

Department of Modern European Languages

French Language IIB

The Course Booklet 1996
[1st impression]

(Course co-ordinator: Mr J. Grieve)

A handwritten signature in red ink, likely belonging to Mr. J. Grieve, is located below the text "(Course co-ordinator: Mr J. Grieve)".

C O N T E N T S

B-stream units, 1996	3
The usual B-stream major in French	3
Other possible B-stream majors	4
Honours in French	4
A note on IIB & IIIB	5
IIB : the written class	5-6
IIB : the stylistics class	7
year's programme of written work	7
IIB : the oral modules	8
Proposed assessment arrangements	9
Working rules for assessment	9
Requests for special examinations	10
Official University grades & marks	10

B-stream units, 1996

For students working in the B-stream of French, there are five possible sequences of courses (majors 3-7, *Undergraduate Handbook 1996*, p. 181).

The usual B-stream major in French (= major 3)

Most students taking a B-stream major in French will make up the required 6 points as follows:

French IB (2 points)
French Language IIB (1 point)
French Language IIIB (1 point)

plus any two of the following 1-point 'French Studies' units (only some of which are taught each year):

- *Approaching French Poetry (G. Halligan)
- Bonnes nouvelles* : brief ironies (J. Grieve)
- *Contemporary France (K. Muller)
- *Determinism and self-determination: five novels (J. Grieve)
- Epousailles* : Couples and happiness in the French novel (J. Grieve)
- French literature & the Pacific (P. Brown)
- History of the French Language (G. Halligan)
- Ideological Issues under the Fifth Republic (K. Muller)
- Masqué, démasqué*: Fools and frauds in the French comic tradition from the Middle Ages to the present (J. Mayrhofer/G. Halligan)
- Moi et milieu*: French autobiographers from Montaigne to Sartre (J. Grieve)

In 1996 only the three French Studies units marked with an asterisk will be offered. Each of them has two classes a week and runs throughout the year. All these units are taught in French.

Please refer to the *Undergraduate Handbook* and to individual course outlines and booklets for further details of each of these units.

French Language IIB & French Language IIIB² (1996)

At least one of these units is compulsory for students doing any of the majors in the B-stream. They each consist of three hours a week throughout the year, one hour each of: written language, stylistics and oral. All teaching is in French. Students enrolled in IIB and IIIB take the same oral classes (see pages 8-9). The two units have separate classes for written and stylistics (see French Language IIB below).

FRENCH LANGUAGE IIB

Written work is set in both the writing class and the stylistics class. Work for the writing class will be set fortnightly, about 13 exercises in the year. That for the stylistics class will be less frequent, about 6 exercises in the year. The first exercise set will be for the written class. See below, page 7, for the programme of written work for the year.

NB : For both classes, whether fortnightly
written or less frequent stylistics, your
deadline is Fridays, at 5 p.m.

Written class (Mr J. Grieve; Wednesdays at 3 p.m.):

The main focus of the French we shall read and write in this class will be, as in French IB/IIIS, the discursive or dialectal sentence. This is the type of sentence you will need to master if you are ever to write an intelligent discussion in French, in the form of, say, an essay. In IB/IIIS, we studied aspects of the simple sentence. In IIB, we progress to aspects of the composite or compound sentence and to the paragraph. The structures we shall study are of two sorts: those found inside sentences; and those which serve to link sentences to one another. Two of the most marked features of this type of written French are the frequency of binary structures and the use of connecting words and expressions, placed usually first in the sentence. These connectors render explicit and visible certain links of thought which, in English, often remain implicit. This is one reason why with many connectors, for instance *or*, *par ailleurs*, *au demeurant* and *en l'occurrence*, the problem faced by the native speaker of English who wishes to understand and use them comes close at times to the philosophical. In studying examples of these structures and connectors, we try to become familiar with the contexts in which they appear and the functions they serve; in the regular writing exercises, we try to imitate what we have observed in reading. Most of the models of this style we look at come from recent newspaper articles and books discussing current ideas. You will find on the next page a provisional programme listing most of the structures we shall study.

We do different sorts of exercises: *résumés*, comprehension questions, *rédactions*, translation. We do one exercise each fortnight, which makes a total of about thirteen for the year. For the proposed assessment arrangements, see page 10.

« Par ma foi, il y a plus de quarante ans que je dis de la prose, sans que j'en susse rien... »

² Note : the course co-ordinator of IIIB in 1996 is Mr G. Halligan.

The year's programme of written work

days when work is due

first semester

March

- Monday 11 1st written exercise, petite rédaction
Friday 22 2nd written exercise, petit résumé, F. de Closets, *Toujours plus !*

April

- Thursday 4 3rd written exercise, morceau à traduire, B. Magee, *One in Twenty*
Friday 12 1st stylistics exercise

le vendredi 19 avril, fin de la première période des cours

- Friday 19 4th written exercise, questions sur *L'amour et l'occident* *

*too demanding
too early in the
year? would be
better later?*

May

- Friday 10 2nd stylistics exercise
Friday 17 5th written exercise, rédaction avec connecteurs
Friday 31 6th written exercise, *phrases oppositionnelles à traduire*

June

- Friday 7 3rd stylistics exercise
Friday 14 7th written exercise, exercice de ponctuation

le vendredi 14 juin, fin de la deuxième période des cours

second semester

August

- Friday 2 8th written exercise, petit résumé avec connecteurs
Friday 9 4th stylistics exercise
Friday 16 9th written exercise, rédaction avec connecteurs
Friday 30 10th written exercise, passage à traduire, Gowers, *The Complete Plain Words*

September

- Friday 13 11th written exercise, petit résumé avec connecteurs
Friday 20 5th stylistics exercise

le vendredi 20 septembre, fin de la troisième période des cours

October

- Friday 11 12th written exercise, phrases à créer et à relier avec des connecteurs
Friday 18 6th stylistics exercise
Friday 25 13th written exercise, connecteurs à placer dans un texte de R. de Gourmont

Proposed Assessment Arrangements

Proposed assessment	Marks
Written language Best 75% of work set	150
Stylistics exercises set	75
Three-hour end-of-year examination in written & stylistics	100
Oral Three modules, 50 marks each	150
TOTAL:	<u>475</u>

Notes

No requests for special examinations will be considered, except those supported by a current medical certificate or in the event of unforeseeable circumstances clearly beyond a student's control.

Marks given to work during the year may be moderated by the Examiners.

Working rules for assessment

All written work must be handed in on time. Late exercises cannot be accepted, except in cases of illness attested by a current medical certificate. Continued absences from class will also result in exercises not being accepted. Failure to hand in at least 50% of the exercises set during the year, in both written class and stylistics, will result in ineligibility for the examination in November. This would result in failure in the unit.

After experimenting for several years with various methods of assessment, we are convinced that a combination of the year's work and end-of-year examinations is the fairest and most appropriate system. Since language learning is a cumulative process, there is a need for proper testing at the conclusion of each unit, in circumstances where students are called upon to show what they can do with their own resources. This has become all the more necessary as some of the work handed in, showing evidence of collaboration or outside assistance, cannot be accepted as a reliable guide to some students' progress.

In recent years, illicit collaboration on language work has increased among some students. The consultation of printed sources is permissible. Having recourse to the knowledge of another person, such as a native speaker, so as to solve individual difficulties in a language exercise, is not. The essential distinction between the two modes of consultation lies in the exercise of choice and judgement. In consulting books, one must exercise these faculties; in consulting another person one borrows, not understanding, but a mere answer to a problem. Group working, such as sometimes takes place in the French Study Centre, can be open to this kind of objection.

Students are therefore urged to do their language assignments by themselves. In proven cases of illicit collaboration on such assignments, the Department will apply the principles of the Faculty's policy on plagiarism. This policy, which also applies to essays and other assignments, is set out at the end of the Department's *Student Handbook 1996*.

