



## **Modern Foreign Languages**

GCSE French and Spanish are offered in Key Stage 4 and pupils have the option to study both languages if they so wish. Pupils learn how to understand and provide information and opinions about a variety of topics relating to their own experience and those of other people, including people in countries/communities where French/Spanish is spoken.

A GCSE language forms part of the English Baccalaureate (EBacc).

### **What will I study?**

The AQA specification covers three distinct themes:

Theme 1: **Identity and culture** (Me, my family and friends, Technology in everyday life, Free-time activities and Customs and festivals in French-speaking countries/communities).

Theme 2: **Local, national, international and global areas of interest** (Home, town, neighbourhood and region, Social issues, Global issues and Travel and tourism).

Theme 3: **Current and future study and employment** (My studies, Life at school/college, Education post-16 and Jobs, career choices and ambitions).

The four key skills of language learning are listening, reading, speaking and writing so lessons will include a variety of interactive activities that focus on developing linguistic fluency in these areas.

### **How will I be assessed?**

The qualification is linear, meaning that pupils will sit all their exams at the end of the course. The four skill areas are equally weighted at 25% each.

Paper 1: Listening – understanding and responding to different types of spoken language.

Paper 2: Speaking – communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes.

Paper 3: Reading – understanding and responding to different types of written language.

Paper 4: Writing – communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes.

Listening, reading and writing skills are all assessed via end of course written exams. The speaking component is a non-exam assessment and takes the format of a role-play, photo card and a general conversation.

Candidates can enter for either Foundation or Higher Tier across the skill areas and the AQA GCSE French/Spanish syllabus covers the full range of grades from 1 to 9.

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## Why choose a language?

The benefits of having a language GCSE are extensive and not only for those pupils who want to become a teacher or an interpreter! In the current climate, where multinational businesses and global trade are the norm, many employers are looking for candidates with conversational ability in a second language. Even if you are not planning to study a language past GCSE level, it is still a definite advantage in the workplace. Furthermore, GCSE language studies develop key skills such as communication, working with others, problem solving and ICT, all of which are transferable to the workplace. Many university courses and careers require language qualifications. Some example are:

- International and Business law Journalism
- Fashion Gaming
- Banking Marketing
- Technology Travel and Tourism
- The Armed Forces Teaching
- Translation and Interpreting
- The Services Industry

## Want to find out more?

Talk to a member of the MFL department or take a look at the below website for further information and guidance on taking a language at GCSE:

[http://www.whystudylanguages.ac.uk/ks4/why\\_languages](http://www.whystudylanguages.ac.uk/ks4/why_languages)

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