

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Examining board: AQA

This six-unit specification requires students to develop their ability to write and speak in French and / or Spanish with accurate grammar and syntax for a range of purposes and to understand written or spoken French and / or Spanish in a variety of contexts and genres.

French - Year 1

- The changing nature of family
- The 'cyber- society
- The place of voluntary work
- A culture proud of its heritage
- Contemporary francophone music
- Cinema: the 7th art form
- Film study – La Haine from Mathieu Kassovitz

French - Year 2

- Positive features of a diverse society
- Life for the marginalised
- How criminals are treated
- Teenagers, the right to vote and political commitment
- Demonstrations, strikes - who holds the power?
- Politics and immigration
- Book Study – Tartuffe from Molière
- Speaking Project

Spanish - Year 1

- Modern and traditional values
- Cyberspace
- Equal rights
- Modern day idols
- Spanish regional identity
- Cultural heritage
- Film Study – VOLVER

Spanish - Year 2

- Immigration
- Racism
- Integration
- Today's youth, tomorrow's citizens
- Monarchies and dictatorships
- Popular movements
- Book study - As bicicletas son para el verano by Fernando Fernán Gómez
- Speaking Project

END OF COURSE EXAM

- Paper 1 – Listening, reading and writing
- Paper 2 – Writing and Grammar
- Paper 3 – Speaking card & Speaking Project

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Assessment: 3 papers assessing reading, writing, listening and speaking skills

Subject Combinations

The A Level course is relevant both for those continuing with modern language studies at a higher level and for those going straight into employment. Language skills are extremely useful in many business and industrial fields and a number of universities offer courses in which language study is linked to the study of science or engineering. Employment rates for modern languages graduates currently compare very favourably with most other subjects.

Some students choose to do a degree course in languages; others follow a course in another subject, but select a language option alongside it. French and/or Spanish may usefully be combined with a range of other subjects at university, especially Classical Studies, English, History, Law, Geography and Economics or Business Studies.

Spending a year abroad is an exciting part of language degrees. Undergraduates can spend time in Europe, or beyond, studying, doing a placement, or a combination of the two.

Possible careers with a language degree

Airline Services - Marketing executive
Broadcast journalist - Medicine
Diplomatic Services operational officer - Patent examiner
Editing and Publishing - Retail buying
English as a foreign language teacher - Sales executive
Import/Export - Secondary school teacher
International aid/development worker - Subtitles and Voice overs
Interpreter - Tour manager
Law - Translator
Logistics and distribution manager

Testimonials

French A level has provided me with the opportunity to speak about current issues in another language as well as being able to investigate and interpret another culture and its ideas. It is a difficult but rewarding A level which allows success through small classes and great teachers. Olivia

Not only is French A level really beneficial, in the sense that your ability to communicate in the language massively improves from GCSE level, but also, the topics we cover are very interesting and offer a deep insight into French society. The interactive nature of the subject means that the lessons are never boring. Phoebe

Learning French and Spanish at A level has been truly fascinating. Having the opportunity to debate about cultural topics such as immigration and national heritage is incredibly useful for your ability to express yourself in a foreign language as well as develop well-reasoned opinions on a variety of current events. I chose to study languages at Wellingborough because of the incredibly passionate and experienced teacher, as well as the small class sizes, which enable one-to-one feedback and lots of conversation time. Sophie



Carole Stroud, Head of Modern Foreign Languages