

French Courses

The following contains a description of the course we offer to students at St Marys Senior High School. It is intended as a guide to help you select your subjects and you should read it carefully.

Please note:

- The details given represent the way that the course is delivered at St Marys Senior High School and may involve different choices from the way other schools might operate the same course.
- Classes can only be formed where sufficient students select the particular course. The fact that a course is listed here is not a commitment to run the course in a particular year.
- The arrangements for particular courses are subject to change for a variety of reasons.

French Beginners - Course Details

Units	Type	ATAR	Faculty Teaching This Course
2	Board Developed Course – Examinable at the HSC, marks can be used to count towards an ATAR	A – Counts towards an ATAR with no restrictions	Languages Other Than English (LOTE)

What will I be doing in the course?

In the Preliminary and HSC courses, students will develop the linguistic and intercultural knowledge and understanding, and the speaking, listening, reading and writing skills to communicate in French.

Topics studied through two interdependent perspectives, the *Personal World* and the *French-Speaking Communities*; provide contexts in which students develop their communication skills in French and their knowledge and understanding of language and culture.

Students' skills in, and knowledge of, French will be developed through tasks associated with a range of texts and text types, which reflect the topics. Students will also gain an insight into the culture and language of French-speaking communities through the study of a range of texts.

The course introduces students to the language and culture of contemporary France and gives an appreciation for other French speaking communities in the world. In addition to language training in the four basic skills- listening, speaking, reading and writing – various aspects of varied French speaking communities' society and culture will be introduced through audio and video extracts and short texts. The emphasis throughout will be on communicative skills, both oral, aural and written

and students should be able to comprehend and respond with grammatical accuracy to spoken and written French as well as demonstrate cultural awareness.

Main topics covered

There are two prescribed topic areas: the *Personal World* and the *French-Speaking Communities*. The two perspectives will enable students to develop knowledge and understanding of and skills in the French language, linked to cultural values, attitudes and practices.

Through their study of the *Personal World*, students will learn to use French to express and share ideas about experiences and activities relating to daily life and transactions in their own world.

Through their study of the *French-Speaking Communities*, students will come to inquire about and to express ideas in order to undertake activities and transactions appropriately in one or more communities where French is spoken.

The following are the sub topic areas:

- Family life, home and neighbourhood
- People, places and communities
- Education and work
- Friends, recreation and pastimes
- Holidays, travel and tourism
- Future plans and aspirations

Learning activities will include structured and unstructured oral exercises, grammar and vocabulary exercises, role-play activities, translation, dictation, oral presentations, listening activities using authentic online materials, and compositions. Students will make use of online resources that include practice of speaking, reading, writing and listening, and that further cultural awareness in which French customs, culture and everyday life aspects are also highlighted.

Particular course requirements

Eligibility rules apply to the study of this subject. Check with your teacher or the Board's *Assessment Certification Examination (ACE) Manual* (Section 8.2.2.3).

How will I be assessed in the course?

Students will be expected to undertake the following types of assessment and/or exam tasks.

- Oral assessments and/or examinations: Conversation in French (five minutes)
- Written assessments and/or examinations: Listening (French Comprehension), Reading (French Comprehension), Writing in French.

Activities, tasks and homework undertaken throughout the Year 11 and Year 12 course will better prepare students to complete the assessment components.

What should I be able to do at the end of the course?

On the completion of the French Beginners course students should be able to:

- Understand the basic structures of the French language and use these in writing and in speech.
- Demonstrate a sufficient knowledge of French vocabulary to communicate in everyday situations.
- Recognize basic structures and vocabulary in written and spoken materials, and thus be able to read and listen to articles/news items/short stories in French.
- Understand and analyse aspects of French and Francophone society and culture.
- Communicate information, ideas and opinions in French, in both spoken and written modes.

Course description

The study of French contributes to the overall education of students, particularly in the areas of communication, cross-cultural understanding, literacy and general knowledge. The study of French promotes understanding of different attitudes and values within the wider Australian community and beyond. It is designed to better equip students as travellers and provide access to a significant part of the culture, traditions and attitudes of French-speaking countries and communities such as our South Pacific neighbours (New Caledonia, Tahiti and Vanuatu), South-East Asia (Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam), Europe (France, Switzerland, Belgium and Luxembourg), Africa (Morocco, Senegal and Tunisia), the Middle East, the Indian Ocean region (Madagascar, Mauritius and Reunion Island), Canada and the West Indies.

French is an official language for the Olympic Games, the United Nations, the European Union, the South Pacific Commission, the Organisation for African Unity and international conferences.

Students will develop linguistic ability and gain cultural understanding through the study of the French language. The ability to communicate in French should also promote understanding, harmony and cooperation with French-speaking communities in Australia and may provide students, in conjunction with their other skills, with enhanced vocational opportunities.

Knowledge of French may be an advantage in seeking employment in many fields such as the arts, banking and international finance, commerce, cuisine and catering, diplomacy, education and research, fashion and cosmetics, government, hospitality (e.g. hotels and restaurants), law, media (e.g. journalism), science and technology, tourism (e.g. airlines), translation and interpreting and wine-making.

The study of French enhances enjoyment and appreciation of French culture through film, literature, music, cuisine, art and sport.

The language

The language to be studied and assessed is the modern standard version of French. While the focus of study will be the French spoken in metropolitan France, students may also encounter French spoken in other francophone countries. Students should be aware of different levels of language, for example formal, informal, some colloquialisms and slang. Students are expected to know that dialects exist but they are not required to study them.

Themes, topics and sub-topics

There are two prescribed perspectives:

- The Personal World
- The French-speaking communities

Each theme has a number of prescribed topics and suggested sub-topics with which students will engage in their study of French. The placement of the topics under one or more of the three themes is intended to provide a particular perspective or perspectives for each of the topics. The suggested sub-topics are provided to guide students and teachers as to how the topics may be treated.

The theme, the individual, enables students to explore aspects of their personal world, for example, sense of self, aspirations for the future, personal values, opinions, ideas, and relationships with others. At the same time, this theme also enables the student to study topics from the perspective of other individuals.

The theme, the French-speaking communities, explores topics from the perspective of groups within those communities or other communities as a whole and encourages students to reflect on their own and other cultures.

The theme, the changing world, enables students to explore change as it affects aspects of the world of work and other topics such as travel and tourism, current issues and the young person's world.

Teachers should structure and organise programs based on the prescribed themes and topics to address the objectives of the syllabus. In the treatment of some topics, it may be appropriate to focus on only one objective, such as Objective 3 – analyse, process and respond to a range of texts. Other topics may lend themselves to focusing on more than one objective. Objective 4 – understand aspects of the language and culture of French-speaking communications – underlies the study of all the themes and topics.

Students will access the themes and topics through texts. They should be wide-ranging and could include, for example, film, short story, song, newspaper article or documentary. While it is expected that students will study a range of oral and written texts in French in their treatment of the themes, topics and sub-topics, it may be appropriate to discuss a text or texts in English.

Similarly, the language used by students to respond to a text may be either French or English, as appropriate.

The aims of the syllabus are to develop students':

- Ability to use French to communicate with others.
- Understanding and appreciation of the cultural contexts in which French is used.
- Ability to reflect on their own culture(s) through the study of other cultures.
- Understanding of language as a system.
- Ability to make connections between French and English and/or other languages.
- Cognitive, learning and social skills.
- Potential to apply French to work, further study, training or leisure.