



Modern Foreign Languages – GCSE French or Spanish

If you have language skills you really can have a successful career in many different fields. A language can add 10–15% to your salary and really make you stand out from the competition. There are many international companies with branches here in the UK which prefer applicants to have a language. It enables employees to work in, or with people from, many different countries. More than 30% of UK businesses employ people specifically for their language skills. 72% of UK international trade is with non-English-speaking countries. Most employers do not require complete fluency. They want conversational ability, which will give a good impression, help to build relationships and make new contacts.

Students follow a two-year course in Spanish or French covering three distinct themes. These themes apply to all four question papers. Students are expected to understand and provide information and opinions about these themes relating to their own experience and those of other people, including people in countries or communities where these languages are spoken.

Career Information

A qualification in Modern Languages is known to enhance opportunities in the following careers: Travel and Tourism, Law, Medicine, International Business, Teaching, Social Work, Interpreting and the Armed Forces. It also one of the EBacc subjects.

“Employees with language skills are definitely more marketable and have more worth in the labour market”, HR of BMW.

Course Content and Topics

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 1 covers the following four topics: 1. Me, my family and friends, 2. Technology in everyday life, 3. Free-time activities, 4. Customs and festivals in Target Language-speaking countries/communities.

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

Theme 2 covers the following four topics: Topic 1. Home, town, neighbourhood and region, 2. Social issues, 3. Global issues, 4. Travel and tourism.

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

Theme 3 covers the following three topics: Topic 1. My studies, 2. Life at school/college, 3. Education Post-16, 4. Jobs, career choices and ambitions.

Home Learning

Students will be given a vocabulary test every week. In addition, most students are given one homework task a week to complete. The task will be varied and may consist of a piece of writing or a speaking task on the topic being studied; a translation activity; a reading comprehension task or an online homework.

Support materials and hand-outs given to students (also available for parents)

All students are given a vocabulary booklet, which is based on common GCSE vocabulary by topic. All students are encouraged to purchase the AQA GCSE Revision Workbook as well as the AQA GCSE Revision Guide. We also subscribe to www.vocabexpress.com that allows students to build up their vocabulary.

How the course will be examined

The AQA GCSE has a Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4-9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series. Terminal exams take place at the end of Year 11.

Assessments	Paper 1: Listening	Paper 2: Speaking	Paper 3: Reading	Paper 4: Writing
What is assessed	Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language	Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes.	Understanding and responding to different types of written language.	Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes
How it is assessed	Written exam Foundation 35 minutes 40 marks Higher 45 minutes 50 marks	Spoken recorded exam with teacher Foundation 7-9 minutes + preparation time 60 marks Higher 10-12 minutes + preparation time 60 marks	Written exam Foundation 45 minutes 60 marks Higher 1 hour 60 marks	Written exam Foundation 1 hour 50 marks Higher 1 hour 15 minutes 60 marks
Question Type	Foundation and Higher Tier Section A: Questions in English to be answered in English Section B: Questions in the Target Language to be answered in the Target Language.	Foundation and Higher Tier Role play: 15 marks (2 mins) Photo card: 15 marks (2-3 mins) General conversation: 30 marks (3-7 mins)	Foundation and Higher Tier Section A: Questions in English to be answered in English Section B: Questions in the Target Language to be answered in the Target Language Section C: Translation from the Target Language into English	Foundation Key message, Short Passage, Translation from English into the Target Language, Structured writing task from a choice of two Higher Structured writing task from choice of two, Open-ended writing task from a choice of two, Translation from English into the Target Language
% of GCSE	25	25	25	25

We encourage your daughter to be doing the following at home:

1. Use **Quizlet.com** - Excellent to learn core GCSE vocabulary in an interactive way.
2. Use www.vocabexpress.com that helps students to spell key words more accurately.
3. Actively use their **AQA Revision Guide + Workbook**. Students will soon be introduced to these and will be expected to use them regularly. This is a great tool to practise Reading & Listening exam techniques.
4. **AQA Vocabulary booklet**. Students all have one of these and come up in the Exams. Students will be tested on sections of 1
5. **Revision World** website. This has lots of AQA past papers + mark schemes.
<http://www.revisionworld.com/gcse-revision/french>