

French, German and Spanish

Exam Board: Edexcel

The Modern Languages department are pleased to be able to offer students who have already studied French, German or Spanish to GCSE level the opportunity to continue with their language studies to A Level. Whatever language you choose to study the specification and format of each Unit is the same. The course content itself is language specific and prepares students to become well informed and effective communicators in their chosen language. Students will develop strategies to build both fluency and confidence. They will develop the skills of research, analysis, critical thinking whilst increasing their understanding of cultural and social aspects of countries where the target language is spoken.

Summary of course content

Theme 1- Changes in social issues and trends.

Theme 2 – Culture; The Arts, music, media and traditions of Target language speaking countries.

Theme 3- Social issues and trends (immigration and society)

Theme 4- Historical and political culture.

Students will also study either two literary texts or one text and one film.

Summary of assessment scheme

Paper 1- LISTENING, READING AND TRANSLATION

2 hours

40% of qualification

80 marks

Section A: Listening (30 marks)

Section B: Reading (30 marks)

Section C: Translation (20 marks) unseen passage to be translated from target language to English.

Paper 2- WRITTEN RESPONSE TO WORKS AND TRANSLATION

2 hours 40 mins

30 % of qualification

120 marks

Section A: translation (20 marks)

Students translate an unseen passage from English to Target language

Section B +C: Written response to literary texts (50 marks)

Students write 2 essays on either 2 literary texts or 1 literary text and 1 film.

Paper 3- Speaking exam

Internally conducted by teacher / externally assessed

21-23 minutes including 5 mins preparation time

30 % of qualification

72 marks

Task 1- discussion on a theme

Task 2- independent research presentation

Task 3 – students answer questions on their research and then have a wider discussion.

Why you should consider studying French, German or Spanish in the 6th Form

In addition to building on the language skills mastered at GCSE level, studying one or more languages at AS/A2 level covers a huge variety of topic areas. If you are interested in languages and communication and enjoy learning about other cultures and ways of life, then this could be the course for you. There are a number of options in the course where you can choose your topic or question to suit your interests. Whether you want to use language for work, for further study, training, or for leisure, this course will equip you with the necessary skills and knowledge.

Frequently asked questions

What GCSE grades do I need for languages at AS or A level?

You must have at least a 'B' in GCSE in the language you wish to study at A Level. This is an academic course and students should feel confident in the 4 skills of Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking. You need to be interested in developing this understanding and broadening your knowledge of the countries and their culture.

What type of resources will I use?

This is a new syllabus so whatever language you choose the department will ensure that you have access to the most up to date resources, i.e., newspaper articles and magazines, educational websites, television reports or CDs, DVDs. Grammar Workbooks and Self-Study Booklets and CDs. Independent learning is an important part and different websites and apps will be suggested.

Will studying a language assist me with my other A Level courses?

Yes! Current Year 12 and 13 students find that issues discussed in language lessons overlap with topics studied in History (the effects of World War II), Sociology (family life, changing values), General Studies (current affairs, terrorism etc.) and even Business Studies, Economics and Geography! Likewise other subjects can help you gain a better understanding of the issues we discuss in language lessons.

Still not quite sure about studying a language?

Having a language at AS or A level will certainly improve your employability, in particular with companies that have international branches. A language is considered an academic subject and whilst studying a language is not always easy, it can be great fun. In the interests of cultural research we even sample food from time to time!

If you have questions about any aspect of the course, anyone of us in the department will be only too happy to help!

Vicki Griffiths, Head of Modern Languages