



A MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE AT A LEVEL

Why choose a Modern Foreign Language at GCE AS/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 or 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 or communities where the language is spoken

- mediate between cultures and between speakers of the language and speakers of English/Welsh
- 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?

The context for learning the language is organised under four broad themes: two at AS and two at A Level.

At AS (year one)

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

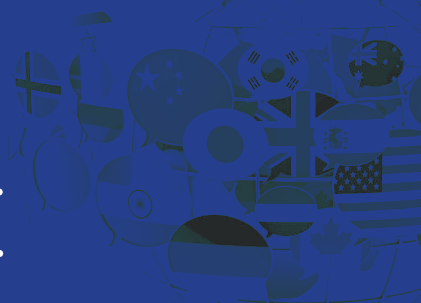
- *Family structures, traditional and modern values, friendships / relationships*
- *Youth trends, issues and personal identity*
- *Educational and employment Opportunities*

And

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

- *Regional culture and heritage in France/Germany/Spain, French/German/Spanish-speaking countries and communities*
- *Literature, art, film and music in the French/German/Spanish-speaking world*

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At A Level (year two)

3. Diversity and difference

- Migration and integration
- Cultural identity and marginalisation
- Cultural enrichment and celebrating difference
- Discrimination and diversity

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

- From June 1940-May 1945 (occupation, liberation and end of World War II)
- Life in Occupied France and the cultural dimension (théâtre, cinéma, littérature)
- 1945-1950: rebuilding and restructuring
- Repercussions for modern day France

German - The Making of Modern Germany: 1989 onwards

- Initial and subsequent process of reunification
- Social cohesion in present-day Germany
- Artistic and political movements
- Economic impact of a united Germany

Spanish - The Two Spains: 1936 onwards

- El franquismo - origins, development and consequences
- Post-Civil War Spain - historical and political repercussions
- The Spanish Civil War and the transition to democracy (represented in the arts, cinema, literature, art and photography)
- Spain - coming to terms with the past? "Recuperación de la memoria histórica"

How will I be assessed?

AS:

There are two assessments taken at the end of the first year of the course

- **Unit 1:** Speaking. Non-exam assessment: 12-15 minutes (plus additional 15 minutes preparation) 12% of qualification 48 marks
- **Unit 2:** Listening, reading, translation and critical response in writing. This unit includes a critical essay based on a film studied from the prescribed list of films. Written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes 28% of qualification 84 marks

A Level

There are three assessments taken at the end of the second year of the course. Results from the two AS units are added to those of the year two units to make up the A Level qualification.

- **Unit 3:** Speaking Non-exam assessment: 11-12 minutes 18% of qualification 72 marks. This unit comprises one task; 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.
- **Unit 4:** Listening, reading and translation. Written examination: 2 hours 30% of qualification 100 marks.
- **Unit 5:** Critical and analytical response in writing (closed-book). Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 12% of qualification 40 marks. This unit involves writing one essay based on the literary work from the prescribed list studied during the course. There is a choice of four literary works at A Level.

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.

