

# Modern Languages (French, German, Spanish)

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In class you will work on a variety of listening and reading materials tied to the topics below. You will also have the opportunity to speak and write about these topics in a variety of contexts using an increasing range of constructions and tenses. You will certainly be expected to have opinions and be able to justify them.

The study of a modern foreign language offers many opportunities to you including the chance to:

- Develop an understanding of a foreign language in a variety of contexts.
- Develop a knowledge of the vocabulary and structures of the language.
- Develop transferable language learning skills.
- Develop the ability to communicate effectively in the language.
- Develop awareness and understanding of countries and communities where the language is spoken.
- Offer enjoyment, a sense of achievement and intellectual stimulation.

You will study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based.

Theme 1: Identity and culture.

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest.

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment.

## How will I be assessed?

All exams are at the end of the two-year course. The four skill areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing are separately assessed. **Each skill has equal weighting and is worth 25% of the final GCSE.** The two comprehension skills (listening and reading) are tested through a range of passages or interactions in the foreign language with questions in various forms. These questions types will be in English and in the target language, and will include a variety of written responses to show understanding.

### Listening

Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English.

Section B – questions in MFL, to be answered in MFL.

### Reading

Section A – questions in English, to be answered in English.

Section B – questions in MFL, to be answered in MFL.

Section C – translation from MFL into English (50 words at Higher Tier).

The productive skills (speaking and writing) will also be assessed at the end of the course.

### **Speaking**

You will be expected to communicate and interact effectively for a variety of purposes.

The exam will take 10–12 minutes (Higher Tier) plus preparation time. Speaking assessments will be divided into three parts:

- Role-play.
- Photo card.
- Conversation.

These will be conducted by your classroom teacher and marked by the exam board.

### **Writing**

You will need to communicate effectively in writing for a variety of purposes.

- Structured writing task producing approximately 90 words in total from a choice of two questions.
- Open-ended writing task producing approximately 150 words in total from a choice of two questions.
- Translation from English into MFL (minimum 50 words).

These assessments are marked by the exam board.

## Further Information

All languages offer exchanges with schools in the country you are learning about. These trips are always very popular and are a wonderful life experience, as well as the chance to develop your language skills in an authentic context. The cost is approximately £500 per trip.

The course follows an up-to-date text book linked to the exam board, featuring extensive use of ICT, authentic reading and listening materials and a variety of speaking and writing tasks. We teach grammar explicitly as this gives a good grounding for further study. Homework will include work on all four skills as well as regular practice and tests on vocabulary and grammar. Students have access to on-line learning platforms to support and enhance the learning experience.

Exam Board: AQA

Syllabus French 8658, German 8668, Spanish 8698

[www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8658](http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8658)

[www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/german-8668](http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/german-8668)

[www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/spanish-8698](http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/spanish-8698)