

A MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE AT A LEVEL

Why choose a Modern Foreign Language at GCE AS and A Level?

The study of a modern foreign language beyond GCSE will further broaden your horizons, develop cultural knowledge and understanding and foster transferable skills such as confidence, communication, problem solving and creativity.

A GCE in a modern foreign language will provide you with a firm basis for further language study in higher education as well as an invaluable communication skill which can be a useful tool when studying or working in a multitude of subject disciplines such as Business and Commerce, Sciences, Medicine and Humanities (for example; History and Geography).

A GCE in a modern foreign language will enable you to:

- enhance your linguistic skills and promote and develop your capacity for critical thinking based on your knowledge and understanding of the language, culture and society of the countries/communities where the language is spoken
- develop control of the language system to convey meaning, using spoken and written skills, including an extended range of vocabulary, for both practical and intellectual purposes as an increasingly confident, accurate and independent user of the language
- develop your ability to interact effectively with users of the language in speech and in writing, including through online media
- develop language learning skills and strategies, including communication strategies to sustain communication and build fluency and confidence
- engage critically with intellectually stimulating texts, films and other materials in the original language, developing an appreciation of sophisticated and creative uses of the language and understanding them within their cultural and social context
- develop knowledge about matters central to the society and culture, past and present, of the countries/communities where the language is spoken
- mediate between cultures and between speakers of the language and speakers of English
- foster your ability to learn other languages

- equip yourself with transferable skills such as autonomy, resourcefulness, creativity, critical thinking, and linguistic, cultural and cognitive flexibility that will enable you to proceed to further study or to employment
- develop your capacity for critical and analytical thinking through the language of study
- develop as an independent researcher through the language of study.

What will I study?

At AS

The context for learning the language is organised under two broad themes:

1. Being a young person in French/German/Spanish-speaking society

- Families and citizenship: *Changing family structures; the changing nature of marriage and partnership; being a good citizen*
- Youth trends and personal identity: *Trends in fashion; how young people respond to modern technology; relationships with others and peer pressure*
- Education and employment opportunities: *The education system and student issues; work and travel opportunities and the changing work scene*

And

2. Understanding the French/German/Spanish-speaking world

- Regional culture and heritage in France/Germany/Spain, French/German/Spanish-speaking countries and communities: *Festivals; customs and traditions; historical sites; museums and galleries*
- Media, art, film and music in the French/German/Spanish-speaking world: *Trends in media and art; film and music in the lives of young people*

At A Level

The context for learning the language is organised under four broad themes. These include the two listed for AS:

1. Being a young person in French/German/Spanish-speaking society

and

2. Understanding the French/German/Spanish-speaking world

(see above for details)

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As well as:

3. Diversity and difference

- Migration and integration: *Reasons for migration; factors which make migration/integration easy/difficult*
- Cultural identity and marginalisation: *Reasons for marginalisation; ways to eliminate marginalisation*
- Cultural enrichment and celebrating difference: *The positive aspects of a diverse society*
- Discrimination and diversity *Life for those who are discriminated against*

4. French - France 1940-1950: The Occupation and post-war years

- June 1940-May 1945: *Life in occupied France; the French Resistance*
- The cultural dimension in occupied France: *The political context of theatre and cinema productions*
- 1945-1950: *Rebuilding and restructuring society in post-war years*

German - The making of modern Germany: 1989 onwards

- Initial and subsequent process of reunification: *Social and political challenges linked to reunification; the events of autumn 1989*
- Social cohesion in present-day Germany: *Social and community challenges facing contemporary Germany*
- The economic impact of a united Germany: *The economic advantages and challenges linked to reunification*

Spanish - The two Spains: 1936 onwards

- El franquismo *Origins, development and consequences*
- Post-Civil War Spain - historical and political repercussions *Control, repression and daily life in Franco's Spain*
- Spain - coming to terms with the past? *"Recuperación de la memoria histórica"; attempts to deal with the past; 'los desaparecidos'; removing the symbols of Franco's Spain"*

How will I be assessed?

AS:

There are three assessments

Component 1 is a speaking assessment with two tasks (two picture stimulus cards) lasting 12-14 minutes plus 15 minutes preparation time (accounting for 30% of the qualification). 60 marks.

Component 2 is a written paper assessing listening, reading and translation skills lasting 2 hours (accounting for 50% of the qualification). 100 marks.

Component 3 is written paper assessing a critical response in writing to a prescribed film or literary work studied during the course lasting 1 hour 15 minutes (accounting for 20% of the qualification). There is a choice of three films and three literary works at AS. 40 marks.

A Level:

There are three assessments

Component 1 is a speaking assessment lasting 21-23 minutes involving two tasks: Task 1 is a presentation of an independent research project (chosen by you) and the ensuing discussion on the content of the research project in the language of study. Task 2 is a discussion based on a stimulus card relating to one of the themes studied (accounting for 30% of the qualification). 60 marks.

Component 2 is a written paper assessing listening, reading and translation skills lasting 2 hours 30 minutes (accounting for 50% of the qualification). 100 marks.

Component 3 is a written paper assessing critical and analytical responses in writing. This involves writing two essays - one based on a literary work and the second on an additional literary work or film from the prescribed list of films and literary works studied during the course. The component lasts 2 hours (accounting for 20% of the qualification). There is a choice of six films and six literary works at A Level. 40 marks.

What skills will I develop?

You will develop skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing in the modern foreign language. You will also further develop confidence in communicating and an awareness and understanding of other cultures.

Careers with French/German/Spanish

Studying a modern foreign language can lead to many different careers that directly require the use of languages such as translating, interpreting and teaching. However, skills in a foreign language can also open the door to an array of career paths such as journalism, international aid/development work, marketing, sales and logistics.

