



## **Modern Foreign Languages**

GCSE French and Spanish are offered in Key Stage 4. Pupils have the option to continue to study the language they have studied throughout Key Stage 3, which is either French or Spanish.

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

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

The Edexcel specification encompasses 6 different thematic contexts, which are relevant to all 4 question skills papers. Pupils are expected to develop an understanding of these themes and to share information and opinions on them, drawing on their own experiences as well as those of others, including individuals from French/Spanish-speaking countries and communities.

### **Thematic contexts and subjects:**

**My Personal World:** family, friends, relationships and equality

**Lifestyle and wellbeing:** physical well-being, mental well-being, sport, food and drink

**My neighborhood:** places in town, shopping, transport, the natural world, environment issues

**Media and technology:** social media, gaming, music, TV and film

**Studying and my future:** school and future opportunities

**Travel and tourism:** accommodation and tourist attractions

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 exam is conducted by the class teacher, but externally marked by the exam board.

Candidates can enter for either Foundation or Higher Tier across the skill areas and the Edexcel 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 computing, all of which are transferable to the workplace. Many university courses and careers require language qualifications. Some examples 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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