. to be able to confidentially undertake your speaking exam, during which you'll discuss one of the units (randomly selected) via a speaking card and 5 minute discussion with your examiner (your teacher.)

**We ask that students do a lot of independent research to broaden and further their knowledge, so, why not start now?... Why not conduct research into units from above that interest you/that you feel you know little about/would like to know more about.** You could do this in a mixture of both French and English. Ask yourself and investigate questions such as:

Comment comparent-elles, les familles de nos jours et les familles d'il y a 50 ans?...  
La famille moyenne française comprend combien d'enfants?  
A quel âge se marie-t-on en France? Quel est le taux de mariage?  
Quel est le taux de divorce?  
Que sont des alternatives au mariage traditionnel?

You could investigate French food heritage and other French-speaking countries' cuisines, look at the influence of French language music in the French-speaking world, as well as the role French cinema has played in the world cinematographic scene, or look at the work charities do in France in order to help French society. All of these options will help you with the year 12 units we study.

... And so on... (All research you do will be useful as you will be informing yourself about the history, society and culture of the French-speaking world!)

You need to know the facts and stats. but also have and be able to fathom **reasons** (e.g. why do French people opt for marital alternatives?) and you also need to be able to give **reactions and opinions** to everything (e.g. I was surprised to find out that more and more people are choosing not to get married in France due to the fact that the country has a strong Catholic influence. Having said that on the other hand, I have discovered that many French people are choosing PACS given that this gives the same rights but also is much cheaper!) **So, as you research facts and stats., be thinking – how do you react to this info.? What are your opinions?**

### High- Level Language

In order to succeed in all areas of the course, we have created Beths' Steps to Success. This comprises useful, high level opinion phrases, justifications, linking words and reaction structures, which will make what you say and write all that more impressive. You should aim to learn as much of this as possible before starting.

<https://app.memrise.com/course/5944245/beths-mfl-french-a-level-sts/>

### Grammar

We want you to start the course confident in your grammar basics. These are great websites that explain/get you practising the different tenses you will have seen as well as new ones and other grammar elements. (Minimum: Be sure to know your present, passé composé, imperfect, future and conditional regular conjugations and some irregular (être, avoir, faire and aller are the big ones!):

- <https://www.s-cool.co.uk/a-level/french/grammar>
- <https://www.languagesonline.org.uk/Hotpotatoes/frenchindex.html#AS>

### The first 6 weeks of the course

We start the course with six weeks of 'bridging the gap' between GCSE and A Level: We visit GCSE topics but in a more A Level way (to ease you in) – with greater depth and complexity. We ask that you go through the following vocab. lists (little and often) now/over the summer holidays, write down any vocab. that you had forgotten or didn't know and learn it ahead of September.

Please bring your written out (and learnt!) vocab. with you to your first lesson:

<https://app.memrise.com/course/5816649/beths-gcse-french-module-6/>

<https://app.memrise.com/course/5811437/beths-gcse-french-module-1/>

<https://app.memrise.com/course/5816642/beths-gcse-french-module-3/>

You may also like to buy a copy of the first year textbook:

[https://www.amazon.co.uk/Level-Year-French-Student-](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Level-Year-French-Student-Book/dp/0198366884/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=as+textbook+french&qid=1585303457&sr=8-2)

[Book/dp/0198366884/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?dchild=1&keywords=as+textbook+french&qid=1585303457&sr=8-2](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Level-Year-French-Student-Book/dp/0198366884/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=as+textbook+french&qid=1585303457&sr=8-2)

### **Extra**

For random, extra French vocab., try Babadum:

- <https://babadum.com/play/?lang=5&game=1>

To practise sentence structure, try Duolingo:

- <https://www.duolingo.com/course/fr/en/Learn-French>

To practise **extensive reading** (for pleasure):

- <https://www.lemonde.fr/index.html> is an on-line French newspaper

**Why not challenge yourself to read an article every week!**

To practise **listening** (for pleasure):

- <https://www.radio.net/s/rfimonde> is a radio website
- <https://frenchtogether.com/watch-french-tv/#France24> is where you can find out how to watch French TV from outside of France and
- <https://lyricstraining.com/fr/> sees you listening to songs and filling in lyric gaps!

Bonne chance!

*If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Cato-Sargeant*

[Mscato-sargeant@beths.bexley.sch.uk](mailto:Mscato-sargeant@beths.bexley.sch.uk)