

FRENCH

What is French?

French as a Leaving Cert subject aims to bring students closer to fluency in the French language, as well as developing a good knowledge of literature, culture, geography, and national history to provide a context for communication. It builds on the knowledge acquired for the Junior certificate.

What kind of student might French suit?

- Students with an aptitude for the language and who have enjoyed the programme in Junior Cert
- Students with an interest in French culture, history and language
- Students who may need a foreign language for college studies.
- Students who are considering working abroad in the future.
- Students from a French background.

Career Possibilities

Specific careers in which French would be of benefit include teaching, translation, interpreting, journalism, business, culinary arts and media. It is worth noting that with Brexit impending, France will be our nearest European neighbour, possibly leading to extended trade between the countries. Because of this and the long standing links between both countries Ireland has recently signed up to the International Organisation of French speaking nations.

Many multinational companies use French as a working language and it is an official language of international organisations like the UN, the EU, the Red Cross and the International Olympic Committee to name but a few.

Exam Structure

The emphasis in Leaving Cert French moves from comprehension to productive French. Students will be expected to produce their own passages of French. This may prove challenging to those whose grammar is very poor and who struggle to put even basic sentences together.

Mark Allocation for L.C. French

Section	Higher Level	Ordinary Level
Speaking	25%	20%
Listening Comprehension	20%	25%
Reading Comprehension	30%	40%
Writing	25%	15%

Comment

- It is very important for students to familiarize themselves with the college courses that require a third language. Information regarding this is available on the Qualifax website. We have had students in the past who have had to take up French in Leaving Cert year when they realised that they needed a foreign language.
- There are a large number of courses that do not require French but students need to do some research before they make a decision.
- Students need to work hard on their oral communication from the beginning of the Leaving Cert course. In St Pat's extra oral classes are put in place in Leaving Cert year but oral proficiency has to be worked at over the two years of the programme.
- Students who have shown an aptitude in French at Junior Certificate Level are encouraged to continue with it in Leaving Cert.